North Carolina Standard.

THE CONSTITUTION AND THE UNION OF THE STATES—THEY "MUST BE PRESERVED."

VOLUME XIV. RALEIGH, NORTH CAROLINA, WEDNESDAY MORNING, JUNE 21, 1848. NUMBER 711.

THE NORTH CAROLINA STANDARD
IS PUBLISHED WEEKLY, BY
WILLIAM W. HOLDEN,
EDITOR AND PROPRIETOR.

THE NORTH CAROLINA STANDARD is published weekly, at *Three Dollars* per annum, payable in advance. In no instance will the paper be sent, unless the money for the same shall accompany the order. Subscribers, and others, who may wish to send money to the Editor, can do so at all times, by Mail and at his risk. Receipts for all sums will be promptly transmitted.

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SPEECH OF MR. M'KESSON,

OF BURKE,

Delivered in the House of Commons of the General Assembly of North Carolina, January 10th, 1847—On the Preamble and Resolution appropriating $10,000 to the Regiment of Volunteers called for from this State by the President of the United States.

MR. SPEAKER: Under the present existing circumstances no individual in this hall can rise with more unaffected embarrassment than myself—an embarrassment which is more sensibly felt than expressed—for I am well aware, Sir, that many of my Whig friends in this House honestly differ with me in opinion as to the expediency and justness of this impolitic preamble, which, for its consummation, must necessarily require an innovation upon the customs of former legislation.

But, Mr. Speaker, in differing from the party to which I have ever felt proud to belong, I do it from the purest motives; I am actuated by no other motives and influenced by no other feelings than those springing from a desire to promote the interest and welfare of the soldier, and the general welfare of my country.

In a country like ours, where every man is supposed to be the keeper of his own conscience, no one ought to hesitate to express his feelings and views boldly and independently upon all great questions of State and National policy; but, unfortunately for the country, many fear the responsibility; they fear, too, the responsibility of those who wield the sceptre of party dictation, which you well know, Mr. Speaker, has its influence, sometimes to the great prejudice of the people, and to the interest and prosperity of our glorious Republic. To this want of firmness, may be attributed, in a great degree, the many palpable errors into which parties often plunge, even in the midst of those lessons which the experience of ages has brought to view.

In yielding, Mr. Speaker, to the few arguments I am going to advance, it is with no little degree of mortification, for I am certainly not insensible to the fact that I am to incur censure from many of my Whig friends, at least those who are the main-spring and lever of our party. But, Sir, in justice to that inward monitor, termed conscience, I must be governed by the dictates of my own weak judgment. I should be sorry to represent a constituency who would blame me for thus voting. I know my constituents; at home they are hospitable. To me, a stranger, they extended the hand of disinterested friendship; they are noble patriotic sons, well worthy their sires; and could they but cast their untrammelled suffrages in this hall, Whigs and Democrats would be astounded—they would step forward like men, go for their country, forgetting all party feeling. That, Sir, appears to me the only correct view. The present situation of our country is one of unexampled difficulty; we therefore should forget all differences of opinion, and have no distinction of party; and let us go for the peace of our country before the prosperity of any party. We, as true sons of Carolina, and true lovers of liberty, must do every thing we can to carry out our patriotic views, and this must be done with honor to our flag. We, Sir, must make common cause with our government, against any and every nation with which it may unfortunately be brought in collision. I am sure, Sir, that the emergencies of the nation require that we should shake off the dew drops of party feeling, that glitter on our garments. And I am equally certain that the interest and honor of our State calls upon us at once to arouse from the lethargy in which we lie bound—cast from us that unworthy apathy, which seems to make us so indifferent to the fate of the volunteer soldier. Our praises will then redound to the benefit of the nation, instead of any advancement to our own fame as mere idle partizans. To preserve the honor and secure the interests of our government, I hold, Mr. Speaker, is the highest and noblest effort of a Statesman, and deserves a richer laurel crown than ever decked the brow of the noblest champion in an aggressive war. But, Sir, persuasion and remonstrance, so say the Democrats, have become idle, and offers of negotiation rejected, when to tenders of friendship and conciliation, the most insulting threats have been returned; and these threats (as has been said) have been followed by an invasion of the soil by a hostile force, and the murder of many of our valuable citizens, a long continuance of repeated injuries, a patient endurance of bad faith. If, this Sir, be true, or if the Democratic party believe it to be true, as I have no doubt they do, such a belief justifies a resort to war, and compels a government to take up arms in defence of its domain, its citizens, and its sovereignty. Our sympathy then ought to be with them, instead of attempting to purge them with this impolitic, and, in my humble opinion, this unpatriotic preamble, which is dangerous in its tendency, and which I see is to be carried by a strict party vote. Although, Mr. Speaker, I am going to differ apparently with all my Whig friends upon this ungenerous vote that is now to be taken, (a vote that is calculated to cast a stigma upon the liberality of this house,) be assured, Sir, I am not differing with as many as you may suppose. I see gentlemen of high character immediately in front of me, who informed me in the presence of other gentlemen this morning, that their conscience and judgment told them the preamble was wrong; but that party spirit, party feeling, drilled them in. I see gentlemen of equally high standing, reputed as statesmen, to my left, who informed me not two hours since, that they would not for one hundred dollars the preamble was attached to the resolution. Now, I ask you Sir, I call upon those gentlemen to know, if they are not driven in by party discipline? They have not the nerve and the moral courage to come boldly forward and denounce it in this hall—denounce it to the country. I am not, Mr. Speaker, one of those stubborn dogmatic partizans. I am for my country, right or wrong, but only with my party when I believe them to be right. It is true policy as well as enlightened humanity to take such steps as will bring the war to a speedy termination. He who aims to weaken the efforts of the government, is doing his utmost to protract the war, by giving aid and comfort to the enemy. The policy of this government has been, and I trust ever may be, to preserve peace with all nations, because peace is inseparably connected with the happiness and prosperity of the people. The glory of arms is ever attended with baneful consequences.

