

## STATE RIGHTS CONVENTION.

MILLEDGEVILLE, JUNE 15th, 1835.

The State Rights Convention assembled this day in the Representative Chamber, at 10 o'clock in the forenoon, for the purpose of nominating a candidate to be supported by the party, for the office of Governor of the State of Georgia, and a candidate to fill the existing vacancy in the Representative branch of the Congress of the United States; and to express the views of the State Rights Party of Georgia, in respect to the approaching election of President of the U. States.

On motion, Maj. *Thomas Mitchell* was called to the Chair.

The following delegates appeared and took their seats, viz: from the county of

*Baldwin*.---I. L. Harris, A. Hammond, M. Grieve.

*Bibb*.---Levi Eckly, John Lamar.

*Bryan*.---A. M. Sanford.

*Burke*.---Dr. James Whitehead, Geo. W. Evans, Col. J. H. Anderson, Maj. M. M. Dye.

*Camden*.---P. M. Nightengale, R. F. Floyd.

*Chatham*.---Jos. W. Jackson, H. H. Furman, J. B. Barnard, Michael Brown.

*Cobb*.---Hez. R. Foot.

*Cass*.---H. M. Cunningham, A. D. Shackelford.

*Clark*.---C. Dougherty, B. B. Moore, Thomas Mitchell, Joseph Ligon.

*Columbia*.---Dr. Nathan Crawford, Gabriel Jones, Harmon Lamar, Jesse H. Walton.

*Coweta*.---Garry Grice, Asbury Daniel, John McKnight.

*Crawford*.---Wm. M. Brown, Jas. A. Miller, Jonathan Ross.

*De Kalb*.---Wm Ezzard, J. M. Calhoun, Wm. M. Latimer, John Evans.

*Elbert*.---Gen. J. V. Harris, Bev. Allen, A. Hammond.

*Forsyth*.---A. J. Hansell.

*Glynn*.---T. B. King, Henry Dubignon, Wm. P. Boyd.

*Greene*.---Wm. Cone, T. G. Janes, John Cutright, Wm. C. Dawson.

*Guinnett*.---Dr. T. W. Alexander, J. F. Martin, Clarke Howell, J. B. Tripp.

*Hall*.---James Jones, Thos. Holland, R. Thornton, R. Mitchell, R. Wynn.

*Hancock*.---Gen. T. Vinson, J. Lockhart, I. Hudson, W. Taylor.

*Harris*.---P. H. Echols, G. W. Ross, W. Berry.

*Houston*.---Elijah E. Crocker, S. Fielder, J. H. Killen, H. Hargrove.

*Jackson*.---J. T. Cunningham, J. Borders, Wm. Montgomery, Giles Mitchell.

*Jasper*.---Matthew Whitfield, Lawson S. Holland, Gen. Thos. Dawson, Jas. H. Morrow.

*Jefferson*.---R. L. Gamble, Dr. Phillip S. Lemle, Geo. Stapleton.

*Jones*.---John English, Allen Greene, N. W. Gordon, D. E. Blunt.

*Laurens*.---E. Allen, R. Kellum,

*Liberty*.---Charleton Hines.

*Lincoln*.---Jos. Harper, Wm. Lawrence, Dr. W. L. Chamblin.

*Lumpkin*.---Hines Holt, Jr. W. E. Walker.

*Marion*.---Owen Tomlin, Dr. Wm. H. Williams.

*McIntosh*.---Dr. J. Troup, Dr. J. Holmes.

*Meriwether*.—John W. Allen, Berry Gates, Francis Jeter.

*Monroe*.—Tho. Battle, Jno. W. Turner, A. W. Redding.

*Morgan*.—A. G. Saffold, W. J. Pearman, L. L. Wittich, Young Stokes.

*Muscogee*.—M. Torrance, J. R. Jones, T. B. Howard.

*Newton*.—Hez. Luckie, Jas. Glass, Alfred Levingson, George Pullen.

*Oglethorpe*.—Edward Coxe, Alexander Thomas, Elisha Strong, Robert Hubbard.

*Putnam*.—Irby Hudson, Dr. H. Branham, Joel Hurt, Alexander Reid.

*Richmond*.—C. J. Jenkins, W. J. Rhodes, W. P. Beall, James Gardner.

*Stewart*.—G. De Lamay, Needham R. Bryan.

*Sumpter*.—R. Salter, T. C. Sullivan.

*Talbot*.—H. P. Smead.

*Taliaferro*.—H. B. Thompson, A. R. Wright, S. C. Jeffers.

*Telfair*.—N. Marlow, L. McKinnon.

*Troup*.—J. C. Alford, R. Dougherty, J. S. Lewis.

*Twiggs*.—Gen. E. Wimberly, Hardy Durham, Henry Bunn.

*Upton*.—Wm. A. Cobb, Edwin Turner, James F. White.

