

From a late number of the Abbeville Banner. WHAT SHOULD SOUTH CAROLINA DO IN THE APPROACHING PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION?

In our preceding articles we have cleared the way for the practical question—what is South Carolina to do? We have shown, we think, the State cannot give an unqualified vote to either Gen. Cass or Gen. Taylor. This, as we take it, is out of the question. It would be in the teeth of all her former principles, and all her settled convictions of state action. Shall the State, then, throw away her vote? We answer no: and for several reasons.

1st. There is, we conceive, under all the circumstances a choice between the candidates. Neither of them, it is true, fulfills our expectations; but to select either now, is we fear, impracticable. If one, then, is preferable to the other, duty and policy lead us to take the least exceptionable. This is certain: one must come into power—which shall it be? The one, who will be most liable to carry out our purposes, or the other who is less liable? Common prudence answers this question. But again: if by casting away our vote we should bring into office the most objectionable candidate—what course would we not justly incur? We would be guilty of the suicidal act of bringing upon the country an unsafe administration. From the evil effects of which, we may not be able to escape for years. Who will be willing to risk so great a danger? Who will so bravely a responsibility resting upon him, can consent to remain neutral? But it will be urged, by selecting one of the candidates, we will be choosing one of two evils. Not so. The necessity of the case, is the reason of the matter. By choosing it, we do not avoid the greater evil, it can scarcely be said, we choose the less. This is the philosophy of the thing. We take the less evil, through a fear of receiving the greater: which is both prudent and reasonable.

When, however, we expressly declare, as we should do, that in giving our vote to one candidate, we give it free from any pledge to support his administration further than it conforms with the doctrines of our political faith, all difficulties on the score of consistency, will, we imagine, be fully removed. We say to the party our vote is given conditionally, on the ground, that we may have no party trammels in case the man whom we assist in elevating to power, fails to administer the government in the full Republican faith. Here is no inconsistency—no compromise of principle. And by taking this position we have this great advantage: we can honestly assist in electing the man, we regard under all the circumstances the most proper person, and in view of his defection in power we are entirely free to abandon his administration and to remain true to our principles.

But another and more urgent reason for not throwing away the vote of the State is, that the present crisis in our political affairs demands the most active efforts of every citizen to secure the best administration in which the rights of the South is the prize to be won. The question of the extension of Slavery is beginning to awaken the public energies, and before the new President shall have fairly taken his seat, the whole country may be in a state of high political excitement. The South, then, who is to win or lose by the contest, should prepare herself well for the crisis. She should mark distinctly the ground on which she is to stand, and offer no compromises, make no concessions until she has full indemnity for the past and security for the future. We say, she should mark out the ground on which she is to stand. We mean, she should keep free from party trammels; she should define her position clearly and emphatically on the great vital questions of the day; and should stand by her principles, and if necessary fight for them under party censures, and against numerical majorities. It will not do at this time to remain inactive, while the forces of the North and South are marshaling themselves for the onset. We must be up and doing, or our fetters will be forged. The hand of the majority despot is already raised; the bugle has sounded "to arms"; and we have only to stand firm, and the danger may be averted. We are the party assailed. It is our cause—the cause of the South—that is to be vindicated. But though on the defensive, our preparations should be not less active and serious. Let us fortify ourselves within our clear and unquestionable rights. Let us above all be united in our ranks, and if we can bring to our aid, important allies, let us not neglect so weighty a matter. If our Northern friends—and we certainly have friends among the generous minded people of the North—offer us their friendly aid, let us by all means accept of it; but we should receive it in good faith. Let us tell them what we are contending for—what we are resolved to have, if there is a sense of justice and liberty in the land. If they cannot join us on the grounds we propose, we must respectfully decline their aid, and rely on our own resources, under the protecting influences of a wise Providence. That we may show them, however, we are not insensible of our true situation, nor indifferent to their friendly aid, let us tender them the hand of friendship, but with dignity and reserve, that they may see our determination to vindicate our rights, and to accept no compromise that will not be insatiable in the full enjoyment of our constitutional liberties.

