# RICHMOND ENQUIRER.

FRIDAY MORNING, JULY 19, 1850.


## PRESIDENT TAYLOR'S LAST MESSAGE.

A correspondent of the N. York Tribune asserts positively that President Taylor's message, fully maintaining the right of New Mexico to protection from Texas, and avowing the determination of the President to render such protection, to the last extremity, is to be found in the Department of the Interior and not in the State Department. Mr. Clayton had nothing to do with its construction or preparation—but it was Mr. Ewing who had the matter in hand. We agree that to no better hands could the preparation of *such* a paper have been confided. The main features were agreed upon by a majority of the Cabinet, and its tone is represented as of no doubtful or equivocal a character. Its completion and transmission would, it is alleged, have caused the resignation of some members of the Cabinet, whose local positions would not have sustained their going for it. The writer probably hits the truth when he says:

"This may account for the Hon. John Bell giving out in advance what was to be the policy of the late Administration upon the question of the admission of New Mexico as a State, and his avowing a determination to sustain them in that policy, when taken. There is no room for question but what he would have gone into the Cabinet, upon the first change made by Gen. Taylor."

Some of the Northern Whig papers call on Mr. Fillmore to publish and endorse this "important State paper." Should it be done, it would be the nucleus of an alarming excitement, which might put the Union in danger.

The admission, by the House of Representatives, of Mr. H. N. Smith, as *delegate* from the territory of New Mexico, would be one of the strangest anomalies of the day. New Mexico, unauthorized by Congress, formed a territorial government, and sent Mr S. to Washington. For many months he has been knocking for admission into the House; but before his case is acted on, New Mexico, under the auspices of the Federal Executive, leaps from a territory into a full grown State, and her Constitution will, doubtless, soon be on its way to Washington. As the territorial government is merged in the State, by what authority is Mr. S. admitted as a territorial delegate? Moreover, is not the boundary of New Mexico now involved in dispute, and what are the limits represented by the new delegate? The whole proceeding is irregular, and violative of all precedent, justice and propriety. The majority seem anxious to bring things to a head.

Mr. Crawford, late Secretary of War, has addressed a letter to the House of Representatives, proposing to deposite the amount of money received by him, (near $100,000) on account of the Galphin claim—the legality of its payment to be left to the decision of the Supreme Court. "This is very well as far as it goes," says the N. Y. Express, (Whig) "and perhaps the only atonement which can now be made. It does not, however, meet the complaint, concerning which the public mind is most sensitive, of the great indelicacy of the connection of a Cabinet Minister with such a claim. He is looked upon as the recipient of a large bounty, received from the Government as an Agent, and of using his place and influence to secure the interest money, which was paid directly or indirectly through his Agency. Supposing the claim to be a just one, which we deny, or Congress to have authorized the payment of principal and interest, which we also most emphatically deny, it does not remove the wrong which has prompted the just censure of the House of Representatives at Washington, and the general condemnation of the country."

The Baltimore Patriot has good reason for believing that the alleged insult offered by the Spanish minister, General Narvaez, to the American minister at Madrid, is a sheer fabrication. Private letters, dated from June 18th to 20th, have been received by the last steamers, in which no mention is made of such an occurrence. On the contrary, an account is given of the participation of Mr. Barringer and lady in a diplomatic presentation, on the 17th, to the Duchess of Montpensier, sister of the Queen, (only lately arrived at Madrid) where their reception is spoken of as having been highly courteous and satisfactory. The occurrence of any such outrage, as that spoken of in the English papers would of course have precluded any relation between Mr. Barringer and the Spanish Government, other than that of demanding and receiving an apology.

A Democratic meeting at Hay Market, Prince William, G. G. Tyler, Chairman, and Thos. Foster, Secretary, have appointed 15 delegates to a County Convention at Brentsville on the first Monday in August, to nominate a suitable candidate for the State Convention from that county. The delegates were instructed to present the name of Charles H. Hunton for the post. On motion of B. B. Harrison, the meeting pledged themselves to vote for the nominee of a full Democratic Convention of the county, and for Democrats from the other counties in the district similarly selected.

Gen. Robt. Wallace, in a well written card, declines being a candidate for the Convention from the Prince William District. He takes a deep interest in the reforms of the Constitution, and recommends universal suffrage, the popular election of judges and sheriffs who, he demonstrates, should not be "independent of the people." Gen. W. thinks no man ought to be elected to the Convention who holds any lucrative office under the Commonwealth—and, as an argument, cites the failure of the last Convention to make the proper reforms.

## LORD PALMERSTON'S DEFENCE.

The English papers are filled with discussions of the great five hours speech of Lord Palmerston, in defence of the foreign policy of the government. He commenced speaking at 9 at night, and engaged the close attention of the Commons until half-past 2. Mr. Gladstone, in replying to him, said happily, that the only compensation which the House had for the mortifying lesson read to England by the autocrat of the Russians, was the masterly speech of the noble Lord—while *from the dusk of one day to the dawn of the next*, he defended his policy before a crowded House of Commons, in that gigantic, intellectual and physical effort."