I have already, Mr. Speaker, witnessed a great deal of party feeling and party excitement, which may have been commendable and proper in their respective places. But, Sir, in a case of war, we must be as one man for our country (no matter how bounded,) differences of opinion cast aside, distinction of party forgotten, and only remember and let our motto be our country. We are here, Sir, representing a free and enlightened constituency, we are here (in a case of a war) representing both parties; as such let us be true and fearless members; not sit here trembling and quaking at our impending doom, lest we may give some vote that may injure us with our party. Sacrifice of party feeling, Mr. Speaker, I hold is commendable, when it is for the protection and preservation of the national domain, the security of the lives of our fellow citizens, and the honor of our beloved country. I do not, however, Mr. Speaker, think I should call it a sacrifice of party. No, Sir, our praises will echo from this hall to the walls of Monterey, as the true friends of liberty, if we but do, as I trust we may, our duty.

What, Sir, is more grand than the broad beaming brow of a nation when free; and what so expands, so invigorates the mind as freedom in a boundless field of action? Our arrow is now aimed; let no such preamble impede its progress; it ought not to be confined by party strife, but should at once fly into every corner of Mexican soil, and there, like an arrow of steel burst almost into a flame, and blaze throughout Mexico. If we act liberally, Mr. Speaker, towards our political brethren in this matter, we will return home, as I hope the soldier may, with a good name, our bravery unquestioned, and our patriotic integrity unsullied. When our country is invaded, we should urge our countrymen to flock to the camp of the soldier. Now I call upon you, Mr. Speaker, to know, I call upon the political friends of my own party to know where is there an enlightened Democrat, who knowing this preamble is attached to the resolution making them an appropriation of $10,000, where is there, Sir, I say, an enlightened volunteer belonging to the Democratic party who would as cheerfully receive the appropriation as though this preamble was not attached to the resolution? North Carolina in the days of Colonial dependence, was the refuge of the poor, and the oppressed; in her borders the emigrant, the fugitive, and the exile, found a home. They blessed that kind Providence that led their sires to such a place of rest—a home so quiet, a climate so mild that both parties occasionally call it an earthly paradise. Now, Sir, if the exile has found a home here, let the soldier of our own soil (no matter to which party he may belong) who bids adieu to this home so quiet, this climate so mild, goes into the sickly climate of Mexico, encounters the dangers of the camp, the fatigues of the march, the blood and carnage of the battle field, I say, Sir, let that soldier not only find a home here, but let him find in every man a friend; and I cannot think, Mr. Speaker, we are acting the part of a true and noble friend, when we attach this uncalled for preamble to the resolution. For indeed, Sir, if I were (as I trust I never may be) a Democrat, I would regard the appropriation as an insult—as worse than idle wind. For I do not see how any intelligent volunteer of the party can, in justice to his own feelings, receive one farthing of the appropriation. Our soldiers love our country, they are ever ready to obey her laws, serve and honor her institutions; and let us endeavor, if we can, to make them happy—we know not the destiny that awaits them. I ask you Sir, if this preamble with which they are to be purged is calculated to make them feel comfortable or happy, condemning, as it were, their leader, on its very face? It reminds me very much of an old man, a Shylock in feeling, who, wishing to carry a certain purpose, addressed an acquaintance thus: Young friend, I knew your father well, although unjust in principle, deficient in practical honesty, yet I have the reputation of possessing much feeling, and for the purpose of testing the same, here my friend is a dollar—*it belongs to you*. It is like attempting to warm the heart and weaken the hand at the same time. You might as well say,

The war stands fixt, the slaughters are begun,
Enough, replies our party, though is done.

I would greatly prefer we all should say,

Fly to the work, before the dawn of day,
Our speed, our strength, and all our skill display,
Whether we be for Mexico, Polk, or Clay.