We maintain, then, that South Carolina is bound to cast her vote—and to give a qualified vote. But to whom? To Gen. Taylor, or Gen. Cass? We hope the answer will appear obvious, from what we have already urged. This much, however, may not appear surprising on so important a matter. In taking the Candidates, we take their parties and all their party Legislation. The issue cannot be avoided. If we take Gen. Taylor into our ranks, we must take with him Millard Fillmore, and all his Abolition associates. We must expect to see Whig principles carried out into practical Legislation. What these principles and measures are, we have already seen. What their consequences will be, if reduced to practice, we have been told and warned against, by the great apostles of constitutional liberty—Jefferson, Madison, and Calhoun. To

avert their practical effects, the energies of these great men have been powerfully exerted, and no state has labored more ardently in the same great cause, than the state of South Carolina. How can the State now abandon her former course of conduct, and lend her efforts to engulph the ship of state in the sea of Whig principles? Can she roll back the last thirty years of her political history—blot out the recollection of her great struggles against the usurpation of Federalism—and join hands with the Federal majorities, (if we may be allowed to coin a word,) who have labored so strenuously to forge her fetters? Let not her annals be blotted by so foul a stain!

With all our objections to Gen. Cass, therefore, (and we think it due to the honor of the state that these objections should be made fully known,) we believe South Carolina, to be consistent and true to her interests, is bound to support him, if no other candidate less objectionable be brought into the field.

In the first place, he is the organ of the party, to which we have for years belonged. This party on the fundamental doctrines relative to our government, and on the leading measures of every administration since the days of Jefferson, has been heard and hand with us. On one subject alone we disagree. This, it is true, is a very important matter—paramount, at this time, perhaps to all others. But this must be considered. Even on this question of Slavery, the Democratic party at the North (we mean the purer branch of it) has always voted with us. It met us on the Missouri compromise. It assisted us in settling the question as to the right of Congress to interfere with slavery in the District of Columbia. At the last session of Congress it helped to vote down the Wilmot and Wilmot Provisions. True, the party refused in Convention at Baltimore to take the proper ground on the question as it now stands before the country; but it must be recollected, the party was not there fully represented, and the matter was not fairly discussed before them. The probability is, when the South comes out boldly and takes a proper position on the subject; defines her views, and sets them forth properly to the public mind—the party will yet be right, and when the question comes to be acted on in Congress, it may vote in our favor. So long at least as there is a strong probability of this, it would be exceedingly unwise and indiscreet to cast off from us a body of men, with whom we have been long politically associated, and who have united their energies with our own, often by liberal compromises, to carry into effect the great leading doctrines of the Republican school. It is but fair, we should try until they fairly desert us. This need not, however, hinder our circumspection. We may hope for the best, but we must be prepared for the worst.

Let us preserve our faith entire. Let our honor be without stain. *Sit sine labe decus.* JEFFERSON.

Mr. Clay and the Presidency.—We perceive, by a telegraphic despatch from New York received by our neighbors of the Courier, that Mr. Clay has written a dissenting opinion of the movements of the Presidential electors, applying that he was not in favor of Mr. Clay's nomination.

in the Presidential election, we will be giving an example of the theoretically wise, but practically foolish. Let us not, however, be deceived by cant phrases. These are the mere catch words of the party vulgar—the wisdom of the foolish, which is the folly of the wise. It is the cunning language of the practical demagogues, who are laboring with their might to level the political morals of the country—a class of men, who are teaching that successful villainy, is virtue,—and that to obtain ends a desertion of principles is fully justifiable;—men, who think of nothing but political bargains, and party log rolling—help me, and I'll help you;—the unworthy followers of the great prince of political tricksters—Prince Machiavelli—who taught, as these men are now teaching, "that the end sanctifies the means"—that "strength and understanding are all that is necessary in a system of politics"—and that "justice does not enter into the elements of political economy." May the country be delivered from this tribe of political insects!