*Walton*.—Claiborn Barnett, Elisha Henderson.

*Warren*.—Jeremiah Butt, Solo. Lockett, Jeremiah Wilcher, Wm. Hill.

*Washington*.—Dr. McInness Goode, James Gainer, Solomon Harrel, Quintilian Skrine.

*Wilkes*.—R. A. Toombs, Wm. L. Harris, D. P. Hillhouse.

*Wilkinson*.—T. P. Smith, J. Beall, J. W. Stokes.

The Convention then proceeded to the choice of a President, and it appearing, on counting out the ballots, that ROGER L. GAMBLE, Esq. had a majority of all the votes present—and having been conducted to the Chair, addressed the Convention as follows:

GENTLEMEN—I would do violence to my own feelings and injustice towards you, were I to withhold the expression of that gratitude which I feel for this manifestation of your kindness, in assigning to me the honorable station I am about to assume, in presiding over the deliberations of this assembly, which has emanated from the spontaneous action of the people, the acknowledged source of all power. We have met for the purpose of exercising our constitutional rights as freemen in consulting together, and interchanging freely our sentiments upon those subjects which immediately concern our common rights and liberties: and advising in our character as representatives of that portion of the people denominated the State Rights party of Georgia, whose principles, we believe to be identified with the liberties of the country. How then, will these doctrines be best promoted? Not by sacrificing principles to policy, to ensure success at the expense of truth, justice or injury to the great rights of the people, in whose name and for whose benefit we have assembled: but to produce harmony and concert of action in furthering and promoting the great objects we have in view, which is the preservation of State Rights, and the perpetuation of the union upon the principles of the Constitution. As we believe there is a perfect accordance between the rights and sovereignty of the States, and the rights and union of the States, so we are equally opposed to that temporising policy which would compromise the rights of the one at the expense of the other; as we esteem the Union above all price, save that of liberty, so we are uncompromising in our attachment to the rights of the States, the existence of the former depending essentially upon the existence of the latter. In the important duties we have to perform, we should select men for their principles, and such as can carry them out and command the confidence and support of the party: but as success can only be secured by union in action, every man should come prepared to lay down upon the altar of his country's good, his private feelings, partialities and predilections; the question should be, who is the man best calculated to promote the objects of the State Rights party, that will carry out its principles into practice, and who will be the most likely to unite in himself the support of the greatest number of the party—that man should be nominated.

Gentlemen—We should bring with us into this service much of the charities of our nature, "something must be conceded to the spirit of liberty," in minor and immaterial matters, we should tolerate honest differences of opinion, whilst we all agree in the cardinal principles of State Rights, State Remedies, and State Interposition, against oppressive and unconstitutional action on the part of the Federal Government. Yet we may very conscientiously and honestly differ in the adoption of the means best calculated in our opinion to promote the end.—As we cannot in the natural, so it cannot be expected in political matters that we should see precisely alike, to attempt to enforce the procrustean system where "the mind is left free to act, and reason to combat error," would be defeating the end and objects of the party. The less restraint that can be imposed consistent with the sound principles of liberty, is the best, and approaches in my opinion nearest to human perfection. In conclusion, I cannot but express the hope that we shall do, will be well done, and in that spirit of "wisdom, justice and moderation," that will command the respect and deserve the support of all.

Mr. Dougherty of Clarke, produced the proceedings of the S. R. Association, of Walton county, authorizing any delegate from that county, who should be unable to attend the Convention, to appoint a proxy; and producing also the appointment of Wm. H. Torrance, Esq. by Hines Holt, Sen. who was unable to attend in person as a delegate, moved, that Mr. Torrance, be admitted to his seat as the proxy of H. Holt, Sen. and upon the vote being taken, he was admitted to his seat accordingly.

Mr. Lamar of Bibb, moved that John H. Howard, be received as the proxy of R. A. Beall of Bibb county. But there not appearing to have been any authority given by the people of Bibb, to their delegates to appoint proxies, the motion was on a division, carried in the negative.

Mr. Jeter of Meriwether, produced a resolution of the State Rights Association of said county, that in the event one or more of their delegation should fail to attend the Convention, those who should attend should be fully authorized to represent the said State Rights Association of Meriwether county, in the Convention, offered the following resolution.

"According to the wish of the State Rights party of Meriwether county, It is Resolved, that Francis Jeter, a delegate in attendance, be and he is hereby authorized to represent fully the said association, in the absence of Jno. W. Allen, and Benjamin Gates, who are not present:" and on the question being taken it was determined in the affirmative.

Mr. King of Glynn, presented a resolution of the State Rights people of the county of Wayne, empowering and requesting the three delegates from Glynn county, to represent the State Rights party of said county of Wayne, in this convention, and moved that they be permitted to do so. And on the question being taken it was determined in the affirmative.