We have the power, Mr. Speaker—I trust we may not abuse it. The fundamental principles of the Whig party are, that the majority ought, at all times, to have a paramount influence over the minority. And it is, Sir, in accordance with a still higher declaration, for it is said that in a multitude of counsellors there is wisdom and protection. I see no protection, however, in this preamble for the volunteer—I see no protection in this preamble for our party. But, Sir, I apprehend I see too much willingness to abuse that power; which is absurd and wholly subversive of any party. Both parties are now engaged in a war; we, as a nation, have assumed a highly responsible and arduous position. Let us only do right, the path of duty lies clearly before us; we only have to be firm, persevering, and unmoved; perform our duty in a manner worthy as representatives of a free and patriotic people. And we will then see, as the gentleman from Hertford (Mr. Rayner) said he would be pleased to see, the olive branch of peace—we would then see Mexico holding out the olive branch of peace. You would then see our government, at the same time, treating with her on a liberal and magnanimous basis. We all must admit, Sir, that it is true policy, as well as enlightened humanity, to take such steps as will bring the war to a speedy termination—a war that is eating up the wealth of our nation. I say let our motto be—as one man for our country.

Roused by this motto, they would rally from afar,
Breathing revenge, and gathering to the war.

He, Mr. Speaker, who is against this motto, should from this hall retire to Mexico:

There let him live, defended by our Mexican foes,
Lost to the charms of American fame, in soft repose.

I know well, Mr. Speaker, my friend from Hertford, would soon see what we all so much desire to see if we were as one party, as one man, for our country. We would here be able to demonstrate as we might be pleased to dictate—we could show to her, and to the world, we were willing to treat for peace. Though conscious of our strength, we would, at all times, be inclined to meet her on terms honorable and just to her as a nation, and at once sheathe our sword, no matter how greatly flushed with victory. Were we as one man for our country, we could soon place our Executive in a position to act generously and justly towards Mexico—to exercise a magnanimity and forbearance worthy of a great nation. We could soon show to the world that we delight not in the blood and spoils of a retreating enemy—show, in the language of a popular hero, that whilst we submit to nothing that is wrong, we ask for nothing but what is right; that we are satisfied with the tropies already won, and that whilst we boldly vindicate our rights about the Oregon question with a great and powerful nation, that we scorn to trample under foot, and into subjugation, a poor feeble nation, who is not worthy of American steel.

Mr. Speaker, speaking of the Oregon question, recalls to my memory the remarks that fell from the lips of my distinguished and talented friend, Mr. Courts, of Rockingham; that if the President did right, he would be cursed—if wrong, be damned. But for James K. Polk and his Cabinet, the wisdom of this age might have been shamed—the morality of both countries disgraced. I mean, Sir, if a question so long in dispute as the Oregon question, could not have been settled by two such powerful nations. Did not the present Executive take up the same cards that Mr. Monroe managed so dexteriously in 1818—the same cards that were introduced in '24 and '27, and the same pack handled unsuccessfully in '44? Recollect, Sir, all this time we were only asking for 49, England at the same time offering us the Columbia river. What did Polk and Cabinet do in '46? They recognized this old deck, although having been played with for more than the fourth of a century, I say sir, they recognized it. Well, by brightening up the jack of hearts, aided by the little deuce, I contend sir, that they handled those two cards so skillfully in the game of bluff, that the king and queen of clubs proposed what we call in the mountains (when a little uneasy) a comp; and a happy comp it was. Now, sir, for this, I am disposed to give Mr. Polk and Cabinet that reward that is due them, though I have no doubt, as the gentleman from Rockingham said, if he did right he would be cursed; for this he has been cursed; cursed by the 54 40 men for retreating, cursed by our own party for endangering us in a war with England. No Mr. Speaker, instead of discussing the merits and demerits of this war, by whom brought about &c., we ought to

Rush to the fight! No Gods our arms oppose:
Men like ourselves, and mortals are our foes.

My friend from Hertford [Mr. R.] who has condensed the substance of his discourse into an essay of great clearness and force, which has not been surpassed for strength of argument, or clearness of expression, (to those who are willing to go for party right or wrong) observed that a kind Providence would smile upon us. I have no doubt, sir, a kind Providence will smile upon us, for the time being, if we do our duty in this Hall, and we ought to discharge our duty in such a manner as to make the soldier's last day be his best day, and their exit from this State be like the setting sun, serene and full of glory. Now sir, I fear a kind Providence will not smile upon us. I am certain the soldier will not, if we prostrate him by purging him with such pills as contained in the box we are now going to seal for his benefit, and that too, when we think of

What seas he measured, and what lands he sought,
What storms he suffered, and what fiends he fought.

A good deal too much, Mr. Speaker, has been said about the rank and file, their character, their want of ability, &c.; and if it be not out of order, I shall make some reference to it. From the proclamation of his Excellency the Governor, it appears that a call has been made upon the State for a Regiment of Volunteers to serve during the War with Mexico, which call I have no doubt will be responded to with promptitude if we bury, as we should, this preamble; confident am I, it will be responded to, so soon as the echo of the call shall have reached the mountains, but with this preamble I do not know what may be its fate. I know our men; let them but hear the sound of the war bugle, and they are ready to dye their garments in blood.