It may be a virtue to adhere to party; but we deem as far more exalted and praise worthy, a faithful adherence to honesty and to correct principles. This is the course that duty points out, and in pursuance of that, are found the ends of all honorable desires. Let not ridicule, then, or slander, drive us out of it. A greater than man was mocked and ridiculed—yet he continued to teach and practice virtue. And was not this the true philosophy?—Contrary to the common notion, we assert, and we wish our assertion to stand on record, that South Carolina by a rigid adherence to the settled doctrines of her political creed, regardless of party bias or censure, will draw upon herself more real honor—will exert a more powerful influence in this union, intellectually, morally, and politically, than if she could always be counted upon with certainty to support, without reference to her principles, any and every party measure. There is about a straight forward independent course of conduct, a bewitching power that strikes even the vulgar eye, and which adapts in utriusque and political infamy themselves will not despise or unheed. Let us do, then, what we believe to be right, and let others mock if they will. A mind conscious of rectitude has no sickly sensitiveness about unworthy insinuations against its motives. It is not touched by every suggestion of ridicule, and the tricks of party cannot make it swerve from its faith. Let us occupy this position.

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Letter of the Hon. F. W. Pickens.—On account of the pressure upon our columns during last week, we could not publish the letter of our former Representative to Congress the Hon. F. W. Pickens, in reply to an invitation to a meeting at Athens Ga. It will be found in our paper to day. Col. Pickens has been known for some time past to be a supporter of Gen. Cass for the Presidency. He is now as he was when in Congress, a thorough Southern Democrat.



The Advertiser.

EDGEFIELD C. H.

WEDNESDAY, SEPT. 27, 1848.

Cool Weather.—The weather for several days past was quite cool. On Friday morning about sun rise, the thermometer stood at 54 degrees, on Saturday, at the same time, at 51 degrees.

We are authorized to say, that on next Sale day, the first Monday in October, our immediate Representative, the Hon. A. Burt, will be at Edgefield Court House, and according to request, will address his fellow citizens on the political questions that agitate the country.

It is known, that our Senator, Judge Butler will speak to the people on the occasion referred to.

The citizens of the District will employ their time beneficially, if they will come out, and hear instruction from those whom they have elected to give it.

Old Edgefield Erect.—All the Candidates from this District for the Legislature, have declared for Cass and Butler. They fully accord with the people of the District, who will suffer no neutrality upon the Presidential question.

We call attention to the article signed "Jefferson."

The views expressed by the writer are moderate, manly and sensible, and deserve consideration.

It is proper to state, that the piece first appeared in the Abbeville Banner, and was written in last July.

The author can claim, not to be entirely indebted to others for the position he early assumed.

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President and Vice President, the following among other resolutions were passed.

Resolved, That Millard Fillmore is well known and highly honored by the Whigs of New Jersey, as the unwavering and efficient advocate of true Whig principles, and particularly the Tariff of '42, and as the defender of the rights of this State, and its broad seal, against the outrages of Loce Focism in 1839 and '40—that we hail his nomination with universal satisfaction, and will give him our zealous and unanimous support.

Resolved, That these principles which Gen. Zachary Taylor has avowed, comprehend fully all the principles which the Whigs have ever contended for, in respect to the Executive.

Resolved, That these principles are as follows: that the President should never bring the power, influence, patronage or proscriptions of the Executive to bear and overawe the action of Congress; that he should never exercise the veto power except to prevent unconstitutional and hasty legislation; that he should never set up his notions of the constitution against the adjudications of the Supreme Court, or the settled practice of the government; and that therefore he should approve and sign all well considered bills which Congress may present to him, for the establishment of a protective tariff, for useful internal improvements, and for all other measures of domestic policy for which the Whigs contend.

Resolved, That although the question as to the extension of slavery, being a new question, has never constituted a part of the Whig creed, yet the whigs of New Jersey, as well as the whigs of all the free States, though opposed to all interference with slavery where it now exists, are unanimously opposed to its extension, and always have exerted and always will exert all the influence they have in Congress, to prevent such extension.