Lord John Masters made a furious attack on Palmerston. He said the honor and dignity of the Crown of England could not be maintained by the policy which was now adopted, and the peace of the world would be jeopardized by such a policy—a policy which was now bullying a weak State, and now submitting to a powerful one—which was at one time making extravagant claims against a defenceless State, and at another declining all applications for redress against one that was powerful and mighty (America.) It was surprising, he said, that Lord Paimerston's tongue was not blistered when he alluded to America. Not many weeks ago he declared that he could not, and would not, protect the subjects of England, against the atrocious tyranny exercised over them by South Carolina. Every British subject, said Lord J. Manners, who might happen to proceed to that State, (as Bowers, a colored man, did) would be seized and incarcerated in like manner. Yet Lord Palmerston said he could not interfere, because the act complained of was sanctioned by the municipal law of the American State—an avowal distinctly opposed to the policy which he had followed with respect to Greece.

Lord Palmerston then rose and proceeded with a complete and elaborate review and justification of the foreign policy of the government since his accession to the Foreign Office—with a detail which in many hands would have been tedious. With great art he affected to suppose the vote of the House of Lords the result of a "foreign conspiracy." This called down the enthusiastic cheers of the Commons, whose vote afterwards sustained the government by a majority of 46. He closed with the following words:

I think I have now gone through (loud cheers) all the heads of the charge which have been stated in this debate. I think I have shown that the foreign policy of the Government in all these transactions with respect to which its conduct has been impugned, has throughout been guided by those principles, which, according to the resolution of the honorable and learned gentleman, ought to regulate the conduct of the Government of England in the management of foreign affairs. (Cheers.) I believe and think that the principles on which we have acted are those which are entertained by the great mass of the people of England.—(Cheers.) I am convinced these principles are calculated—so far as the influence of England may be permitted properly to be exercised with respect to the destinies of other countries—to conduce to the welfare and happiness of mankind, to the advancement of civilization, to the maintenance of peace, to the development of the resources and to the prosperity of all other countries as well as of the country in which we live. (Cheers.)

I do not complain of the conduct of those who have made this question the means of attacking Her Majesty's Government. The Government of a great country like this is undoubtedly an object of fair legitimate emulation to men of all shades of opinion. It is a noble thing to be allowed to guide the policy and influence the destinies of such a country as this, and, if ever it was an object of honorable ambition, more than ever it must be so at the moment at which I am speaking (cheers); for while we have seen, as stated by the right honorable baronet, the political earthquake rocking Europe from side to side—while we have seen thrones shaken, shattered, levelled; institutions overpowered and destroyed; while in almost every country in Europe there have been conflicts which have deluged the land with blood, from the Atlantic to the Black Sea, from the Baltic to the Mediterranean, this country has presented a spectacle honorable to the people of England and worthy of the admiration of mankind. (Loud cheers).

We have shown that liberty is compatible with order; that individual freedom is reconcileable with obedience to the law. (Hear, hear.) We have shown the example of a nation in which every class of society accepts with cheerfulness the lot which Providence has assigned to it, and at the same time every individual of each class is constantly striving to raise himself in the social scale—not by injustice, not by violence and illegality, but by persevering good conduct, the sustained and energetic application of the moral and intellectual faculties with which his Creator has endowed him. (Loud cheers.) Sir, I say that to govern such a people as that is indeed an object worthy of the ambition of the noblest man who may live in the land, and therefore I find no fault with those who may think any opportunity a fair one for endeavoring to place themselves in so distinguished and honorable a position. (Cheers.) But, sir, I contend that we have not in our foreign policy done anything to forfeit the confidence of the country. (Cheers.) I contend, that, whether in this matter or in that we may have acted up to the opinions of one person or another—and indeed it is hard, as we all know by our individual and private experience, to find any number of men agreeing entirely in any matter on which they may not be equally possessed of the details of the facts and circumstances and reasons and conditions which led to action—yet I say that, making allowance for those differences of opinion which may fairly and honorably be expected among those who concur in general, I will maintain that the principles that can be traced through all our foreign transactions as the guiding rule and directing course of our proceedings, are such as in my opinion deserve the approbation of the country, and I fearlessly challenge the verdict which the House may give on the question that is now brought before it as a political, as a commercial, as a constitutional country, whether the principles which have governed the foreign policy of Her Majesty's Government, whether the duty of affording protection to our subjects abroad (hear, hear,) which we have considered as the guide of our conduct, are proper and fitting in those who are charged with the Government of England, and whether, as in days of old, a Roman held himself to be free from indignity when he could say *"Civis Romanus sum,"* a British subject shall consider himself in foreign countries as protected by the vigilant eye and strong arm of his Government against injustice and wrong. (The noble lord on resuming his seat was greeted with loud and prolonged cheering.)

