

Political.

Letter from our Correspondent, dated

Milledgeville, Nov. 21, 1832.

GENTLEMEN—I shall say nothing in this letter relative to the proceedings of the Legislature, only that new Commissioners are provided by law and were elected on Saturday, to expedite the drawing of the lottery—let your readers look out for prizes, for the wheels of fortune move rapidly.

The Convention is the absorbing topic of conversation and interest; in this theme all minor matters are merged. It has filled men's heads with schemes and speculations, their hearts with novel emotions, and clothed their tongues with eloquence. For the first time I witnessed the people assembled by their delegates, to consult, as did the virtuous and brave of '76, upon the mode and measure of resistance to tyranny; it was an imposing spectacle, a sublime exhibition; a whole community, quietly, solemnly, and with determined purpose, moving in the great cause of Southern rights. Some of our greatest and best were here, men whose characters alone guarantee the prudence and wisdom of their deeds; and some too, of the untitled, undistinguished, untalented ones; men, as Oglethorpe said "by the catalogue," fit only to follow, when higher and nobler spirits lead. This latter class constituted the majority. Berrien and Forsyth were the leaders, and truly they have led to opposite points; *their course and their fortunes* from this time forward, must be divergent. The debates were all of the skirmishing order, there was little of solemn argument, and the greater part of the debate originated upon Mr. Forsyth's propositions to enquire into the qualifications of the delegates. This discussion was animated, exciting, sometimes personal, and eloquent throughout; embracing in its range, these great principles of primary action, which govern conventions of the people. The principles contended for by Mr. F. and his friends, are involved in their protest, which I herewith send you. His opponents contended, and as I thought correctly, that any *prima facie* evidence of the election of delegates by any portion of the people, should entitle them to act; that their action could not be obligatory; that the convention was only an advisory counsel, whose action is to be confirmed or disaffirmed by the people; and that in order to act, it was not essential that the whole or a majority of the people should have voted for the delegates. Much of the merits of the protective policy, of resistance and submission, of nullification and secession, was embraced in the discussion of the propositions of Mr. F. His proposition failed, and a resolution instructing a committee to enquire into the evidence of the election of delegates, and directing the report of that committee to be submitted to the people, with the other proceedings of the convention, prevailed. The rejection of the scrutiny into the right of the convention, to speak in the name of the people, which Mr. F. proposed, was his pretext for withdrawing—of which withdrawal, more directly.

No man, who has not heard John Forsyth in debate, can form any adequate idea of his prodigious power; it is absolutely wonderful.

His grace of action and power of voice, is, so far as I know peerless; he has no equal in eloquence of that order to which excited extemporary discussions give rise; you cannot appreciate his eloquence from a perusal of his speeches; his sentiments constitute but one half the elements of his greatness; he wields the feelings of the multitude with the skill and adroitness of a magician, and can strike down an adversary with the power of demolition itself. It would have amused you to have seen Mr. Forsyth practice the doctrine of Nullification upon some of the small fry of the assembly.

Col. Cumming has gained no accession of fame by his attendance upon the convention. He has but very moderate parliamentary talents, but is distinguished in the drawing room, or in sub-committee sessions. His colloquial talent is commanding. His manner has more of military frankness and directness, than the beauty or grace of the orator. He can plan the parliamentary campaign, but cannot execute the evolutions.

I had been taught to believe that Alfred Cuthbert was one of the most talented and eloquent of our statesmen, but you may rely upon it, he has exhibited himself here as but little superior to the veriest school boy declaimer. His efforts here have excited the pity, not to say contempt, of his friends. So much for the head men and chiefs of the secession. Other men claim a passing notice.

Mr. Berrien stands out from among ordinary men, with prominent outline and commanding proportions. He has not the speed, the rapidity, and alertness of Achilles, but he has the tremendous energy of Ajax—Forsyth defies all competition, in Guerrilla war; Berrien is the hero of campaigns and sieges. Forsyth, like Murat, is unrivalled in the onset; and Berrien, like Napoleon, invincible at Austerlitz; the eloquence of Mr. Forsyth, like the mountain torrent, sparkles, and foams, and bounds over all impediments; that of Mr. Berrien, like ocean's tide, moves onward in quiet, swelling, deepening flow, until all objects are merged in its ample bosom. In the convention Mr. B. seemed constantly to have his eye fixed upon results, and could not be led astray by momentary excitements; always self-possessed, wary, and furnished, his cool and dignified oratory foiled the repeated efforts of his wily adversary; and he finally led his friends to the adoption of plans, which he no doubt had well matured in private. Mr. B.'s fort is in solemn argument; he is argumentative, even logical; yet, his most abstract reasonings are embellished with the richest figures, clothed with the purest English, and accompanied and enforced with a grace and dignity of manner inimitable. I have no idea that Greece, or Rome, or Britain, furnish in their long annals two happier models of eloquence than these gentlemen. Our young countrymen would do well to study them.

Judge Clayton is familiar to you. His pen is more eloquent than his tongue. His mind teems with thought, but his thoughts are but little aided by his manner. He was not reared in the Grotto of the Graces. There is in Judge C.'s speeches and writings, but little of classic beauty, still he is impressive. He produces that kind of impression which superior intellect ever did and ever will produce. His knowledge is his power; and no man is more fruitful and ingenious in his illustrations.

Mr. Gilmer delivered one speech, when the convention was in committee of the whole, upon the report of the committee, and was listened to with marked attention. There is a peculiarity in this gentleman's speeches which touches all listeners, and that is, an air breathing through every word and every action, of undoubting confidence in the rectitude of his positions; he is always in earnest, seems not to speak from speculation, but from absolute conviction. There is also a tremendous force accompanying Mr. G.'s opinions, growing out of the entire integrity and frankness of his character; no one doubts that he is not God's noblest work—an honest man. He has not that self command in debate necessary to the developement of the high attributes of oratory, his feelings hurry him away; his sentences, therefore, are sometimes broken, and his manner rough.