Resolved, That by the avowed principles of Gen. Taylor he is bound not to veto any bill because it prohibits slavery in a new State or Territory; but that Gen. Cass has pledged himself to veto any prohibition of the kind, and that therefore as one of the other must be elected President, every friend of freedom is bound to support Gen. Taylor.

Resolved, That but for the conquest of Mexican territory by the present administration, there would have been no extension of slavery; and that if Gen. Cass should be elected, pledged as he is to give unbridled license to the spirit of aggression upon Mexico and Cuba, the country would be cursed with more conquests and more slave territory.

Among the speakers present, was Col. Haskell. We make the following extract from his speech. It is by no means complimentary to General Taylor's Democratic friends in South Carolina.

Col. Haskell, of Tenn., was then introduced, and spoke with marked effect for about two hours.

Whatever Southern Locofocos have done, I tell you, Northern Whigs and Democrats, you have nothing to say against Southern

Candidates for Congress from Charleston District.—Messrs. Holmes, Rhett and Clay ton, are announced as candidates to represent Charleston District in Congress.

Tempest in a Tea pot.—The Taylor Democrats in Charleston, are making a great noise about Cass & Taylor. Their demonstrations in favor of the latter, are all in vain. South Carolina is still true to her ancient principles and will never surrender to the Whigs.

C. G. Memminger.—This gentleman in a recent letter declares his preference for Cass and Butler for the Presidency and Vice Presidency.

Another Hero Gone.—Died, on Thursday night, the 21st of September 1848 at the house of his uncle, John Doby, Esq. JASPER N. DEVORE.

He was a young man of good habits and good morals, and promised to be an ornament to society.

He was a member of Company D, of the Palmetto Regiment, in the war with Mexico, and passed through every battle in which that Regiment was engaged.

His officers and brother soldiers, all bear testimony to his high character both as a soldier and a gentleman. He never absented himself from duty, when labors were to be performed or battles were to be won for his country; and his life was a sacrifice to his country's honor.

The Ecceing News.—The Proprietorship of this paper has been changed. It is now conducted by B. Garden Pringle, J. N. Cardozo, having retired.

Taylor and the Wilmot Proviso.—Our readers must not forget that General Taylor when questioned about his views on the Wilmot Proviso, not long since, positively refused to answer, and said that he would not reply to questions on other subjects. But he has replied fully on a number of subjects in his numerous letters. The paramount question has never been answered at all by him. Still, for his reputed soundness on slavery, the Taylor men at the South throw up their caps for him, and will not abandon him, associated though he is with Fillmore.

Missouri.—The Democratic majority for Senator in Missouri, is 15,000. The House will consist of 27 Whigs to 70 Democrats. The Senate is also Democratic.

Henry Clay.—Mr. Clay has written a letter to a friend in New-York, declining to run for the Presidency.

Commander Alexander Siddell McKenzie recently fell from his horse, while riding through

Whigs. (Applause.) I did advocate Henry Clay in '44 and a Tariff for more than revenue, if necessary, to protect Northern labor against foreign competition. Southern locofocos, however, never sympathized with the Northern interests, and have ever endeavored to create sectional feeling. (Applause.) With that party the Whigs of the South never sympathized. When we have been told that the hard earned labors of the South went for the benefit of Northern manufacturers we stood up uniformly in the South, and contended that the manufacturers of our own country should be protected against foreign pauper labor. (Great applause.)

Whatever has been done by a disaffected band of South Carolina locofocos to put up another man for Vice President in the place of Fillmore, they have never had the sympathy of Southern Whigs. And how could Gen. Taylor have done otherwise than accept that nomination? It was made by a body of disaffected locos, who couldn't vote for Cass, and concluded to vote for the man who is to be elected.

Thy I wanted to get out of the locofoco party in the best manner they could, and should we exclude them? Gen. Taylor did not do them, they came to him.

In supporting Gen. Taylor we do not abandon a solitary tenet of our party. We shall have under him not an administration for a party, but for the whole country. Does any one want to establish any one of the principles we advocated in '44? He can do so precisely as well under Taylor as under Clay. The President cannot carry out any of these measures himself, and whatever Congress does for the people, Taylor is pledged not to veto. He is not an ultra Whig, but a Clay Whig and would have voted for him in '44 if he had been in a position to vote.