It will then become important, sir, that they should be organized, equipped, and mustered into service with all possible dispatch, and with efficient officers, as their services are immediately demanded. In the absence of laws upon this subject as intimated by the message of his exeellency, it becomes us as the guardians of public peace; it becomes us as the guardians of those who are ever ready to march forward to the field of battle, to the point of the bayonet, exposing themselves to innumerable dangers, in order to supply us who are now in this Hall with peace and comfort. These considerations alone for bid we should be unmindful of our duty to our volunteers, (and we are sir, unmindful of our duty towards them when we discuss the merits of this preamble.) I hold Mr. Speaker, it becomes us to supply any omission in our laws for their proper organization; and doubts having arisen to where the appointing power belongs, it appears to me most consistent with our republican institutions, that those who volunteer to march in defence of their country, should be consulted in whose hands and under whose protection they should like to march. They manifest a willingness to hazard, not only their own lives and fortunes but the honor of the State to which they belong. It is this appointing power that ever has, and ever will make the American soldier a dread to every foe; he fights for his home, his country, and the institutions he represents; he knows too that by the united aid of his countrymen, that the trump of the soldier and the clangor of arms will soon be ended.

Leaving the appointment with the Executive, is placing him in a very responsible position. I know he will perform what he believes to be his duty, in a manner worthy his ancestors—worthy an American son—worthy the dignity of the Executive of the good old North State, and above all, worthy the name of an American freeman; yet sir, I do think it impossible for him to make satisfactory appointments. I therefore should be truly gratified to vest the power with the rank and file that have been so much condemned.

I ask you, Mr. Speaker—I had better ask some of my own friends on this floor who have been denouncing the rank and file, Who are the rank and file? Are they not the very men who are now traversing sea and land for our benefit, whilst we are here discussing what we may blush for hereafter? Is there not rank and file in this Hall, (as they are termed,) men who are not only the pride and boast of their party, but an honor to the country to which they belong—gentlemen who have manifested a willingness to aid in presenting one unextinguished light, steadily burning in the cause of the people, of the Constitution, and of civil liberty—gentlemen who are ever ready to attend to the cause of a bleeding country—yes, sir, gentlemen who are foremost in the councils of the nation—gentlemen who will shed their benign influence over the benighted name of many who may be disposed to condemn the rank and file. We must recollect, sir, that we have all derived our origin from that same Almighty being who brought us into existence; the great Father of all without respect to persons, has given us the same air to breathe; we are endowed with the same physical functions; we all relish the same pleasures and enjoyments, possess the same feelings, subjected to the same wants and afflictions, liable to the same temptations &c. Now sir, if this be as it is strictly true, the rank and file are quite as good and efficient as we to make their own selections, to say under whom they shall rally in the battle field, and when in the battle, or on their way to the soldier's camp. Let us deck these persons with gorgeous colours, glittering dress, waving plumes and a handsome approbation, without any such unkind preambles as the one now on your table. Let nothing impede the progress of the volunteer; let every thing before him be (in his own imagination) a smooth pretty plain.

I have stated, Mr. Speaker, I may be denounced by some of my party friends or rather partizans, for not adhering closely to Whig principles, or rather to my party on this preamble. I can bear all such denunciations, sir, by this vote. I maintain I am proving I am a true Whig. What did our own party do when they heard of the democratic preamble from a democratic Congress? Just sir, what they should have done, blushed for their political opponents, (just as our opponents should now and will do for us.) We denounced them illiberal &c., because they had the power. What are we doing sir? Seizing with a death like grip those same dangerous measures which we profeseed to be shocked at when in the power of our adversaries. Now we have the power, and for the satisfaction of showing to the world, for the liberality of this house, for the honor of the good old north State, we must by way of retaliation, pay them back in their own coin—a bad precedent I think Mr. Speaker, for a legislative body.

In conclusion, allow me to say sir, we have in the West

Pure streams and chrystal fountains,
Lovely girls and lofty mountains.
All say
Far away

with this Preamble.

OUR TICKET—WHIG TESTIMONY. The National Intelligencer says—"In nominating Mr. Cass, it must be admitted that the convention have selected for their candidate a gentleman of talents, of respectability and of exemplary personal character." The New York Tribune says—"We are inclined to think our adversaries have put up a good sort of a man for Vice President. Gen. Butler is not a great man, but we have always considered him honest, brave and manly, and we know he made a capital run for governor in 1844." Thus both our nominees stand endorsed as good men by their political opponents.

A CHANCE FOR LIFE. A fagot man carrying a load, by accident brushed against a doctor. The doctor was very angry, and was going to beat him with his fist. "Pray don't use your precious hand, good sir; kick me and welcome." The bystanders asked what he meant. "Oh," says the woodman, "if he kicks me with his foot, I shall recover; but if I come under his hands, it will be all over with me."

