

GENTLEMEN OF THE CONVENTION: return you my thanks for the very kind manner in which you are pleased to receive me. I would have declined the position you have called me to assume as your presiding officer, for I desire no notoriety whatever in public affairs, but for one consideration, and that is, that I know there is considerable opposition to the purposes of this Convention in many sections of our State, and it is accompanied with much bitterness. Under these circumstan--ces, I do not wish to appear even to avoid all proper responsibility, or to dread any share of vituperation. It has been the habit of my life to meet every responsibility imposed on me by those whom I esteem as my friends, and I have always had to encounter my full share of denunciation. On this occasion, while I shall not avoid

the one, I shall defy the other. If I am correctly informed, the sole ob of whose motives in public, were only equalled by the transcendant and gorgeous ject of this Convention is to send Delegates to represent the people of this State in the Cincinnati Convention, which meets to bursts of passionate eloquence. I can mean no other than George McDuffie, for in fiery eloquence he stands without a rival in nominate, for the Democratic party, canouth Carolina. He was a member of -didates for President and Vice President Congress at the time, and in depicting the of the United States. The objections to dangers, exclaimed, if this election is to fall this are-first, that it has not been the uto the House of Representatives, and to susual custom of South Carolina to do so; be repeated, "you corrupt liberty in this the and second, that it leads us into a corrupt seat of her vitality." And in this Mr. Calboun concurred, for although elected struggle and contest for the offices of the Federal Government. First, as to custom. Vice President by the college, baving been 1 trust you will bear with me while I look voted for by both the friends of Adams back briefly into this matter. As the issue and Jackson, yet he threw the whole weight of his influence in favor of Jackson has been made in South Carolina, it is important that we should understand the afterwards, upon the open grounds of de-feating a precedent fatal to liberty and the existence of the Government if repeated. history of it, or at least some points bearing upon it. In that clause of the Constitution which

creates au electoral college, it was origi

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was an adjourned case of veracity between Yes, it was perfectly natural to take Mr. Clay and Mr. Adams, and notwithsides with such a man and to stand by him although he may fall into a minority. standing this and their previous decided difference on many points, yet he voted for and, by his influence in the House, elected The issues became more violent and dec ed, until it ended in the Tariff of 1832: Mr. Adams, and immediately accepted the and this State, pursuing the path of her chief office under him, declaring that it had professed principles, interposed her sovereen usual to elect the Secretary of State ign authority under the most intense ex-itement. This produced universal public Chief Magistrate, and that he thought it a afe precedent. It produced a burst of indiscussion of the principles involved throughout the Confederacy, and just a few ignation and a universal cry of bargain, intrigue and corruption. The danger of the election falling into the Honse of Rep-resentatives, and its dreadful and profligate weeks before the act was to be put into operation, which the State in Convention sembled had declared should be null effects upon all the fountains of power and void, as Virginia had done in the alien were deeply felt by all classes. The scenes that then occurred and the danger to the and sedition laws, "the Compromise" was introduced in the Senate by Mr. Clay, and Republic were painted in glowing colors by one of our most beloved and distinguished statesmen-a statesman, the purity

shape of a National Bank in some form, public feeling of the State became prostra-but were defeated in all. They succeeded ted and indifferent to general politics. Just \$400,000,000 of money was collected in 1833 made a biennial reduction of ten per nomination, and of cousse, the State, under was practically paid South of the Poto-cent. to run for ten years, and at the end of the heated events she had but recently pass-