Mr. Hudson of Putnam offered the following resolution:

Resolved, That a committee of ——— be appointed to draft rules for the government of this convention, and to present the mode and manner in which the business of this convention shall be conducted—Which was determined in the affirmative.

On motion of Mr. Hillhouse, the blank was filled with "twenty," being two for each Judicial Circuit.

Whereupon the President appointed the following, Messrs. Hudson, W. C. Dawson, Charles Dougherty, Jones, King, Jackson, Holt, Shackelford, Alford, R. Dougherty, Bunn, Kellum, Harris, Harper, Redding, Lamar, Jenkins, Lemle, Howard and Echols.

On motion of Mr. Battle, who exhibited a resolution of the State Rights Association of Monroe county, authorising the attending members to fill any vacancies in the delegation. It was Resolved, That the attending members be allowed to execute the proxy by casting as many votes as the county would be entitled to, if all its delegation were present.

The convention then took a recess till 4 o'clock, P. M.

4 o'clock, P. M.

Messrs. Curtis, Humphreys, and Paul Williamson, delegates from the county of Scriven, having arrived during the recess, on motion of Mr. Brown of Chatham, took their seats as members.

Mr. Irby Hudson from the committee appointed to prepare rules, &c. made a report, which

was read, and the first and second sections or rules being severally considered were respectively agreed to, and are as follows:

**Rule 1st.** The proceedings of this convention shall be governed by the rules of the House of Representatives of the General Assembly, so far as they are applicable to this body, except in cases where they may conflict with any of the following rules.

**Rule 2d.** All motions to postpone to a day, or indefinitely to lay on the table, shall be determined by a prompt vote without debate.

The third rule being read as follows,

**Rule 3d.** That all nominations of gentlemen to be presented to the people as candidates of the State Rights party of Georgia, shall be by ballot, without announcement or debate—and no person shall be duly declared as the nominated candidate of this convention, unless he shall obtain two-thirds of all the ballots given:—and that in the event no individual shall obtain that majority on the first ballot, the balloting shall be repeated until the said two-thirds shall be obtained.

On motion of *W. H. Torrance*, the Convention agreed to divide the paragraph, and took up the first part of it as far as the word "debate," inclusive.

Mr. *W. H. Torrance* moved to strike out the word "announcement."

Mr. *Mansfield Torrance* moved to amend the amendment, by striking out also the words "without debate," being all this part of the paragraph after the word "ballot."

On motion of Mr. *Branham*, it was agreed to divide this amendment, so as to take the question first on striking out the word "announcement." And on the question being put, it was decided against striking out.

The question being then put on the residue of the amendment, on striking out the word "debate," it was decided against striking out.

The Convention then took up and agreed to the residue of the section.

The fourth rule or section, viz :

**Rule 4.** "No other subject shall be brought under the consideration of the Convention till a choice is made of a Candidate for Governor, and of a candidate for Congress," was considered and agreed to.—So the report of the committee was agreed to without amendment.

The Convention then adjourned to 9 o'clock to-morrow morning.

TUESDAY, June 16.

The Convention met pursuant to adjournment.

On motion of Mr. *Hillhouse*,

**Resolved,** That the delegation from Wilkes have leave to supply the vacancy of one of the delegates from Wilkes.

Mr. *Hillhouse* laid on the table the following resolutions, notifying the Convention that he would move their consideration after the Convention had nominated a candidate for Governor and for a member of Congress.

**Resolved,** That an executive committee be appointed by this Convention who shall be authorized, in the name and on behalf of the State Rights Party of Georgia, to make nominations of candidates for Congress (or any other appointment that may be constitutionally filled by general ticket election,) to fill any vacancy that may occur between this time and the next session of the State Legislature. The election of said committee shall be made by ballot in the following manner. The delegates in this Convention representing the several judicial circuits, shall meet and ballot for three persons residing within such circuit; and the persons having the highest number of votes given by such delegate shall be the chosen members of said committee, which committee may be called to meet at any time and place this Convention or the Chairman of their number may determine. Any vacancy that may occur in said committee, shall be filled from the Circuit in which said vacancy shall exist.

**Resolved,** That the friends of State Rights in in every county in this State be earnestly advised to offer a full ticket at the ensuing October election for members of both branches of the General Assembly.

Mr. *Alford* laid on the table the following resolution, to be called up after the nominations of candidates for Governor and member of Congress :

**Resolved,** That this Convention do recommend to the people of Georgia, the support of HUGH L. WHITE, of Tennessee, for the office of President of the United States, in preference to MARTIN VAN BUREN, of New York, if the contest should be between those two.

On motion of Mr. *Wimberly*, the Convention proceeded to the order of the day, being the nomination of candidates respectively for the the office of Governor, and of a member of Congress—and first that of the Governor.