I could speak of others, but I prefer to be rather a narrator of events, than the chronicler of men's merits or demerits.

Mr. Forsyth, alleging that the convention refused a sufficient scrutiny into the qualification of its members, seceded—about fifty gentlemen, mostly of the Clark party, followed him. He quit the convention before it had acted—instead of endeavoring to direct it to wise results, or even proposing to it any measure whatever, he retired from its deliberations. It is said, and I have no doubt that the assertion is true, that this gentleman and Col. Cumming came here with a fixed purpose to dissolve the convention, to bring it into dispute with the people, and organise new parties in the state. In part they have succeeded. They have done all they could do to strengthen the Tariff. They have advocated doctrines the most abjectly submissive. They have put themselves *at the head of the Clark party* to put down the free trade spirit in Georgia, and in my humble opinion have forfeited the confidence of every man claiming to be Georgian. The Clark party have received them with open arms—the issue is made up—the parties in Georgia are henceforth to be known as Resistance and Submission parties—Mr. F. and his friends have done this. No man, who belongs to the Troup party, can now hesitate as to his course. The question now is, not what shall be the *mode*, but whether, with Mr. F. we are *tamely* and *meanly* to submit until Congress shall relieve us. The feeling among our friends here, is that of strong and deep indignation at the course of the Seceders. To a man, they seem to sink all controversy about the mode, and unite in advocating the course of the convention; we can no longer falter upon this subject, we may expect the united and rigorous efforts of the submis-

sionists to prevent the ratification of the proceedings of the convention by the people—We, therefore, who are not prepared for unqualified submission, must raise the warning voice and rally to the standard of State sovereignty.

After the secession, it was found that the majority of the delegates remained, and the convention proceeded to act with unparalleled unanimity. The course recommended is any thing but rash, and by far more forbearing than the mildest resistance man could have expected. You perceive by the resolutions that a Southern Convention is the prominent part of the mode; this is in accordance with the views of the great body of the Troup party. The resolutions of the convention reiterate the great doctrines of Jefferson—declare the Tariff laws unconstitutional—announce the determination of the state not to submit to the protective policy; that it will resist it by the exercise of all the rights of the state as a sovereign member of the confederacy, and by consultation and concert with other states having like interest with itself—respectfully recommend to the several Southern states to assemble in convention by delegates, to meet at such time and place as shall be hereafter agreed upon, to confer together and recommend to the states respectively such measures as may conduce to the removal of the Tariff grievances; that a poll be opened in each county, and the people be invited to vote upon the ratification or rejection of their proceedings, and if the people are found to approve the measures of the convention, they are invited, by general ticket, to elect eleven delegates to meet in the convention of the states. The convention adjourned to meet again on the first Monday in July, and all the counties not represented, are invited to elect delegates.

Such are the prominent features of the mode of resistance recommended by the convention. A Southern convention is the main object, and all they have done is submitted to the approval or disapproval of the sovereign people. Is there any thing rash—any thing wrong in all this? Who can object to this action? Will not the people ratify these movements? He who can object to this mild procedure, is prepared for slavish submission; and yet Mr. Forsyth, Col. Cumming, and Alfred Cuthbert, could not venture even to deliberate with those who suggested action, so revolutionary as this. Are they not the auxiliaries of the manufacturer? They can be nothing else. They have exhibited bad faith to the party with whom they have ever acted, and which has conferred honor and office upon some of them; and they have proven recreant to the cause of Southern rights. It was bad enough to array themselves in opposition to the cause of the people in the convention of the people—it was bad enough to desert us in the hour of peril; but worse than this, than all, they have leagued with our enemies and their enemies, and have become the leaders (unquestionably so) of a party always in opposition to the dearest interest of Georgia. Mr. F. has absurdly sealed his own fate with the Troup party—he is lost to them forever. It is right that we should spurn from our ranks false friends, and the higher the character of the offender, the more indignant should be our feelings.

I am more than ever convinced, that if Georgia ever is absolved from her oppressions, she must owe her absolution to the union, energy, and purity of the Troup party. The Clark party care not for the Tariff; their object is to acquire state power, and they hail our divisions as the harbinger of their triumph. It is matter of curious speculation here, to witness the perfect amalgamation of Troup seceders with Clark submissionists; men, a few months since more obnoxious to the Clark party than poison to human life, are now greeted by them in private, honored on the highway, and serenaded with hosannahs. To what shall all this lead? To one thing I trust at least, and that is union and energy on the part of all true friends of the state, in support of the measures of the convention. To my own humble self, my banner is hung upon the outer wall in token of war, ay, war to the hilt.

An explanatory and exhortatory address to the people will accompany the resolutions of the convention; the resolutions were penned by Mr. Berrien—the address also, as I am informed.

On yesterday, Mr. Ryan laid upon the table of the House of Representatives a string of resolutions, proposing a Southern convention, requesting the state to elect delegates whenever it should be found that all the Southern states would unite in convention, and denouncing the late convention, and requesting the people to disregard its recommendations. This is the second act in the drama, and to my mind forebodes evil. This movement has for its object the defeat of the objects of the convention. These resolutions will no doubt pass both branches, and will then have the convention and the majority of the Legislature in direct collision; these resolutions no doubt emanated from high authority, and this act of hostility to Georgia, for it is nothing else, has the sanction of one name at least, heretofore honored by the Troup party as its ornament. Once more I say, the conflict in Georgia has begun and it will be no ordinary one; we should, therefore, prepare to encounter its toils, its trials, and its hazards. Your obt. servt.