For the Advertiser. Mr. Editor:—In your paper, as also through other Journals of the District, questions have been propounded to the Candidates for the Legislature, touching their views as to the Presidential candidates.

As neither of the tickets are entirely acceptable to South Carolina, as an individual I have preferred that the State should remain uncommitted, to the latest possible moment—when her vote could have been cast with the most recent and fullest information as to their respective views. In this way the State might vote more wisely and judiciously for her best interests. But as the people have thought proper now to call on me for my opinion, I acknowledge their right to do so, by replying that it is the true interest of South Carolina, under existing circumstances, to cast her vote at the ensuing Presidential election for Cass and Butler South as my preference.

As the candidates have also been enquired of as to their views in relation to giving the election of Electors for President to the People, I am glad to announce of the past. Let me have the honor of the District. I voted for Cass in '44, and I will do so again. The election Electors this fall will cost the people of the State from five to eight thousand dollars.

B. C. YANCEY.

For the Advertiser. Mr. Editor:—I should have answered the question of "Responsible Voters," before this, but for this reason—I understood that there was an arrangement amongst all the candidates to give their answer in one article, and save the Editors of the papers, the trouble of publishing so many separate articles. I am always ready to give my opinion on any political question in agitation before the people.

I therefore beg leave to say, that I am in favor of CASS & BUTLER for the Presidency. I frankly confess that I have been one of the "wait and watch party," but I cannot see for the life of me, how any Southern Democrat can consistently support Gen. Taylor with his present principles. The claims of Van Buren, I presume, are entirely out of the question, as they should be. Respectfully,

A. JONES.

For the Advertiser. Mr. Editor:—In reply to the call of "Responsible Voters," which appeared in a recent number of your paper, I beg leave to say, that with the present light before me, (should I be elected,) I shall support the election of Gen. Cass in preference to any other Candidate now before us for the Presidency.

DANIEL HOLLAND.

From the Charleston Mercury. Letter from Mr. Memminger.—The following letter from Mr. Memminger will be read with interest. It is his reply to an interrogatory addressed to him by the Executive Committee of the Democratic Party of Charleston.

Rock Hill, Sept. 11, 1848. Gentlemen: Your favor of the 31st August was not received until late on Saturday, the 9th instant, and I now avail myself of the earliest opportunity of replying to it.

In my opinion it is the true interest of South Carolina, under existing circumstances, to cast her vote at the ensuing Presidential election for Cass and Butler, and if elected a member of the Legislature I shall vote accordingly. Your letter speaks of a ticket pledged to support these gentlemen. I presume that by this expression you do not desire more than such a declaration as would be consistent with that discretion which must be exercised by the members of a deliberative body. Deliberation necessarily involves the exercise of judgement, and an absolute pledge might place one in a position where his conscience and his pride might come in conflict. In South Carolina, especially where the vote of the State is reserved to be cast by the Legislature, it seems to me to be essential that the Representatives of the people should be allowed the exercise of a sound and responsible discretion.

With much respect, your obedient servant.

C. G. MEMMINGER.

ton was all picked clean. Twenty three hands picked in one day, 5,560 pounds. Thirty seven hands picked 5,475 pounds. Sixty hands the two numbers above, added together picked 11,036 pounds. One hand picked 312 pounds, another 303, another 307. The lowest number of pounds picked by any one amounted to 201 pounds. We will not say, if you can, but we call it pretty good picking for an old country.

On a plantation situated on Saluda River, and belonging to a gentleman of this District, the following is the result.

One hand picked in one day, from sun rise till sunset, 358 pounds

Another 300 "

" 258 "

" 237 "

Forty-three hands averaged 180 pounds.

