



# The Patriot.

GREENSBOROUGH:

FRIDAY, APRIL 16, 1856.

## AMERICANS FOR AMERICA:

For President,

**MILLARD FILLMORE,**

of New York.

For Vice President

**ANDREW JACKSON DONELSON,**

of Tennessee.

FOR GOVERNOR,

**JOHN A. GILMER,**

of Louisiana.

THE UNION.—*Editor of the Palmetto.*

Andrew Jackson.

It is time that we should become a little more *Americanized*, and instead of finding the papers and leaders of England, *feel our own*; or else, in a short time, by continuing our present policy, we shall all be *colonized* proper Americans.

Andrew Jackson.

The American State Convention.

The American State Convention, which met in this place on the 10th, and adjourned on the 11th, was well attended, and its proceedings harmonious and gave general satisfaction to the friends of Reform. We printed on Saturday evening a few extra containing a partial account of the proceedings and send them off to our exchanges. At the time of preparing the matter for the Extra, we had not access to all the notes taken by the Secretaries of the proceedings; the consequence was several verbal inaccuracies. The proceedings as published in our regular issue this morning, we believe to be substantially correct; and to which we refer our readers.

## John A. Gilmer.

We regard the "American" party as a patriotic necessity. The sectional differences which have been for years increasing between the North and the South,—fostered by the panderings of old political parties, and by a system of actual racial rewards from the Pierce administration,—have grown so alarming as to present to the patriotic mind of the country the necessity of some efficient check, in order to prevent the consequences of disunion—disunion in feeling and sentiment, and finally a disunion of States—which are dreadful to the contemplation of every true American.

A considerable portion of the old Whig party, and a perhaps still larger portion of the Democratic party, regard, or affect to regard, such a union as a curse. Many of their leaders meet it with ridicule and abuse, expressed in the arrogant style of *men without power*, has become a second nature. To set aside the points of a course of policy, such as has been pursued by each party for years, and which may now very truthfully be summed up as measures to *keep the Union, and the States out*—some of these leaders can not, and others will not, see the dangerous verge which our institutions are approaching.

Besides those serially and deeply disaffected towards the confederacy, (and we apprehend their name is legion,) we have among us large numbers of members of both parties, but knowing no party thereto except the broken ranks of party—old political party trucks—old office monstrosities—brought by the long and strong ties of habit and self-interest to old organizations—organizations whose chief purpose and end is to preserve *despots*, as the sources of patronage and power to their members, and let the country and the people go!

In this condition of things, it requires men of sterling independence and unflinching nerve—men who have the courage to face political death—to whose hand a successful popularity is as nothing compared with an honest effort to preserve intact that Union hallowed by the blood of the Revolution. It requires such men as these to bear their banners to the storms of disaffection, with hearts prepared to meet any event with the gracefulness of patriots who have done their duty to their country, but hopeful and confident of that success which surely appeals to American patriotism has never failed to secure.

Such a man is John A. Gilmer, of Guilford, the nominee of the American State Convention for Governor of North Carolina—a gentleman whose character and position, we doubt not, combine all the elements of success than any other who could have been selected to bear the standard of the party through the coming canvass.

Mr. Gilmer is another in that honorable list of American worthies, who has been the architect of his own fortunes; whose self-reliance has been the sole element of his eminent success in life; who has struggled up from the humbler walls of life, against odds which would appal the effeminate sons of luxury, to a position of distinction and influence, where the fresh, generous, patriotic emotions of his mind are felt and acknowledged throughout his native State.

His ancestors were of the hardy Scotch-Irish pioneers of North Carolina, and took an active part for their country in the War of Independence. Both his paternal and maternal grandfathers fought under command of Capt. Forbes, his maternal grand-uncle, who lost his life in the battle of Guilford. Thus his love of American freedom comes by legitimate inheritance, and the duty to protect it is among the most sacred bequests of his fathers.