SECOND ELECTORAL DISTRICT.

The Delegates to the Democratic Electoral Convention for the Second Electoral District, composed of the Counties of Nash, Edgecombe, Martin, Pitt, Beaufort, Hyde, Washington, and Tyrrell, held for the purpose of selecting some suitable person to be placed on the Democratic Electoral ticket for President and Vice President, convened at the Court House in Greenville, Pitt County, on Thursday, the 8th of June, and was organized by the appointment of John F. Speight, Esq., of Edgecombe, to the Chair, and Dr. Wm. M. B. Brown, Secretary.

On taking the Chair, the President in a few very appropriate remarks, returned thanks for the honor conferred on him, and explained the object of the Convention.

The Counties composing the District being called over, the following were found to be represented, as follows: Edgecombe—John F. Speight, and Kenneth Thigpen; Martin—McG. M. Staton; Beaufort—A. W. Ernul; Pitt—Dr. C. J. O'Hagan, John Randolph, Willie Stancill, Col. Macon Moye, Col. R. H. Adams, Peter E. Hines, L. P. Beardsley, Alfred Brown, Richard E. Rives, Dr. Wm. M. B. Brown, Geo. W. Wooten, Willie Brown, William Moore, David Lawrence, Jas. A. Brown, Col. M. L. Carr, and Bryant Hardee.

On motion of Col. Adams, of Pitt, all Democrats present, from Pitt or other Counties, were respectfully invited to take seats in the Convention.

Col. Moye, of Pitt, offered the following resolution, which was adopted:

Resolved, That each County represented shall be entitled to as many votes as it has Captain's Districts.

Each Delegation, on leave, retired for consultation. After returning, and order being restored, the votes of each County were unanimously cast for the Hon. Asa Biggs, of Martin. Whereupon, the President declared Col. Biggs to be unanimously the choice of the Convention for Elector of the Second District.

On motion of Col. Adams, of Pitt, a committee of four was appointed to correspond with Col. Biggs, and solicit his acceptance. The following were appointed: A. W. Ernul, Beaufort, McG. Staton, Martin, Col. M. Moye, Pitt, and Kenneth Thigpen, Edgecombe.

On motion of Willie Stancill, Esq., the President was authorized to appoint a committee of five to draft resolutions. The President read the following names as said committee: Col. Macon Moye and Peter E. Hines, of Pitt, K. Thigpen, Edgecombe, McG. M. Staton, Martin, and A. W. Ernul, Beaufort.

During their absence, B. B. Rives, Esq. of Greene, being called on, addressed the Convention in a very interesting, forcible, and telling speech, dwelling principally on the war question, justifying the administration, and showing the glaring inconsistencies of Whig opposition.

The committee on resolutions having returned, presented the the following, which were read by Col. Moye, and on motion of Dr. O'Hagen, unanimously adopted:

Resolved, That we have heard with great pleasure that the Democratic National Convention, which recently assembled in the city of Baltimore, has nominated Gen. Lewis Cass, of Michigan, for President, and Gen. Wm. O. Butler, of Kentucky, for Vice President, and we pledge them our most cordial and willing support.

Resolved, That although we deprecate war as a great national calamity, we prefer it to national dishonor; we had just cause for war with Mexico, for whenever any Government tramples on our rights, immunities, and privileges, as Mexico has done, we will defend our country, let the consequences be what they may.

Resolved, That we are opposed to a high protective tariff, as we believe it burdensome to the great agricultural interest of the country. We believe the manufacturing interest has no right to call on the other great interests of the country to contribute to it. We are in favor of equal rights and privileges, and any law, the operation of which takes a portion of the profits of one interest and bestows it on another, is unequal and oppressive.

Resolved, That we are in favor of the present administration; that all the pledges made by President Polk have been carried out with honor to our country—that we believe him to be an able advocate and defender of equal rights—that we approve the manner in which he settled the Oregon question, and that he is entitled to the lasting gratitude of the country for the brilliant manner of prosecuting the Mexican war.

Col. Adams, of Pitt, offered the following resolution, which was adopted:

Resolved, That Col. Macon Moye, of Pitt, Wm. F. Dancy, of Edgecombe, Wm. T. Dortch, of Nash, Wm. L. Mizzel, of Martin, Wm. L. Kenneday, of Beaufort, Dr. Bryan H. Griffin, of Hyde, and Josh. S. Swift, of Washington, be appointed Assistant Electors, for their respective Counties.

Willie Stancill, Esq., introduced the following resolution, and on motion it was adopted:

Resolved, That the proceedings of this Convention be signed by the President and Secretary, and forwarded to the Tarborough Press, North Carolina Standard, and Newbern Republican, for publication, and that other papers favorable to Democratic principles be requested to copy.

On motion of Peter E. Hines, Esq., the thanks of the Convention were voted to the President and Secretary, for the satisfactory manner of discharging their duty.

There being no other business to come before the Convention, on motion it adjourned *sine die*.

JOHN F. SPEIGHT, Prest.