The Columbia Telegraph has more than once complained of the transfer of his "thunder" to others. Now we have a similar complaint to make, and pledge ourselves to unite our best efforts with those of our brother, to bring about that happy state of things, when every man in South Carolina, shall have in fee simple his own "thunder." The Editor of the Advertiser not having said a good thing for a long time (if he ever did in his life) and plainly perceiving that something must be done or his subscribers would leave him, concluded that he would make a visit to Graniteville in the hope that amid the stirring incidents of that wonderful place, he might get something which would ward off the impending calamity. But when, oh, when, are our misfortunes to end! The account of our visit has been given, and the Telegraph for reasons best known to itself, has credited it to the Editor of the Abbeville Banner. This has given rise to some mortifying reflections. It may be that our existence is unknown at Columbia. This is the most charitable view which we can take of the matter; but yet there is nothing consulting in it. We wish the Banner well, but we must have our own thunder, as we seldom make it, and cannot spare it.

The Beggs Medal.—The citizens of Richland District have caused to be made a medal of the most beautiful description, to present to Thomas Beggs late color bearer of Palmetto Regiment, as a testimonial of their appreciation of his services in Mexico.

Whig Mass Meeting at Atlanta Ga.—We learn from the Augusta Chronicle, that at the meeting of the Whigs at Atlanta, on the 14th, about 8 or 10 thousand of the party were present. The Hon. A. J. Miller acted as President. The audience was addressed by Governor Crawford, Hon. Wm. C. Dawson, Robert Toombs and Jno. M. Berrien. Mr. Stephens was also present, and was received with great enthusiasm. He made a short address, thanking the company for his reception.

Mr. Stephens who was wounded in the rencontre with Jude Cone, is recovering.

over ourselves to be unfaithful to our true issues. We should tell them, in language not to be misunderstood, that South Carolina cannot go heart and hand in this election without a more ample pledge, touching the exclusion of Slavery from the Territories; but for the sake of harmony, as well as from a feeling of duty, she is willing to give her vote quietly and conditionally for the Democratic Nominee.

There is an additional reason for supporting General Cass, in preference to General Taylor which may have some weight with those who look at the issue simply on the ground of expediency. It is this. It must be admitted, that of the two great parties at the North, there are more liberal men, who have always voted with the South on the Slavery question, and who in all probability will continue to do so, to be found in the Democratic, than in the Whig ranks. This fact, we judge, can scarcely be controverted. We take it for granted, also that the South when issue is made on this question, will be united without distinction of party. If now the United South, can secure the aid of this liberal faction in the Democratic party at the North, she will arm herself with a strong auxiliary, that will enable her, perhaps, to succeed in all her reasonable demands. In this way her rights on this much vexed question of slavery may be finally settled. But if the Democratic party at the South unite with the Whigs at the North to elevate Gen. Taylor to the Presidency, can we secure the aid of these liberal Democrats of the North? We ourselves dissolve the ties that bind us together—can we any longer, then, expect them to unite with us? We not only quit them, but we join their political enemies. Is it reasonable to suppose, they will still adhere to us? To expect such a result is altogether unnatural. By joining ourselves therefore, with the Whigs to elect General Taylor, we cut ourselves off from those generous minded men at the North who have always stood by us in our adversities, and who most probably, will aid us in the approaching contest, if we do not unreflectingly discard them. By doing this, we isolate the South;—we dissolve all the bonds, that kept united these two sections of the country on this great subject; and by this severance, we throw the South in to a minority, to be ruled and governed by the legions of the North.

We put these views to the sober and solemn consideration of those honest but deluded men in our State, who under the popular sobriquet "Taylor Democrats," are seeking to withdraw themselves from their political *alma mater*. We beg them to pause before they take a step so fatal to the interests of the State and of the South!

After all we have said, we shall still be ridiculed for deserting our party, because we have dared to differ from it on some points and to make animadversions on our own candidate. We shall be styled by some of the brainless politicians in the country, hair-splitting metaphysicians—addle-brained Theorists, and all that;—and it will doubtless, be said by holding to our faith and refusing to take an active part

The Evening News of yesterday announces that Mr. J. N. Cardozo, the former editor of that journal, is to continue in association with Mr. Pringle, in its editorial management.—*Charleston Courier.*