Messrs. J. H. Cox, J. F. May, J. A. Jones and H. Rhodes are nominated by "Several Voters" in the Petersburg News for the State Convention. Messrs. Tim. Rives, Thos. Wallace, James H. Cox and Higginson Hancock, were nominated on Monday last, by a Democratic District Convention of delegates from Chesterfield and Prince George, held at Petersburg. Proceedings hereafter.

The Senate of New Hampshire have passed the following resolution, and the House similar ones:

*Resolved*, That New Hampshire yields to her brethren of no other State in her earnest, uncalculating devotion to the Union, and will shrink from no sacrifices necessary to preserve it in that spirit of enlarged patriotism, concession and fidelity to republican principles in which it was established.

DIED, suddenly, at his residence in Mecklenburg county, on Thursday, the 11th of July, 1850, Mr. R. H. BAPTIST, in the 52d year of his age. A fond father, a devoted husband and a kind neighbor, he has left a bereaved and afflicted family, and many warm and devoted friends, to mourn his early end. Mr. Baptist, for many years, represented his district in the Senate of Virginia, during the whole of which time he faithfully and satisfactorily discharged the trust reposed in him. While in Richmond, his frank and open course, added to his suavity of manner, drew around him a host of friends, who will be much sorrowed to learn that he is now no more.

We are pained to extract the above notice from the Petersburg Intelligencer. Our lamented friend was one of the most amiable men we ever knew, and he was conscientiously faithful in the discharge of his duties. His death will be mourned by the host of friends whom he gathered around him, in this city, from all portions of the State.

Mr. Wm. H. Davis, for a long time connected with the Times, has sold out all his interest (one-half) to his partner, Mr. Carrington. On retiring from his post, his many friends wish him all success in any new enterprise in which he may embark.

*For the Enquirer.*

Messrs. Editors: The object of this brief communication is simply to set forth what the writer believes to be *one* duty of the delegates to our District Conventions, the object of which will be to select popular and suitable men to represent us in the State Convention to form a new Constitution.—County meetings are often had and not seldom are those meetings conducted by a few and often are they only to carry out the will and wishes and predilections of a very few. It is an easy matter for a few men to call a meeting, it is easy for them to have a particular individual in the chair; and, as it is customary for the chairman to select the delegation, it is easy for him to appoint delegates, a majority of whom are favorable to a particular individual. These things have been often practised, and certainly most unfairly. We conceive it to be the duty of delegates to the several District Conventions to present the names and advocate the claims of the most popular, practical and sensible business men in their several counties, &c.; and if they are uninformed in this matter, to inform themselves before repairing to the Convention. No individual should be appointed a delegate who takes no interest in the Convention, or who is ignorant of or indifferent to the popular will in this matter. No delegate should think of carrying out his own personal preference, and thereby, perhaps, have a man nominated who is not the choice of his countymen, and for the sake of promoting a certain individual, get a man elected who does not deserve it, who is ignorant of business matters and perhaps obnoxious to the people among whom he lives. We say, by all means, recommend practical business men, whose feelings, interests and efforts are, and have been, long identified with yours; those who are of mature age, possessed of sound sense and judgment, practical business qualifications and habits; who care for the good of the whole people, and not for a very few only; and are firm to the principles they avow. This is a hasty communication, plain and brief. We ask the attention of delegates generally, but particularly those in the first Congressional District.

A VOTER.

*For the Enquirer.*

From the signs of the times at the last Louisa Court, it seems to be very important for the Democrats of the district, composed of the counties of Goochland, Fluvanna and Louisa, to be upon their guard. There were present at the court ten candidates for seats in the coming Convention, and, something very suspicious, there were but three Whig candidates, one from each of the counties composing the district, and they, perhaps, the most popular and influential gentlemen in their respective counties. Now, should matters continue as they are at present, it will take no great foresight to see what the consequences will be: a district decidedly democratic represented in the Convention by three Whigs. I should suppose all Democrats would concur in the opinion that this ought not to be so; but how it is to be prevented, I will not suggest, but leave it for others more experienced in such matters to determine. My only object is to call the attention of the democratic voters to the subject, that they may act as wisdom and the success of the party may suggest. It is understood that all or most of the democratic candidates are opposed to conventions being held in the counties to select candidates to be voted for; if so, and, as the consequence, three Whigs should be elected, the prospects of the democratic candidates for preferment hereafter will be prostrated. The writer of this is unwilling to see the canvass conducted upon party grounds, when a like spirit is manifested by the Whig party, and should be willing to see the district represented in the Convention by two Democrats and one Whig; but to have three Whigs polled off, it would be too monstrous.

July 12, 1850. A LOOKER ON.

*For the Enquirer.*

## THIS CONVENTION DISTRICT.

Messrs. Editors.—Why are not the good people of this District more on the alert in reference to the coming all-important State Convention? In other portions of this old Commonwealth, a most animated and excited canvass is progressing, and there are a host of candidates willing to serve the people. Why this apathy among our people? Are we less interested than our brethren of the mountains, in the formation of a State Constitution, which is no work of to-day or to-morrow, but to decide perhaps for ages to come, the destinies of generations unborn.