His father, like his ancestor independent farm-

ers of the country, combined a mechanical with his agricultural employment, and reared his sons, of whom John A. was the eldest, in that best school of war, where on the farm and in the shop are taught the useful arts of life; and by the rural teacher, under the watchfulness of a religious mother, is instilled that high morality which is the inexpressible bulwark of character, whether in the social walk, or in the temptations and storms of public life. By going to a neighborhood school in the winter months, he received a common English education; and afterwards, on means raised chiefly by teaching the same school, he acquired a substantial knowledge of the classics and mathematics at the academy in Greensborough. Regarding his finances by teaching a classical school for two or three years in South Carolina, he came home and engaged in the study of law, under the direction of Judge Murphy, purchased a license to practice in 1832, and entered the legal forum without money, without wealth or influential connections—without anything but a vigorous constitution, a strong understanding, and a tenacious memory.

"There were no large navigable rivers suggesting further improvement—no extensive commercial marts to lead the way. There was a feeling of distrust among the public men—a want of confidence in the intelligence and patriotism of the people. The capital and enterprise of the State were daily moving off to the southwest, and local feuds and jealousies interposed barriers between the different sections of the State, and prevented union of counsel and of effort.

"This state of things had assumed a most gloomy aspect on the entrance of Mr. Gilmer on the theatre of public affairs; and it was in the face of such a portentous cloud of difficulties that he espoused the cause of a thorough system of internal improvements, manifested an undoubting confidence in the intelligence and patriotism of the masses, and helped to infuse into the legislative counsels a vigor and efficiency that are now suffering with the flesh of health and beauty the once waving cheek of North Carolina. With the Central Railroad bill were passed acts for the improvement of the navigation of the Neuse and Deep Rivers, the relief of the Wilmington and Raleigh and Gaston Railroads, of the Wilmington and Manchester road, for the construction of the Fayetteville and Western Railroad—the Western Turnpike, &c., &c.

"While in attendance at the Greensboro' Convention we had the pleasure of meeting several of our editorial brethren, all gentlemen and good-looking men. There was Sherwood of the Greensboro' Patriot; Hyman of the Asheville Spectator; Long of the Lexington Flag; Bell of the Salisbury Herald; Curtis of the Columbia New Era; Gates and Davis of the Raleigh Register and Star; Cameron of the Fayetteville Argus; Mann of the Elizabeth City Sentinel. It was thought that Long was the handsomest, and Sherwood the most doubtful (in looks); and that Mann stood next to Long, and much in close proximity to Sherwood. From this decision we took an appeal, and the case has gone up.

"Be of good cheer, ye "emany" looking men!

The anti-American Convention will meet in Raleigh this week, and what a set of pink will be there, to be sure!"

Being at home, and not wishing to "out-shine" our brethren of the quill from a distance, we took particular pains not to put on our "best looks."

To all these measures Mr. Gilmer gave a most cordial and efficient aid; and during his legislative career, holding on all North Carolina as *one State*, and as his State, he has favored the interests of every section, giving to its contemplated improvements a judicious and firm support.

"To the East he has been more liberal than a majority of its own representatives, never refusing his influence in favor of any measure designed to benefit any part of that portion of the State;

but he entered the field against this odds—and

achieved success—a fact which furnishes its own commentary. He has now for many years held the position of one of the first lawyers of the state.

"It has been truly remarked of Mr. Gilmer, that without pretending to be so, or perhaps without knowing that he is such, he is peculiarly the people's man; he sympathized with them in history,

in manners, in interest, and in feeling and sympathy. By his talents, industry and courage, he has grown into fame and wealth on the soil where he was born, and where his ancestors lived. He

has been true to the friends of his youth, ever mindful of his origin, and never desiring to tower above the wands, and interests, and sympathies of general humanity." He is generous, to a fault—liberal, almost to extravagance,—qualities which have been developed exclusively from his own general nature, in the midst of earlier associations necessarily leading more to parsimony than profusion. The early disadvantages with which he had to contend seem to have warned his heart of the field of selection. And if the members of the party and the people of the State, do their duty but half as well as Mr. Gilmer will do his, in the canvass, triumphant success awaits us.

## They are Right.

It is a well known fact that there are many valuable citizens in the country of foreign birth, who unite heart and hand with the American party,

to purify the Government, and effect a radical change in the Nationalization laws. The anti-American leaders pretend to see great inconsistency in this, and affect to feel the most utter contempt for those Naturalized citizens who thus act. But let us look and see if such a course is not dictated by true patriotism. Unless there is a speedy check put to the spread of foreignism, sectional strife, federal extravagance, and official corruption, this country will soon cease to offer a home to the oppressed of other lands; consequently the native and naturalized citizens are equally interested, by the love they bear to their children here, and their kindred and friends in other lands, in the success of American principles, even though political stations should be filled entirely by the American born.