WM. M. B. BROWN, Sec'y.

FREE SUFFRAGE. The democratic candidate for Governor having taken strong grounds upon the question of free suffrage, or of abolishing the property qualification for voters for Senators, we have desired for several weeks to say something in relation to it.

The constitution of the State of North Carolina says "that each member of the Senate shall possess, in the county which he represents, not less than 300 acres of land in fee."

So far, it is well; this certainly, and beyond all question, commits the interests of landholders to landholders *exclusively*.

But the constitution also says that every freeman, to be entitled to vote for a member of the Senate, must be possessed "of fifty acres of land." Now, what sort of necessity is there for that? If the Senator himself is a landholder, and therefore, *from self-interest*, a protector of the landed interest, what odds does it make whether he is sent to the Senate by landholders, non-landholders, or free negroes? Do the *votes* of the persons who elect him change the nature of his feelings, interests, and *duties?* Not at all. Suppose it were ascertained that the Methodist religion (we will suppose for argument) were to be assailed in the next legislature, and the Methodists demanded, as they would have a right to demand, that their rights should be respected. In what way could they more effectually protect themselves than by permitting *only Methodists* to be *candidates?* There might be two or three or four candidates, and if they were all Methodists, the Methodist interest must be safe, no matter who *elects* or *votes for* those candidates; and would it not be a matter of rank injustice, as well as most anti-democratical, to exclude the Babtists, Episcopalians, Presbyterians, Catholics, and others, from voting for these men. Certainly it would. We hold that ☞ *To vote is the right of every free white man* ☜ in a republican government. Every man who pays taxes and is governed by the laws, has a *right* to vote for the men who make the laws.

And not only is the *landed* interest protected in the Senate by a 300 acre, and a fifty acre qualification, but no man can sit in the "House of Commons," which ought to be, from its name, "common" to all, unless he is possessed of "100 acres of land."

We have no idea of disfranchising any tax-paying free white man to protect *any interest*. Let all the "interests" share alike. *Fay. Carolinian.*

MEETING IN CUMBERLAND.

At a meeting of a large portion of the Democracy of Cumberland County, held at the Court House, in Fayetteville, on Monday, the 5th of June, 1848, on motion of Hon J. C. Dobbin, the Hon. Robert Strange was appointed Chairman; and on motion of Captain J. R. Gee, William Cade and Duncan Shaw were requested to act as Secretaries.

The Honorable Chairman explained the object of the meeting, and gave a very interesting and highly satisfactory sketch of the course of the North Carolina delegation in the Democratic National Convention. He paid an eloquent tribute to the public services of General Cass, and spoke in the most exalted terms of his private virtues, his learning, and his wisdom, as well as his devotion to the principles of the republican party.

In speaking of the course of the North Carolina delegation in regard to the Vice Presidency, he said, that in voting for Gen. James J. McKay, the delegation considered it due to North Carolina, and to her cherished son, that if they could not get him nominated, they should at least show that he is appreciated at home, where he was considered fully entitled to that high distinction. But seeing the impossibility of his nomination, they had concluded to cast their next vote for another eminent son of North Carolina, now an adopted son of Alabama, the Hon. Wm. R. King; but the overwhelming popularity of General Butler carried everything before it, and before the delegation could turn round, as it were, Gen. Butler was nominated on the second ballot, almost by acclamation.

He then spoke of Gen. Butler's public career; the devoted patriotism of the Butler family, from the grandfather down to the grandsons; of Gen. Washington's celebrated toast, "The Butler's," given at his private table; of the heroism not only of the men, but of the women of the family; of the services of Wm. Overton Butler in the war af 1812, &c. He was listened to with profound attention, interrupted only by the applause of his auditors.

On motion of J. G. Shepard, a committee of five were appointed by the Chair to prepare business for the action of the meeting. The Chairman appointed the following gentlemen to constitute said committee: Dr. Thos. N. Cameron, J. G. Shepherd, J. C. Williams, J. R. Gee, and Col. Alex. Murchison.

The Hon. James C. Dobbin was called on, and made one of his happy speeches, able, conclusive, conciliatory, firm and dignified, which met the hearty approval of the meeting.

The committee then reported, through Mr. Shepherd, the following preamble and resolutions, which were unanimously adopted:

Whereas, it has been recommended to the democratic party of Cumberland County, to hold a meeting at the Court House, in Fayetteville, on the first Monday in June, to respond to the nomination made by the Democratic Convention of a candidate for the Executive chair of the State and to the nominations of the Baltimore Convention for the offices of President and Vice President of the United States; and for other purposes connected with the welfare of the country and the furtherance of Republican principles,

Be it therefore resolved, That the nomination of the Hon. Lewis Cass, of Michigan, as the candidate of the democratic party for the office of President of the United States, meets our cordial approbation. He is a statesman of enlightened and comprehensive views; a democrat whose fidelity has long been attested by his adherence to the constitution, and his steady support of the principles of his party; a citizen whose life has been devoted to the best interests of his country at home and abroad, and whose history is a series of gallant acts and meritorious services, entitling him to receive, as we believe he will receive, the highest honors of the Republic.