In this connection, in looking around us for suitable persons to fill the respective places, we would suggest the name of a man who is, in every respect, fully competent to represent us in the Convention—we allude to John B. Young, Esq. This is not the place or the time to enter into a lengthy argument of the claims of Mr. Young; suffice it to say, that he is a man of sterling worth, high moral character, fine practical sense and sound judgment. If Mr. Young should consent to permit his name to be used in this connection, we bespeak for him a warm, cordial and hearty support.

MANY.

*For the Enquirer.*

## GOLD MINES OF LOUISA COUNTY, VA.

Messrs. Editors—As it may not be uninteresting, I will give you a brief sketch of the Gold Mines of this county.—The gold vein which crosses Louisa, some six or eight miles south-east of the Court House, is now being more extensively worked than at any former period. The discovery of this vein was made a few years since by the enterprising and energetic George W. Fisher, who for some time successfully operated it.

The Walnut Grove Mine has been purchased of Hugh Goodwin, Esq., for $11,500 by the Messrs. Bud of Philadelphia. These persevering gentlemen are making great preparations for the successful operation of the vein. The prospects at this vein are truly flattering.

The Central Mines have been purchased of Messrs. Harriss and Talley by Messrs. Thompson & Co. of Philadelphia, who are also erecting houses and preparing machines for operation.

The Slate Hill Mine has been purchased of Mr. R. Talley by Messrs. Skerret & Co. of Philadelphia, who are now laying open the vein for the purpose of testing its value. The prospects are flattering, and these gentlemen will soon erect their machinery. These mines are worked principally by English miners, most of whom are not only gentlemanly in their deportment, but strictly moral in their habits.

The Morrison Mine has been in operation for some months by Com. R. F. Stockton, who has gone to immense expense in buildings and machinery, and who is now realizing quite a handsome per cent.

A rich vein has recently been discovered on the land of N. W. Harris, who is now laying open the vein for farther discovery.

There is every reason to believe that the Northern capitalist will reap a rich reward by the purchase and operation of these mines. Why is it that Virginia has not the same energetic capitalists to work and retain her own gold, which is so precious to all?

The Walton, Tinder and Boxley Mines are not in operation at this time. Yours, truly, ROY.

## PUBLIC MEETING IN BUCKINGHAM COUNTY.

At a meeting of a portion of the people of Buckingham, held at the Court House on Monday, the 8th day of July, 1850, to take into consideration, the subject of the improvement of Slate River, Major Charles Yancey was called to the chair, and H. Spencer appointed Secretary.

After several addresses to the people, the following resolutions were unanimited and passed, viz:

1. Resolved, That it is the sense of this meeting, that some improvement of Slate River, from Buckingham Court House, or some point in that vicinity, to its mouth, and connecting it with the James River and Kanawha Canal, is indispensable to the interest and convenience of a large portion of the people of the county.

2. Resolved, That a committee of five be appointed to communicate with the Directors of the James River and Kanawha Company, at their next meeting, asking the establishment of a communication at New Canton, between the Canal and the South side, by water and by bridge, and urging them to adopt that by water, instead of a bridge, unless both can be established.

The chair then appointed the following committee, viz: George H. Matthews, Wm. Hocker, Chs. L. Christian, Wm. H. Perkins and George Hocker.

3. Resolved, That when this meeting adjourn, it adjourn to meet on the 2nd Monday in August next.

4. Resolved, That these proceedings be published in the Richmond papers. CHAS. YANCEY, Ch'n.

H. SPENCER, Sec'y.

☞ A full attendance of those friendly to the scheme, is earnestly requested to be present, on the 2d Monday in August next, as we design taking steps to carry our resolutions into practical effect.

FOR THE ENQUIRER.

*To the Voters of the District composed of the Counties of Culpeper, Orange, Greene and Madison.*

As a candidate for your suffrages at the election to be held on the fourth Thursday in August, for three delegates to represent you in the State reform Convention which is to assemble in the city of Richmond on the second Monday in October next, I adopt this mode of placing before you a concise statement of the opinions and views which I entertain respecting the principal subjects of constitutional reform which are now being considered by you, and such others as may reasonably be expected to engage the attention of the convention.

The maxim contained in our Bill of Rights, *"that all power is vested in and consequently derived from the people,"* shall be my guide, and in the main control my action, should I be elected.

As the legislative department of the government is the first in the order of arrangement in our present constitution, I will place it first here. I entertain the opinion that our Legislature meets too often, that we have much legislation which is of a trivial character, and that the sessions are too long. I am in favor of biennial instead of annual sessions. I would also limit the length of the session to about ninety days, and give to the governor the power of convening the Legislature whenever the public interest may require it.

Of all the questions which will come before the convention, it is thought that the basis of representation will be the one most difficult so to adjust as to give general satisfaction. I am decidedly opposed to that which is usually called the *white basis*, and am in favor of such a basis of representation as will be most likely to secure every portion of the State against unjust or oppressive taxation, and which will at the same time give to the slaveholding portions of the State ample power (in the legislative branch of the government) to guard and protect themselves from being unjustly and oppressively taxed by those who have not a community of interest with them.