On counting out the ballots, it appeared that CHARLES DOUGHERTY had received more than two thirds of all the votes given. Whereupon he was declared to be the candidate nominated by this Convention.

On counting the ballots for a candidate for the seat in Congress, it appeared that GEORGE R. GILMER had received more than two thirds of all the votes given, and was thereupon declared to be the candidate nominated.

Mr. *M. Torrance* offered the following resolution.

**Resolved,** That a committee of seven be appointed to draw up an address to the people recommending them to support the candidates selected by this Convention, for Governor and for Congress, which was agreed to, and the following gentlemen were appointed. Messrs. M. Torrance, W. C. Dawson, King, Troup, Coxe, Harris of Baldwin, and Hudson of Putnam.

Mr. *Hillhouse* called up the resolutions he had laid on the table and the same were separately considered and adopted.

Mr. *Mitchell* of Clark, offered the following resolution.

**Resolved,** That the President of this Convention notify by letter the gentlemen nominated by this body of their selection as candidates on the part of the State Rights party of Georgia, which was adopted.

Mr. *Alford* called up the resolution he had laid on the table.

After debate, Mr. *Jackson* of Chatham, offered the following, as a substitute.

**Resolved,** That it is unnecessary and inexpedient for this Convention to adopt any action upon the Presidential question.

The previous question being moved, by Mr. *Alford*, was seconded by a majority of the Convention. Which being put on Mr. *Alford's* resolution, it was determined affirmatively. So the resolution was adopted.

The delegations from the several circuits under the resolution to that effect, having separately retired, reported their choice of the following gentlemen to compose the Executive Committee.

For the *Southern Circuit*—General Ezekiel Wimberly of Twiggs, Charles Walker of Pulaski, Bryan Allen of Laurens.

*Cherokee Circuit*.—John W. Hooper of Cass, Daniel R. Mitchell of Cherokee, Andrew J. Hansel of Forsyth.

*Middle Circuit*.—Roger L. Gamble of Jefferson, Charles J. Jenkins of Richmond, Wensely Hobby of Columbia.

*Chattahoochee Circuit*.—Walter T. Colquitt of Muscogee, P. H. Echols of Harris, Wiley Williams of Marion.

*Coweta Circuit*.—Julius C. Alford of Troup, Wm. Ezzard of DeKalb, H. R. Foote of Cobb.

*Western Circuit*.—A. S. Clayton of Clark, Turner H. Trippe of Habersham, T. W. Alexander of Gwinnett.

*Flint Circuit*.—Levi Eckly of Bibb, J. N. Williamson of Newton, A. W. Redding of Monroe.

*Northern Circuit*.—D. P. Hillhouse of Wilkes, Nathan C. Sayre of Hancock, Peter Lamar of Lincoln.

*Ocmulgee Circuit*.—W. C. Dawson of Greene, Irby Hudson of Putnam, Miller Grieve of Baldwin.

*Eastern Circuit*.—William Law of Chatham, James Troup of McIntosh, John Floyd of Camden.

Mr. *Hillhouse* offered the following resolutions, which were severally adopted.

*Resolved*, That any member of the Executive Committee just appointed by this Convention, being unable to attend any of the meetings of that committee, may vote by proxy, or express his preference in writing to the Chairman of said Committee, or to the Chairman of the Central Committee, which shall be taken as his vote for a candidate or candidates to fill any vacancy which may occur.

2. *Resolved*, That it shall be considered the duty of the Central Committee to announce promptly the candidate or candidates that may be selected by a majority of the Executive committee.

3. *Resolved*, That when any vacancy may occur, it shall be the duty of the Chairman of the Central Committee to call a meeting of the Executive Committee to act in the business of their appointment.

4. *Resolved*, That the Central Committee forward a copy of these resolutions to each member of the Executive Committee.

5. *Resolved*, That the Secretaries of this Convention communicate by writing, to each absent member of the Executive Committee the fact of his appointment.

Mr. *Dawson* offered the following resolution which was agreed to.

*Resolved*, That the President be requested to furnish a copy of his address at the opening of this Convention, and that the same be published with the proceedings.

Mr. *Sullivan* offered the following which was adopted.

*Resolved Unanimously*, That the thanks of this body be tendered to Roger L. Gamble Esq. for the able and impartial discharge of his duties as President of this Convention; and also that the thanks of the Convention be tendered to O. H. Prince and W. S. Rockwell, Esqrs. for the appropriate discharge of their duties as Secretaries of the Convention.

On motion, the Convention adjourned *sine die*.

ROGER L. GAMBLE, President.

O. H. PRINCE, }  
W. S. ROCKWELL, } Secretaries.

☞ A majority of the Executive Committee convened immediately after the adjournment of the Convention, and organized their body by appointing David P. Hillhouse of Wilkes county, Chairman of said committee—to whom communications having relation to the duties of that committee may be made.