hurried through the House, so that in fact the Government repealed its own act be-fore the day arrived on which it was to commence its operation. This was State interposition. All these events produced Calhoun was right as far as he went. There are no doubt very grave and serious objec- Government to repeal an odious tariff act the most intense excitement, and of course gates exactly similar to the assembly here now. Mr. Calhoun had made a great imtions to the usual manner of constituting threw us for years out of the party move-ments of the general Republican party of the Union then lead by Gen. Jackson, and of course in general nominations we took little or no interest. Those who were with us were called the strict State Rights school. Mr. Calhonn, in the mean time, had resigned his Vice Presidency and gone into the Senate to vindicate the course of the State and his public career. In the great contest with the National Bank Gen. Jackson, for the first time in our public af such assemblies. And Mr. Calhoun's fertile genius could also, no doubt, point out serious objections to the mode and manner of electing almost any deliberative assembly. bank to operate upon in its fiscal action, if he chose to analyse it. Take, for instance and then Gen. Jackson nobly and gloriousour own Legislature. He could easily ly destroyed the bank itself. This State prove that there had been corruption and even bribery at many of the election boxes ment to pause, and forced a full discussion -that there had been fraud and corrupt of the unjust measure in the public mind, combinations in many of the Districts. great contest with the National Bank Gen. Jackson, for the first time in our public af tairs, had in his messages appended to the people of the nation as a whole, as contra-distinguished from the people of the States of the Confederacy. And hence the great which ended to a certain extent in its over-And, even after the Legislature was assem- throw; and Gen. Jackson destroyed the othbled, it could be proved that there was cor-er corrupt branch of the system, and gave a rupt management and log rolling, and unist and unfoir legislation. So too of ougress, that it was very often corruptly It was his friends-McDuffie, Hayne, majority of the party assumed the name published his argument against the mode constituted and unfairly organized-that i creates an electoral college, it was originally intended by Mr. Madison, a dotters, that the election of President and Vice President should be removed from the peo-ple, and beyond the reach of popular excite-ment; and it was intended that the elector-ral college should choose whoever they inequine in the solution of the electron of the solution of th <text><text><text><text><text><text><text><text><text> Mr. Monroe, which consummated his re- authy in overthrowing the Adams adminis the State to act cordially once more with Mr. Polk. We came been from the Con- a greater evil in all the stupendous and repeal of the Missouri restriction. The is not yet completed.

a the Tariff of 1842. The compromise of at this period came on the Convention for the shape of revenue, \$300,000,000 of which before its latter years fulfilled its final ope- and unanimous part. There was not division 000 more than they actually paid, and we Conventions was as connected with Mr Calhoun's publication against the mode and manner of organization of the Balti-more Convention that met in 1844. Mr. An issue was produced in these violent and despise to affect one thing and to feel

derstand the issues and comprehend the great changes in the country. We need no platform-the Government has already made the platform, and we stand by it, Heretofore there was danger of the line being drawn too low, and the platform bethat time to be reduced to the wants of an economical Government. They got the first years of the protection afforded, and Pierce was nominated, she took a decided for the protection afforded, and Pierce was nominated, she took a decided for the protection afforded, and Pierce was nominated, she took a decided protection afforded and protec upon it boldly; and if they make a plat-form below that, they must fall themration, so as to give us the benefit, it, in shameless disregard of all faith, was repeal-ed by the Tariff of 1842, introduced by the same man who had introduced by pal causes that influenced the course, as compromise of 1833. This was carried well as I understood them. The only against the opposition of the Democratic great and decided point made in her inthat period, affected the distribution of selves, and there is no hope for the wealth to that amount it this Confederacy. party, except two distinguished Senators, Mr. Wright, of New York, and Mr. Bu-chanan, of Pennsylvania. doubt, and forced us to look rather to local us all. As long as we are in the Union I

An issue was produced in these violent conflicts, and State interposition forced the Government to repeal an odieus tariff act a few weeks before the day it was fixed ty, manfully and faithfully, to the country, the whole country, and nothing but the for it to go into operation in 1833. This commenced to stop the partial and unjust sources of supply for a corrupt and unjust

country. These are my sentiments. A Senator from a non-slavsholding State in north the west introduced a repeal of the Missouri compromise, and by his ability and energy carried it triumphantly by the assistance of Northern votes. And I here produced an issue that caused the Governpay my tribute to a brave and talented man-here, in the very centre and heart of South Carolina, I take pride in tendering my cordial approbation to a very intellectudecided shock to local and partial internal al and intrepid statesman. And shall we improvements. Then immediately after. refuse to stand by those who have planted themselves in the breach made by the fawards, in 1836, sprang up those other natical and the factious in the institutions movements upon our local institutions. They took the place in public excitement of the tariff, bank and internal improve-ments. The North had used them to gov.

the same purposes. This unholy and un-hallowed combination between base ambi-ence upon the President, who pobly stands