The Legislature should have the power to impose and collect taxes for all proper purposes. The power to create State debts and liabilities should be well considered by the convention, and ought to be much restricted, if not wholly prohibited, except in cases of war or pressing exigency.

I am in favor of extending the right of suffrage to residents, and I am against all double voting or permitting any person to vote in any other county, city or town than that in which he resides. I would give the right to vote to every free white male citizen who is over twenty-one years of age and has resided for twelve months next preceding in the county, city or town in which he may offer to vote. I would except all persons of unsound mind, convicts, &c. The right of suffrage being thus prescribed, the commissioners of election would rarely be called on to decide any other question than that of the age or residence of the voter, which being plain questions of fact, would be decided promptly and accurately upon such evidence as would generally be at hand: whereas, if in addition to residence, the ownership of property, or the assessment and payment of taxes, be required as a qualification of the voter, the commissioners would frequently have presented to them such a multiplicity of questions both of law and fact as would produce much delay and great difficulty in getting correct decisions.

I am in favor of electing the Governor by the voters of the whole State, for a term of three years or thereabouts, and for his being ineligible for the next three years.

The judiciary is the most important of the departments of our government. The judges pass upon questions involving *life, liberty* and *property*. It is, therefore, of the greatest importance that we should have a judiciary which should be sound, and beyond the reach of any improper influence, and which should at the same time be sufficiently responsible.—How these indispensable requisites can be most certainly attained, is a question which I find less difficulty in asking than in answering. I decidedly prefer that the judges should be elected by the people by direct vote, to the present mode of appointing them. I think that the judges of the court of appeals ought to be elected by districts of the State corresponding in number with the number of judges in that court, the voters of each district to elect one judge for a term of from seven to ten years, and that the circuit judges ought to be elected by the voters of their respective circuits for a term of from five to eight years. While I am opposed to conferring office on the judges either for life or for any very long term, I am in favor of rendering them as free from being influenced by temporary or improper excitements or prejudices of any kind, as may be consistent with a just responsibility to the appointing power, and proper obligations to discharge their duties faithfully and impartially. All judges to be subject to removal from office at any time for sufficient cause.

I am also in favor of electing the magistrates, sheriffs, commissioners of the revenue, clerks of the courts and all other officers of any importance, by the voters of the counties, for such short terms as may seem best.

I have thus presented to you, fellow-citizens, an outline of the changes which I think ought to be made in our fundamental law, or rather such as occur to my mind at this time. There is not room in a communication of this kind to go much into details, or to assign reasons for the opinions I have advanced. It is, however, my purpose to visit your courts and other public places in your counties, for purposes of discussion and of conferring with you concerning these important and interesting matters.

If I should be elected to the convention, I pledge myself to serve you faithfully with whatever of ability I have, and also to guard, protect and advance your rights and interests with zeal, industry and perseverance. If I should not be elected, I will submit cheerfully to your decision.

ROBERT A. BANKS.

MADISON COUNTY, JULY 12, 1850.

FOR THE ENQUIRER.

*To the Freeholders and Voters of the Counties of Gloucester, Elizabeth City, Warwick, York, James City and City of Williamsburg.*

Gentlemen—I have been already presented to the district as a suitable person to be voted for as a member of the State Convention, to be held in the City of Richmond on the first Monday in October next; and I acknowledge that this has been done with my knowledge and full concurrence. As I am a candidate for your votes, I see no reason why you should vote for me before you know my views on the questions or reform, which are likely to be submitted to the Convention.

These I propose, very briefly, to give. It will of course not be expected that I should go into detail, but merely that I should state, in a general way, how I would vote on certain great questions, if I should have the honor of a seat in the Convention.

I voted for the Convention, believing, as I did, that some change in our Organic Law was necessary, and, if elected, I shall vote for the following changes:

1. A biennial Legislature. Once in two years is full often for the Legislature to meet. We have had too much legislation, and at a heavy expense. Let the money, which will thus be saved, be applied to our debts, or to educate our children.

2. I would extend the Right of Suffrage to every free white male citizen of the State, above the age of twenty-one years who has resided in the State for one year, to vote where he resides, and to vote but once in any election.

3. I am one of those who think that property, as well as persons, has some rights, and therefore, in fixing the basis of representation, I shall vote for what is commonly called the Mixed Basis—that is, free white population and taxation combined, in opposition to the white basis, and in opposition to the Federal basis. I think, as our fathers did, that taxation and representation should go hand in hand.

4. It is now a settled principle, that all power is in the people; that they are the sovereigns; that Magistrates and other officers of Government are their servants and agents, and, therefore, that they, the people, should have the power to appoint them. I concur in this opinion, and shall therefore vote to give the people the power of appointing every officer who can be conveniently elected by them, from the Governor down to the lowest county officer. But as I think State elections a necessary evil, I would have them as seldom as possible, consistently with a due regard to the rights and interests of the people. Let the Governor be elected by the people for a term of two or three years, and to be ineligible until after a certain time, with power to convene the Legislature in case of emergency. Let the Judges of the Court of Appeals be elected by the Legislature, the Circuit Judges by the people of the Circuits, for a term of years, say ten years, to be re-eligible. If they are worth having, they will be re-elected; if not, they ought to be rejected. In no case, ought any Judge to be allowed to hold his place after he is sixty-five years of age.