All the recipients of his aid would stand forward and testify to this magnanimous trait in Mr. Gilmer's character, a canvas of the State would hardly be required to gain for him the affections of those who are not yet acquainted with his personal history.

In 1846 Mr. Gilmer was elected by a unanimous vote of his county to the State Senate, and has been returned, without opposition, to every session since. His course in the Legislature is too recent and too well known to require any recapitulation at our hands. In fact, it has been suggested that his commitment by his votes on several measures before the Legislature will be used against him in the approaching canvass. No doubt of it! Such is at once the fear and the resource of small minds. And such is the effect which this thing has repeatedly had upon old party or anti-slavery, that they have chosen *non-combatant* leaders—men who had *done nothing*, and were considered *available* on that account. Any people or party who act thus deserve to be under a Government of fools. Indeed, it would be hard to too much to say, that this policy has repeatedly resulted in the elevation of a parlor cabinet of knaves, directed by a kitchen cabinet of knaves. We go to the liberal legislator, whose views comprehend the whole scope of his State or country, and who has the manhood and independence to set his judgment, relying upon the more elevated feelings of an honest constituency for support and approval.

Mr. Gilmer's legislative career has been chiefly distinguished by his devotion to the internal improvement of the State. With a few other worthy compatriots, of similar mettle, he was foremost in securing the passage of the charter of the great North Carolina Railroad, recently completed, and was uniting in his exertions to secure the million subscription of individuals which secured the charter itself. With similar cheerfulness and zeal has he advocated the improvement of other portions of the State—countenancing various projects with that hopefulness and energetic spirit for his State which has commanded such eminent success in the affairs of his own life.

To appreciate properly the fortitude necessary to a politician in North Carolina, occupying, on the subject of internal improvement the position held by Mr. Gilmer, it would be necessary to understand the peculiar state of things in the State at the time of his entrance into public life—a situation of affairs truly melancholy, and well calculated to unstring the energies of the most courageous spirits. As already mentioned, the State had embarked in but few improvements, and, by stopping too soon, had permitted those to

gives had mounted for hobbies; while the cost, debts, and the dilapidated condition of the roads, were themes of perpetual harangue.

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"The better endorsement of Mr. Fillmore do Americans want, than the voluntary eulogy of one whose every pulsation of heart was for America? Henry Clay said,—"The foundation of my preference is that Mr. Fillmore has administered the Executive Government with signal success and ability. He has been tried and found true, faithful, honest, and conscientious."

## Henry Clay's Preference.

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Let all the old "Henry Clay Whigs" commit this sentence to memory; and whenever a *Sac* Nicht appeals to them as such, to desert Mr. Fillmore, quote to him the above sentence of Mr. Clay's. That will be a sufficient answer.

## The Editors.

We had intended to inform our readers of the pleasure we experienced by meeting with a number of our brethren of the Press, during the sitting of the American Convention; but being a modest man, we have concluded to let *Burr*, of the *Wilmington Herald*, speak for us on this subject, as follows:

"While in attendance at the Greensboro' Convention we had the pleasure of meeting several of our editorial brethren, all gentlemen and good-looking men. There was Sherwood of the Greensboro' Patriot; Hyman of the Asheville Spectator; Long of the Lexington Flag; Bell of the Salisbury Herald; Curtis of the Columbia New Era; Gates and Davis of the Raleigh Register and Star; Cameron of the Fayetteville Argus; Mann of the Elizabeth City Sentinel. It was thought that Long was the handsomest, and Sherwood the most doubtful (in looks); and that Mann stood next to Long, and much in close proximity to Sherwood. From this decision we took an appeal, and the case has gone up.

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## The Kansas Committee.

The Washington Sentinel says, the Kansas Investigating Committee have left Washington city, on their way to Kansas, taking with them a reporter, two clerks, and a sergeant-at-arms. It will probably be two months time before they return with their report in relation to the matters entrusted to their investigation. The House of Representatives has appropriated \$10,000 to pay expenses, &c. All this trouble and expense, caused by the anti-American doctrine embraced in the Kansas bill, of making voters of those who are not citizens of the United States.

