

From the Correspondent of the Constitutionalist.

Milledgeville, Nov. 21.

Last night, agreeably to notice, the great Union meeting took place in the Representative chamber. Dr. C. E. Haynes, of Hancock, was called to the Chair, and Joseph Sturges, of Upson, and G. W. Murray, of Baldwin, were appointed Secretaries. The Chairman briefly stated the object of the meeting; after which, on motion, a committee of five was appointed by the Chairman to draft resolutions, and report them, for the consideration of the citizens assembled from all parts of the State. The Committee appointed consisted of Messrs. Thomas Glascock, of Richmond, H. R. Ward of Camden, Thomas S. Wayne, of Chatham, G. W. B. Towns of Talbot, and Thomas Haynes, of Hancock. This committee withdrew, and after an absence of about half an hour, returned and reported the following preamble and resolutions, which were read by General Glascock. After which on motion, the preamble and resolutions were again read by one of the Secretaries, separately, and each was unanimously adopted by the meeting.

PREAMBLE.

The Union Democratic Republicans of Georgia, hitherto separated by the distinctions of local party, laying down all former prejudice and jealousy, as a sacrifice on the altar of their country, have become united in a single body for the maintenance of those principles which they deem essential to the public welfare. The rights of the individual states, and of the confederacy, are both dear to us—both alike sacred—and both we will zealously support with our utmost ability. At the present moment, our institutions are especially menaced by the wild heresy of nullification, to which, some without disguise, and others, under the covert of various pretexts, are endeavoring to subjugate the state. The countenance given to that melancholy error, has done more to shake the confidence of the world in republican government, than all other untoward occurrences in our history together. But its influence has been peculiarly disastrous to the very people whom professedly it was intended to serve. Its most zealous advocates appear to have hoped, under certain contingencies, to maintain their pretensions, by arraying the whole force of the South in defiance to the General Government. And yet with a marvellous infatuation, they have urged on their projects in such a spirit of fierce, exasperating intolerance, as to excite among their immediate fellow-citizens, a thousand deadly animosities, not less fatal to the strength than to the happiness of the community. A lesson so deeply fraught with instruction,

should not be disregarded by those, who seem to have meditated a similar enterprise. Leaving other topics to be discussed as circumstances may require, we purpose on the present occasion briefly to declare our opinions and feelings, in relation to this important subject.

RESOLUTIONS.

Resolved, That the Federal constitution is a compact, creating and defining the common government established over the sovereign states, by which it was adopted.

Resolved, That the exercise of any powers by the General Government, not delegated in the constitution, is an act of usurpation; but individual members of the confederacy cannot, while continuing their adherence to it, determine the question, whether a disputed power has really been delegated or not. The theory of nullification, which supposes that any state may remain in the Union, and yet with unlimited discretion decide for itself, whether it will or will not respect the acts of the General Government, is in flagrant opposition to all sound politics. The very essence of a common government, is conformity to the same prescribed rules, by all those over whom such government is established. If every state may determine for itself, how far the enactments of the General Government are valid, it is evident, the same act that may be fully enforced in Massachusetts, may be only half obeyed in New York, still less in Virginia, and in Louisiana be regarded as an absolute nullity. Whenever such a state of things is suffered to exist, there is no longer a common government: the Union is virtually dissolved.

Resolved, That the federal compact, which forbids a majority to assume powers not delegated in the constitution, equally requires that a minority should submit to the exercise of those powers which have actually been confided to the General Government. If, therefore, the doctrine of the nullifiers is correct, that the several parties to the compact, all enjoy perfect authority to determine for themselves respectively, when it has been violated, and to select their own mode and measure of redress for any supposed violation, it follows, that States in a minority may have a right, forcibly to resist an act of the General Government, because they consider it unconstitutional; while at the same time, States in a majority may possess an equal right, to execute it by force because they believe it conformable to the Constitution. It is manifest that a system like this, permitting civil war to be waged between the members of the same community, would be a burlesque on all regular government, and must eventuate in a bloody farce—the ridicule and abhorrence of the world.

Resolved, That when the General Government, by its abuses and usurpation of powers not recognized by the Constitution, tyrannizes over a minority, and redress becomes utterly hopeless, through remonstrance or the operation of the elective franchise, it becomes the right and the duty of the people, as an act of revolution, to throw off such government, "and to provide new guards for their future security."

Resolved, That when the crisis referred to in the preceding resolution shall have occurred, we will ourselves be prepared for separation. But we could never assent to so momentous a step, without the most patient deliberation, and a profound conviction of its imperious necessity. No human work is perfect. But the Union of these States, presents the noblest model of political liberty that ever was formed by the hands of wisdom and virtue. It protected the infancy of our nation; it is rapidly conducting us to greatness and renown. It has covered the vast wilderness with a hardy, enterprising and happy population; it has spread our commerce over every sea. Its successful operation, not only diffuses innumerable blessings among ourselves; but is at this moment cheering the hopes, and animating the exertions of the philanthropist, in every region of the globe. Whoever, from interested, or light, and insufficient motives, would destroy such a system, is the enemy of his country—the enemy of his species. It is indeed liable to corruptions, and against these we will guard with all our vigilance, and contend with all our strength. But we will never abandon it, while there remains a reasonable hope for maintaining its purity: still less will we consent, that it shall be sacrificed to the revenge of disappointed ambition, or the fantastic schemes of visionary projectors.

Resolved, That in accordance with the principles stated in the foregoing resolutions, we shall follow, and forever maintain, the political doctrines practised by Mr. Jefferson, during his administration of the executive department of the General Government, and as developed by him, and given to the world, in his messages to the Congress of the United States, and in his correspondence with citizens of all countries.

Resolved, That convinced of the perfect harmony existing between the political doctrines of Mr. Jefferson, and the political doctrines of Mr. Madison, as contained in the Virginia Resolutions, we shall also follow, and forever maintain, the doctrines of Mr. Madison as expounded by himself and not as expounded by political schemers, who presumptuously pretend to construe those resolutions, better than their author.

Resolved, That in condemning the proceedings of the Hartford Convention, the object of which was a separate peace and alliance with the enemy against whom the people of these U. States were contending for the most essential rights of independent nations, we must equally condemn the proceedings of all other conventions, which are calculated to produce collision between the States, and the General Government, and which tend directly to disunion among the States, to civil war, or to dependence on some foreign power.

Resolved, That we view the compromise tariff act of the last session of Congress, as the result of a political combination, without regard to the interests of the people; and that our Senators and Representatives in Congress are requested, as their first and highest duty, to exert their talents and influence, in effect

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ing a speedy reduction of the tariff, to a fair and uniform revenue standard.

Resolved, That we view with deep regret, the attempts that have been made, and continue to be made, to impair the confidence to which the present chief magistrate of the confederacy is entitled, for the services he has rendered to the country, and for the ability, energy and economy, with which he has discharged the high duties of the office he now holds, and that as long as he continues to practise those republican principles, and to pursue that republican policy, which so far have marked the measures of his administration, he shall receive our cordial and unanimous support.

Resolutions were also adopted, for transmitting copies of the proceedings of the meeting to our members of Congress, &c. Col. Garnett Andrews, of Wilkes, introduced a resolution, for the printing and distribution of these proceedings, with a few remarks, which for their spirit of patriotism and devotion to the best interests of the union and of the respective States, were enthusiastically heard by the meeting and repeatedly cheered. The meeting then adjourned sine die.