Let the Magistrates, Sheriffs, and other county officers be elected by the people of the county.

5. I would abolish the Council of State, as being a useless body, since the Governor is to be elected by the people.

6. I would retain the County Courts with most of the jurisdiction which they now possess, as courts of police, the proof of wills, &c.; but I would not give them the power of trying causes, and I would greatly reduce the number of Magistrates.

Doubtless many other questions will arise before the Convention, which I cannot anticipate. As to all such, you must, if you elect me, take me on trust. You must rely on my judgment to represent your interests faithfully, as they are identical with my own. I have practiced the duties of my profession, in this entire district, for 37 years, am personally known to you all, and I hope I may be allowed to say, without being obnoxious to the charge of vanity, that I have won for myself, in that time, the character of being, at least, a discreet and prudent man, not radical in my opinions, but eminently conservative in all my views, whilst I have been always tolerant in regard to the opinions of others.

I have said to my friends, that I did not think the election ought to turn on party grounds, and that I would not give it that turn by any act of mine. That is still my opinion. The duty of the Convention (if I understand its duties) will be not to make a Constitution for the Whig, the Democratic, or any other party, but to make a Constitution for the people, the whole people, embracing all parties, and which will tend to promote and advance the interests, prosperity and happiness of the whole people.

I wish it to be distinctly understood, that I am the opponent of no gentleman in this canvass, if canvass it can be called; that I have nothing to do with the opinions of others, who may present themselves to the District; and that I am a candidate on my own responsibility. When you come to the polls, you will have *two votes to give*—I am a candidate for only one of them. ROBERT McCANDLISH.

Williamsburg, 6th July, 1850.

*For the Enquirer.*

## LETTER FROM JUDGE J. T. LOMAX.

FREDERICKSBURG, JULY 13, 1850.

Dear Sir:—I have this moment received your favor of the 12th, informing me that I had, at a Convention at the Bowling Green on Monday last, consisted of delegates without distinction of parties from the counties of this Conventional District, been elected as one of the candidates to be presented to the voters of this district for a seat in the approaching State Convention. The honor of this nomination is as unexpected by me as it has been unsolicited, and calls forth my most grateful acknowledgments. I am extremely sorry that a sense of my public duty requires me to decline. I am most profoundly distrustful of any capacity of mine to be serviceable to the State of Virginia in that Convention. The State has honored me already beyond my merits, in claiming my services in another sphere of duty—the administration of her civil and criminal justice in her Circuit Courts, the Special Court of Appeals and the General Court. My duty in these Courts could not be discharged by me in connection with the duties which might be required of me as a candidate, or as a member of the Convention. My best reflections tell me that I should not divert my services from the present employments in which the Commonwealth has placed me, for the doubtful contingency of being able to serve her on a different theatre.

I would express, in return for this nomination, my most grateful acknowledgments to the Convention who made it, and also to yourself for the kind manner in which you have communicated it.

With considerations of highest respect and esteem, yours,

JNO. TAYLOE LOMAX.

To EDMUND T. MORRIS, Esq.

☞ The Fredericksburg papers will please copy.

☞ NOTICE.—The people of Chesterfield, Prince George, and the town of Petersburg, irrespective of party, are hereby requested to assemble at the Court House of the town of Petersburg on Monday, the 29th inst., at 12 o'clock for the purpose of selecting candidates to be voted for by this district to the State Convention. It is earnestly desired that there shall be a full attendance. MANY VOTERS.

FOR THE ENQUIRER.

*To the Voters of Gloucester, Elizabeth City, Warwick, York, James City and the City of Williamsburg.*

Gentlemen: I am a candidate for a seat in the approaching convention: you have two at your disposal; I would be pleased to be favored with one of them.

That you may know the principles by which, if elected, my course in the convention will be regulated, I proceed to make known, in a general manner, the reforms that I deem necessary in our present system.

Before doing this, however, permit me to say, that I am neither an *antiquarian* nor a RADICAL; that I am equally opposed to a constitution founded on rash speculation and theoretical reasoning, as to one based on the blind and stupid bigotry which closes its eyes to the lights with which philosophy and experience are daily irradiating the destinies of mankind. It is a maxim old and true, that "the middle track is the safest." Neither the Rump Parliament of England or the French Convention, on the one hand, nor the absolute government of Russia, on the other, nor a Venitian aristocracy, are the models which we would propose for imitation. A free representative republic—a government of liberty regulated by law, is the government which the people of Virginia are now assembling a convention to render more perfect, and to invest with all the improvements which the experience of ourselves, of our sister States, and of the world can bestow.