Resolved, That the name of Wm. O. Butler, of Kentucky, the nominee of the Baltimore Convention for the Vice Presidency of the United States, is cherished with pride by the democratic party of the Union; and is hailed by us with heartfelt admiration and delight.

Resolved, That in the Hon. David S. Reid, of Rockingham county, (the nominee of the democratic Convention for the Executive Chair of North Carolina,) we recognize a standard bearer who is true and loyal to his trust; a democrat who is inflexible in his principles and his integrity, and worthy of our highest confidence and entire support.

Resolved, That the great measures, both of domestic and foreign policy, which have been proposed and established during the administration of James K. Polk, are the true political principles of the democratic republican party.

Resolved, That the high hopes and ardent expectations of the democratic party have been more than realized in the full establishment and wholesome operation of these great measures; whilst the prophecies of "ruin" and distress, made by the opposition, have totally failed, and now serve to shame and rebuke those who uttered them.

Resolved, That the Hon. James J. McKay, our Representative in Congress, by a long course of useful public service, has secured the full confidence and respect of his constituents, and has ever shown himself a statesman of mature judgment and sound constitutional views.

Resolved, That it is the duty of the democrats of North Carolina to bestir themselves, that they may redeem the State at the next election, and carry in triumph through the canvass, their candidate for the office of Governor, and the nominees of the Baltimore Convention for the Presidency and Vice Presidency of the United States.

Benj. F. Atkins, Esq., then moved that the proceedings of the meeting be published in the North Carolinian.

On motion of Chas. Montague, Esq., the meeting adjourned. ROBERT STRANGE, Ch'n.

WILLIAM CADE, } Sec'ys.
DUNCAN SHAW, }

"OLD BULLION." It is a cheering reflection to the hearts of the Democrats of "the old guard," the hard-money Democrats, who remember the trying scenes of '34 and '36, and who stuck close to the flag in '*forty*,' to see that strongest and soundest of their old leaders, Thomas H. Benton, once more in the field, and not only in the field, but at the head of the column. Such a circumstance will atone for the defection of a dozen Barnburners. His name alone is a tower of strength, and with his voice and encouraging smile to urge us on we shall feel indeed that the safe and all protecting shield of our old Ajax is over us, and the flashing sword of our most trusty Achilles waving us on to *victory*. The Democrats of the country will never forget Col. Benton, for the glorious stand he has now taken in the very crisis of our cause, and with health and life spared we shall confidently look forward to the day when they will crown him with their highest honors. In the meantime, let us cherish his glorious remark to a friend, who, upon his arrival in Baltimore, expressed his satisfaction at seeing him *there*, in such a manner, as indicated that some doubts have been entertained as to whether he would be there or not: "When I put my hands to the plough, I never look back." And so may it be, with him. May "they never look back," until the field is not only tilled, but the harvest gathered.

Wilmington (Del.) Gazette.

CAUTION TO ALL WHO DON'T TAKE NEWSPAPERS. Louis Phillippe was in the habit of boasting to his friends, (we believe he did so to Gen. Cass, while he was minister in Paris,) that for the last sixteen or seventeen years he had not read a newspaper. That was precisely his mistake, or royalty would not have made its exit in a hackney coach. Had he but read the daily prints attentively, he would not have committed such blunders. The present Governors of France are all more or less connected with the press as editors or printers—Cremieaux, Lamartine, Ledru, Rolin, Marrast, Emile de Girardin, have all been editors. So they will not be likely to fall into the same mistake as their predecessors. *New Orleans Crescent.*

GENERAL LEWIS CASS,

The Democratic candidate for President of the United States, was born in New Hampshire. His father fought at Bunker Hill, Saratoga, Princeton, Trenton, Monmouth, and Germantown.

Gen. C. early in life removed to Ohio. As a member of the Ohio Legislature, he was prominent in arresting BURR's conspiracy.

In 1812, he was elected Colonel of the 3d Regiment of Ohio Volunteers, and was "*the first man who landed in arms on the enemy's shore, after the declaration of war*," leaping from his boat, says another writer, in the eager courage which characterized him. That enemy was a renowned and powerful one, on land and upon the ocean; powerful beyond measure in comparison with any we have since had, and we were then younger and weaker as a nation, by nearly half a century. He was soon afterwards promoted to the rank of Brigadier General.

At the bridge of Aux Canards, where the first blood of the war was shed, he was highly distinguished; and there it was, as the indelible history of that period records, that the British troops, in conjunction with their Indian allies, *were first driven before the American arms.*

"Glorious priority!" says the same writer, "to stand at the head of such a list—to have heralded in, with the tap of his volunteer drum from Ohio, the train of splendid victories which our gallant countrymen won upon land and sea, over a foe so renowned, and in a war so just! The *first victory* was *his*; the first laurel was *his*, and be it ever verdant."

