

The following excellent preamble and resolutions of the people of Athens and its vicinity, are copied from the Southern Whig. We do this not on account of the request contained in them that they be republished in other papers; for although we highly respect that request and whence it emanates, we are unable to be governed by it. There being no rule as yet established on this point, we act discretionally on each case; generally preferring those articles that are sent first to this office. But we republish the Clark County resolutions, first, from the critical importance of the present affairs of the South, secondly, because disdaining all party distinctions the people of Athens have made it a *common cause*, and lastly from the temperance, truth and justice of the article itself.—*Journal.*

From the Whig.

PUBLIC MEETING.

A large and respectable meeting of the citizens of Athens and its vicinity, convened on Friday the 28th August, 1835, at the call of the Town Commissioners in the College Chapel, at half past 2 o'clock P. M.

The meeting was organized by calling STEVENS THOMAS, Esq. to the Chair, and appointing Wm. L. MITCHELL, Esq. Secretary.

The object of the meeting was briefly explained in an appropriate address by Judge Clayton, who concluded by moving for the appointment of a Committee to report to the meeting at the same hour tomorrow. Upon this motion some discussion arose, in which Messrs. Harden, Franklin and Shannon, took part—the motion for the Committee was then put and carried: whereupon the following gentlemen were nominated, on the Committee, Messrs. A. S. Clayton, Gen'l. Ed. Harden, Junius Hillyer, Esq. Dr. James Tinsley, Wm. Dearing, Esq. Jno. Nisbet Esq. Charles Dougherty Esq. Geo. R. Clayton Esq. and Ashbury Hull Esq.

The meeting was then adjourned to 2 o'clock tomorrow.

29th August, 1835, 2 o'clock.

Meeting assembled according to adjournment, whereupon Judge Clayton from the Committee made the following report and resolutions, which were unanimously adopted:

The committee to whom was referred the subject which the citizens had under consideration at their meeting on yesterday, beg leave to report—that the deliberation they have bestowed on the subject, results in the firm conviction that every thing held most dear by this community is threatened with a consequence little short of total ruin. That the time has arrived when the people of the South, AS ONE MAN should meet and resist certain daring encroachments that have been made and are now making against their rights of property and the safety of their persons by reckless agitators deceitfully styled the friends of humanity. They believe the subject presents a two-fold aspect, first, and most to be regarded, a protection of ourselves, and second, the preservation of the UNION. To accomplish the former we have no other reliance but on ourselves, to secure the latter depends on the friends of order in the quarter whence its safety is assailed.—No rational man can believe that the Southern people will, for a single moment, cost what it may, submit to an interference with their slave property. This is a question settled and forever at rest, since the adoption of the federal constitution, behind which no case can be raised, no argument heard, no action had and no compromise yielded to. If the question is ever again opened for discussion it cannot be in our relation of *confederated*, but in the higher character of *independent States*, and then the mode of the argument must be such as belongs to *sovereign* nations. That instrument secured our rights and if it do not redress our wrongs, to our own strength we must look for relief. If by that instrument those rights cannot be *directly* invaded, they surely cannot be sapped, and therefore the commencement of the work of emancipation in the District of Columbia and the Territories of the United States, especially those that surround us, should be viewed with the highest degree of distrust. The whole South should by one universal expression of opinion cause it to be distinctly understood that such a step will be considered as an attack upon their own private institutions, the more dangerous because insidious, and therefore loudly calling for a resistance that will admit of no qualification or concession. Under this plain but honest view of the subject exhibited in no spirit of menace, and without any intention to extort from the fears, what is rightfully due from the justice of our Northern brethren, we call upon them by all the considerations imposed by the plighted faith of a fair and equal compact, inspired by an unaffected devotion for the Union, we call upon them by all the obligations which belong to the free and enlightened principles of republican institutions, so much the envy of arbitrary governments, by all the affections which a long course of the most friendly relations have created to pause and reflect before they suffer this work of rape, rapine and murder to be further instigated by those infatuated destroyers of their and our common peace. As before stated it is for them to say whether they are tired with the connexion which has so long beneficially subsisted between us and that they are willing now for it to cease. Their own good sense, and we trust their better feelings, must admonish them that the Southern people can never live under a meditated and murderous attempt to excite a servile war, a war which in its consequences, involves not only the violation of property but subjects our wives and daughters to the most brutal lusts and all ages and conditions to the most unsparring massacre.