I am in favor of the following propositions:

1st. Of extending the right of suffrage to every white male citizen, who has attained the age of 21 years, whether he owns land or negroes, or anything else, provided he be neither an idiot, a pauper or a felon, and that he be a citizen of the State and a resident of the county in which he offers to vote for a reasonable period of time preceding the election.

In past ages, when the English House of Commons began to acquire some influence in the councils of the realm, and when our first legislative assemblies convened at Jamestown, (about the year 1619,) there was some show of reason in confining the power of the country to the freeholders. They owned the country. Land constituted the principal wealth of our people, as it did of the people of England. The case is now altered. Land is a great but not the principal element of our wealth. Slaves, horses and other cattle, machinery, vessels—and above all, private and State debts, paper securities—constitute more than half the wealth of Eastern Virginia. Are the owners of this property to have no voice in the government to which it looks for protection and by which it is to be taxed? Is the possessor of fifty acres of scrubby pine barrens, which would hardly command ninepence per acre, to have more influence conferred by his property than the owner of $100,000 in State bonds?

It frequently happens that one man owns land and another man has a lien on it for half, and sometimes for the whole of its value. The creditor here has more interest in the land than he who owns it; yet the creditor is said to have no "interest in the soil," and is denied a vote, whilst the nominal owner is allowed to be one of the rulers of the land.

Again: The freehold system of suffrage stands no chance of being restored. Under the present system any housekeeper, who owns a wooden clock or pewter watch, can vote by paying the tax assessed on it—and then the right of voting is so complex and involved, that it sometimes baffles the skill of the most learned jurist to say what man has a vote. Genuine voters of nice sensibilities and refined feelings are kept from the polls by the dread of having their right to vote roughly disputed, whilst the forward and unscrupulous march boldly up and have their votes recorded.

Let us do away with this, and have one uniform system.

2d. Of restricting the exercise of the right of suffrage to the county, city, town or borough in which the voter may reside.

3d. Of putting a stop, by constitutional restraints, to an extravagant system of local expenditures, by which one portion of the State is despoiled for the benefit of such localities.

4th. Of electing public officers by the people. The people are the fountain of power, and are always safest when exercising it through their immediate agents. Their power, when reflected through too many mediums, becomes faint and languid for purposes of good, and may be often perverted, from being a means of their prosperity, into an engine for their oppression. There are some few officers whom I would not elect by the people, because the people could not elect with convenience to themselves.

*The Judges of the Court of Appeals* should be elected by the Legislature. They are few in number, and if the people were called on to vote for them, not one man in a hundred would have any knowledge of the candidates. The result would be, that the candidates selected by caucuses of the two prominent parties would be voted for on party grounds, and the dominant party would always select its party nominees. The case would be different in elections wherein the candidates were personally known to the voters. Then the merits of the candidates would operate upon the elections, and the influence of party would be greatly modified and restricted.

The Court of Appeals should be a constitutional court.

*The Judges of the Superior Courts* I would have elected for a term of from six to ten years. This election might be by either the Legislature, or by the people in their respective districts. I prefer the latter, but am not very tenacious in regard to the matter. About one thing, however, I am tenacious—that no Judge shall hold his office for a longer term than ten years, if for one so long. He might be re-elected as often as the elective body should think proper to do so.—I am in favor of a Judge being independent, but I am also in favor of his being responsible. The idea of impeaching a Judge has become utterly ridiculous. The power of impeachment has become the shield and defence of wicked Judges, instead of being a terror to evil doers." When improper conduct in a Judge is alleged, his friends boastfully exclaim, "Why do you not impeach him? He is liable to the law. It you know anything against him, bring your charges, and sustain them before the Senate on an impeachment." And thus a Judge is shown to be worthy of presiding in a seat of the highest dignity and honor—to hold the property, the lives, the liberties of us all at his disposal, because "you cannot convict him of "high crimes and misdemeanors," according to the technical rules employed in the trial of felons. Suppose you impeach. It is a hard fact harder to convict any one on an impeachment, according to the Virginia rule, than in any other mode of trial. But it has been alleged by some who profess great solicitude for the protection of the "poor man," that if the people should elect the judges, he would decide in favor of rich men, so as to secure his re-election. This objection does not apply to an election by the Legislature. But permit me to ask, Does any man seriously believe that a judge would offend three-fourths of the counties, in the hope of securing his election by the other fourth? In the scope of my acquaintance there are many more poor people than rich people, and it is supposed the convention will give votes to many poor persons who now have none. Does any man imagine that an office depending on the popular voice, can then be gained by any man who has built up for himself the reputation of being the parasite of the rich and the oppressor of the poor? So far from it, I rather think the bearing is likely to be the other way.