The anti-American party of the 6th Congressional District have selected J. M. Clement of Davie County, as their candidate for elector, to advocate the claims of somebody, they know not who, to the Presidency, in opposition to Mr. Fillmore, the National American candidate. Although Mr. Clement is a young gentleman of ability, we are happy to say that Gen. Leach, of Davidson, the American Electoral candidate in that district, will always be pleased to meet Mr. C. before the people in debate. Those who know Gen. L. as we do, will have no fears for the safety of the American cause, when entrusted to him.

## AMERICAN STATE CONVENTION.

Greensboro', April 16th, 1856.

The American State Convention met this day at 11 o'clock, in the Young Men's Hall, and was called to order by Mr. William H. Harrison, of Wake, on whose motion, C. T. N. Davis, Esq., of McDowell, was called temporarily to the chair; and Seaton Gales, of Wake, and M. S. Sherwood, of Guilford, were requested to act as temporary Secretaries.

The Hall being very much crowded, and there being many out, who desired admittance, on the suggestion of Mr. McKesson, a Committee of three, consisting of Messrs. Ralph Gorrell, E. W. Ogburn, and David McLean, were appointed, to make application for one of the Churches for the use of the Convention; and who, in a short time, reported, through Mr. Gorrell, by tendering the Presbyterian Church to the use of the Convention, which report was received with applause.

The following delegates were ascertained to be present:

*Abbeville*.—Dr. C. P. Watson, Joseph W. Steele, W. W. White, J. S. Scott, Dr. J. M. Jordan, Robert Moore, George Hardin, J. G. Albright, W. O. Fowler, R. L. Mebane, James M. Klapp, H. C. Hardin, L. H. Roney, S. A. White, D. C. Hardin, John Hardin, J. Murray, A. Gibbs, W. A. Holt, John Holt.

*Alexander*.—A. M. Boggs.

*Anson*.—Dr. Wm. S. Kendall, Col. Wm. M. Pickett, Col. G. B. Threadgill, Maj. E. D. Ingram, Dr. Albert Myers, Chas. B. Lindsey.

*Bladen*.—N. T. Harris, Duncan Kelly.

*Blowes*.—J. H. Flanner, Jos. J. Lippitt, John Cowan, proxies.

*Buncombe*.—J. D. Hyman.

*Bucks*.—Wm. F. McKesson.

*Cabarrus*.—V. C. Barringer, E. B. Burns, H. P. Townsend, John B. Moss, Dr. D. W. Flow, Dr. L. S. Bingham.

*Catawba*.—Wm. E. Mann, prox.

*Chatham*.—J. H. Haughton, M. Q. Waddell, S. C. McClenahan, J. T. McClenahan, A. J. Stedman, W. S. Gunter, James Hutton, C. D. Brooks, Saml. Siler, John Manning, and T. C. Dixon.

*Columbus*.—Theodore Sikes.

*Cowan*.—John D. Flanner.

*Cumberland*.—R. M. Gorrell, J. W. Cameron.

*Currituck*.—Wm. E. Mann, prox.

*Davidson*.—J. A. Long, John W. Thomas, Jacob Brown, John Carns, C. W. Lines, Dr. R. W. Thomas, Dr. John Rothrock, J. M. Leach, H. W. Brumwell.

*Davis*.—Allen Harbin, Bedford Brown.

*Franklin*.—Gen. Jos. B. Littlejohn, Dr. E. A. Cradup.

*Forsyth*.—Col. M. Masten, Thos. J. Wilson, R. W. Wharton, Jonathan Crews, James S. Pledger, Joseph Crews, John H. White, H. M. Lash.

*Graham*.—Eugene Grissom, A. T. Spence, Wm. Cradup.

*Hanover*.—John D. Flanner.

*Harnett*.—John D. Flanner.

*Hoke*.—John D. Flanner.

*Hyde*.—John D. Flanner.

*Iredell*.—John D. Flanner.

*Jackson*.—John D. Flanner.

*Jones*.—John D. Flanner.