Your committee believe that these invaders of the repose of the South will be much emboldened in their fell purposes by the belief that we ourselves are divided on this exciting subject, and this they have a right to expect when a very large portion of our fellow citizens have been charged with favoring their designs. As this is not only unjust but untrue in all its parts, it becomes every candid and considerate citizen, by way of testifying his regard for truth and the unanimity known to exist on the subject, to disabuse the mind of the abolitionist of whatever delusion he may have embraced by reason of such an unfounded and unwarrantable aspersion. Your committee upon the foregoing premises submit the following resolutions.

Resolved, That a crisis has arrived in relation to our Slaves, produced by a most presumptuous spirit of fanaticism, full of danger and distrust calling imperiously upon every citizen of the South, to meet it with the firmest and most unyielding opposition.

Resolved, That the right of the master over his slave is a right of private property, and so conceded at the formation of the Federal Constitution, without which the Constitution would never have been assented to on the part of the slave-holders, therefore, it is as sacred as any other property they hold, and no interference with it shall be allowed in any form or shape or from any quarter whatever.

Resolved, That we will protect it by all the means, moral and physical which we possess, resorting however for the sake of good order and our respect for the laws, as long as the same will prove effectual to the peaceable agency of the civil authority.

Resolved, That we will be vigilant and active in apprehending and bringing to legal and condign punishment all persons who shall by publications, discourses, conversations or in any other mode attempt to disturb the relation of master and slave, or to excite in the mind of the latter a disposition to throw off the obedience due to the former.

Resolved, That we consider the existence of the UNION involved in the agitation of the question of Abolition, and therefore have a right to expect from all our considerate and orderly brethren of the North, who discountenance the mad schemes of its deluded followers, a zealous co-operation in arresting their heedless and misguided operations tending to that disastrous result.

Resolved, That it is our firm conviction, upon which we will be constrained to act, that the question of slavery belongs to Congress in no possible shape, and it is idle to suppose that if the Southern slave-holder, who secured his slave as a matter of private property subject to be reclaimed if he fled into other States, will not submit to a direct invasion of that right, that he will quietly acquiesce in measures calculated to rob him of it in a secret and insidious manner, and therefore any attempt by Congress to draw the question within its powers in any quarter whatever, will be viewed as an attack upon the same interest in Georgia that will be submitted to only when they cease to have the power to protect it.

Resolved, That this is no party question and there is no division of opinion among the people of Georgia, on the foregoing subject, and any attempt to make the people of the South or the fanatics of the North believe otherwise, will be untrue, in fact, unjust in principle and tend manifestly to the injury of our cause by strengthening the confidence and encouraging the zeal of our blind and infatuated adversaries.

Resolved, That those among us who are engaged in Mercantile pursuits will not trade with any one who professes to be an abolitionist or a friend to his cause.

Resolved, That the Commissioners of the town of Athens be requested to take such steps, within the scope of their powers, as will ensure to the citizens perfect security from the influence of the secret agents of the Abolition Societies or the circulation of their incendiary publications and that we pledge ourselves to aid them cheerfully in all such measures as shall be intended for that object.

Resolved, That the Legislature be requested to pass such other laws, if the present should be deemed inadequate, as will secure a prompt and speedy trial of all such persons as may be found inculcating doctrines or disseminating publications calculated to excite domestic insurrection, or in any manner, endangering the peace and safety of the people.

Resolved, That these resolutions be published in all the papers of the State opposed to the schemes of the Abolitionist and friendly to the object of defeating his savage purposes.

The following resolution was then introduced by Gen. Harden and adopted,

Resolved, That this meeting highly approbate the conduct of Samuel L. Gouverneur, Post master of New York city, for refusing to forward or distribute incendiary publications.

Rev. James Shannon submitted the following resolution which was adopted:

Resolved, That our Delegates in Congress, be instructed to use their influence to have a law passed prohibiting the circulation by mail of any abolition pamphlet for any of the slave holding States.

The meeting was then adjourned.

STEVENS THOMAS, *Chairman*.

Wm. L. MITCHELL, *Secretary*.

The citizens of Athens feel grateful to the citizens of Crawfordville for the prompt and energetic manner in which they proceeded in relation to the case of Mr. Rowland, and for the zeal manifested by them for the public safety, in deputing two of their worthy citizens to bring him back to this place pursuant to his own wishes for the purpose of removing the suspicions which his previous conduct had created, and which, upon an investigation, were removed to the satisfaction of a committee of the citizens appointed for that purpose.

A. S. CLAYTON,
Chairman of the Committee.