He did all that mortal man could do to prevent HULL's surrender, and nobly upheld the administration of Mr. MADISON under all that the Federalists said and did to crush it, in consequence of that disgraceful disaster.

At the battle of the Thames, he fought as a volunteer aid to the commanding General. "Where the shot flew thickest," says the writer already referred to, "there was Cass." Galloping up at full speed, he was just in time to participate in the impetuous charge led by Col. JAMES JOHNSON, which so completely routed PROCTOR and the British regulars, while Col. RICHARD M. JOHNSON routed and slaughtered the Indians.

General HARRISON, in his report of that victory, mentions, with honor, the name of General Cass, and does homage to his merit.

Our opponents, surely, will not repudiate such testimony.

Afterwards, while in command on the Northwestern frontier, and as Governor of Michigan, he rendered important military services to his country, the details of which at this time would run into needless length.

We propose now, at a moment when he has just been placed before the nation for the highest office in its gift, to recall only the more important incidents of his long and distinguished public career.

He was Governor of Michigan for the unusually long period of *eighteen years*. If AUGUSTUS found Rome of brick, and left it of marble, Gen. CASS found Michigan little better than a desert, and left it among the most thriving and prosperous of the Northwestern territories.

In 1831 he was appointed Secretary of War, by General JACKSON. His administration of the War Department, and the fresh distinction he acquired as a member of General JACKSON's cabinet, are familiar to every one at all versed in the political history of that eventful period of national affairs.

On retiring from the War Department, he was honored by the illustrious JACKSON, of whom he was the intimate *friend*, with an additional and distinguished mark of his confidence, by the offer of the Mission to France, to which he was appointed in 1836. It is well known that General JACKSON was very unwilling General CASS should leave him, but the health of the latter was broken down by the laborious duties of his office, which compelled him to a change.

While Minister of the United States in France, he highly distinguished himself by his course in reference to the quintuple treaty; and his celebrated pamphlet on the right of search, and formal protest against the French ratification of the treaty, were evidence of his ability to grapple with the highest questions of diplomacy, as the earlier portions of his life had shown how he could grapple with the enemies of his country in war.

His course on that memorable occasion drew upon him the unsparing denunciations of the whole Tory press of Great Britain, whose schemes he frustrated, and the unmitigated abuse of her orators; Lord BROUGHAM, "that powerful, though prejudiced and passionate peer, and furious Abolitionist," as he is described in a narrative of the transaction, being amongst the most ferocious of his assailants.

On his return to his own country, he was elected to the Senate of the United States, by his adopted State of Michigan, of which body he is at this moment one of the most distinguished members and brightest ornaments.

Such is our candidate. As Americans and Democrats, we exultingly point to him. As a man, pure; as a citizen, virtuous; distinguished in war, in which his youth was passed; distinguished in peace, to the public glories and duties of which, on a wide theatre at home and abroad, his life has been devoted; a statesman, no less than a warrior; trained in cabinets as well as camps; ripe in experience, the result of thirty year's familiarity with public affairs; an accomplished scholar, the productions of whose pen have commanded admiration by their beauty, while the logical deductions of his mind have wrought conviction by their strength; a Democrat, who does not hesitate to avow his allegiance to the Democratic creed in its full extent and breadth, yet with no sectional or narrow views; devoted to his friends, devoted to his country; a dignified gentleman, distinguished in private life by the blandness of his intercourse, not less than by the charm of modesty,—we challenge for him, without fear, the closest scrutiny and keenest competition of any and every one whom our opponents can name throughout their heterogeneous ranks.

Native son of New England, adopted son of the West, pride of the Democracy of the Union, again we hail him as our Candidate now, and

"BY THE ALL HAIL HEREAFTER,"
☞ *As the next President of these United States.*

THE BANKRUPT LAW AND THE MEXICAN WAR. We find in the colums of the Southerner, the following statement relative to the amount of honest debts "*liquidated*" by the famous Bankrupt Law of the session of 1841, one of the first fruits of a Whig victory, and a fair sample of "*the blessing*" showered upon the country by the Whig party, during its brief hour of lawless and ruinous legislation:

"The aggregate amount of debts given in by applicants for the benefit of the Bankrupt Act of 1841, in 27 States and Territories, was $440,934,615. The amount of property surrendered, was $43,697,307. The number of applicants was 33,739; number discharged, 28,291; number whose discharge was refused, 866. Aggregate number of creditors 1,049,603."

We thus see that, by this iniquitous measure, thousands were liberated from contracts entered into with the honest and unsuspecting, who had trusted in the constitution and laws of their country to protect their rights as creditors; a law falsely called a "Bankrupt Law," (if we look at the constitutional meaning of such a law,) by which worthless speculators, commercial gamblers, and fraudulent debtors, threw off their debts, to commence a new career of adventure and imposition; a law, of which but a small number of really honest debtors availed themselves. And yet the same party, which, with reckless disregard of the *true meaning of the Constitution*,