It is also said that the independence of the judiciary will be destroyed by subjecting the judges to periodical elections; and to the support of this position "the wisdom of our ancestors" is supposed to lend a strong sanction. To the wisdom of as great men as Virginia has ever produced, I also resort for authority. In the last Convention, the debate bearing on the question whether the Legislature should have a right, by vote of two-thirds, to abolish the courts that might be established, inferior to the Supreme Court of Appeals, and that, after such abolition of the courts, the judges thereof should receive no salary, it was contended that such a power in the Legislature would deprive the judges of all independence, and make them entirely subservient to the legislative department. Mr. Tazewell said, "Does the independence of the judiciary require that the inferior courts should be independent of the Legislature? Was ever such a thing heard of upon earth? It is true, there must be an independent department, but there is no need of but one such department.—The inferior courts must be subjected to the Legislature.—Preserve your Supreme Court independent, and you get all you need. All your provisions are vain."—And again he says, "If the amendment shall obtain, the Constitution of Virginia will read as the Federal Constitution does now. You will have one Supreme Court, with its Judges holding their offices during good behavior, beyond the control of the Legislature, just as the Judges of the Supreme Court of the United States are beyond the reach of Congressional power, while your inferior courts, like those of the Union, will be subject to legislative control, and may be modified or abolished at will."

Mr. Campbell of Brooke said that he should vote for the amendment of the gentleman from Norfolk, (Mr. Tazewell,) for two reasons: first, for the sake of the argument he had given to the committee, and by which he had satisfactorily proved that the Commonwealth ought to have but one constitutional court; and, next, for the sake of the amendment itself. Mr. C. said he had prepared one of the same tenor, but doubting his own judgment, had forborne to offer it. He had always thought there ought to be one constitutional court, and that it ought to have two kinds of jurisdiction, appellate and original. It was now called a Court of Appeals." Governor Giles supported similar views. He said, "I am as much in favor of the complete independence of the judiciary as the warmest advocate of that principle, but I am in favor of its responsibility also. I hold these two things not be incompatible. I would make all the judges responsible, not to God and their own consciences only, but to a human tribunal."—"These exceptions to the ordinary course of legislation" (in favor of the judiciary) "go beyond independence. They now deserve another name—they amount to favoritism."

Thus you see that these wise and great men were in favor of not only subjecting these judges to periodical election, but, in the language of Mr. Tazewell, of making the courts "subject to legislative control," and liable to "be modified or abolished at *will*."

I know many gentlemen who have been candidates year after year for seats in the Legislature, and who have been acting at the same time as justices of the county court.—This court is equal in civil jurisdiction to the Superior Courts, and in criminal examinations it has large and formidable powers. In the trial of warrants, a Justice has much better opportunities of being partial than a Judge ever has, because warrants are tried more privately than suits, and seldom in the presence of persons who have made themselves acquainted with the laws; yet I do not recollect to have heard, in all the bitterness of party, that a Justice has been charged with shaping his decisions so as to secure his election to the House of Delegates.

5th. I am decidedly for prohibiting the Legislature from mortgaging our estates, by borrowing money and going security for debts of individuals and corporations.

6th. Basis of representation. I am in favor of federal numbers, not only because the thing is intrinsically just and right, but because of the baneful effect that a contrary course would produce on our federal relations. The adjustment of our State Constitution on the white basis, would present an example to our Northern neighbors, pregnant with dangers to us and to all that we hold dear. Abolish the federal numbers in our State Constitution, and the North would soon profit by our example, and abolish them in the United States Constitution.

7th. Believing that "knowledge is power," and that the liberty of no people is safe when intelligence is confined to a small portion of the community, I ardently wish to see the blessing of a good practical education extended to every white child in Virginia. I made an effort to accomplish this high purpose in less than two weeks after I entered the Legislature. It is a subject that has at all times enlisted the warmest sympathies of my heart. Possibly the nature of our institutions and the sparseness of our population may prevent the perfect and entire establishment of such a system at once. But let it be commenced at once: its advantages would be felt forthwith; and in a few years it could be rendered complete without imposing any additional taxation on the people.

8th. I am in favor of the Legislature meeting only once in every two years, except when specially called together by the governor's proclamation.

Fellow-citizens: The election is with you. May your votes be cast in such manner as to ensure the greatest amount of lasting benefit to ourselves and to our posterity.

Respectfully, L. J. BOWDEN.

WILLIAMSBURG, 15th July, 1850.

FROM CUBA.—We understand that information has recently been received at the Navy Department, from Cuba, which promises a most happy and immediate termination of all difficulties growing out of the Lopez Expedition.—*National Intelligencer.*

We understand that, at the request of President Fillmore, the members of General Taylor's Cabinet will continue to discharge the duties of their respective offices until Monday next.—[*Union.*

## DEMOCRATIC MEETING IN ISLE OF WIGHT.

At a meeting of the Democratic party of the county of Isle of Wight, held at the Court House, on the 1st Monday in July, in 1850, Geo. F. M. Boykin, (on motion of A. Atkinson, Esq.) was called to the Chair, and N. P. Young appointed Secretary.

The chairman stated the object of the meeting to be, the appointing additional delegates to a convention to be held in Jerusalem on the 3d Monday in this month, to nominate Democratic candidates to represent this district in the State Reform Convention, whereupon the following gentlemen were appointed:

C. B. Hayden, Jesse A. Parker, A. A. Whitehead, Edward Rawls, W. H