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Hon. Thomas Settle
D. M. Sturbuck } members Executive Committee Fifth Cong. Dist.

Gentlemen:

Having been informed by you that it is the intention of yourselves and others to secure the holding of another Republican Convention in the Fifth Congressional District - and having been requested to state to you my impressions in regard to the same, I have to submit for your consideration and to make public for the information of the voters of the District the following.

I am in favor of calling a new Convention, for the following reasons:

1st The Executive Committee of the District has clearly the power so to do at any moment when the interests of the party may demand the same, even if it be admitted that the previous nomination was perfectly fair and honest one

But still more apparent and imperative is this power and duty when as in the present instance there is a very

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from doubt as to the legality of the nomination itself and so large a proportion of the party are averse to the nominee under any circumstances whatever.

It should be remembered that the entire delegations from the Counties of Randolph, Forsyth, Guilford and Person withdrew from the Convention at the very time of the nomination and formed an "Independent Republican Organization" differing only from the remainder of the Convention in this, that they held and declared that the character of the nominee was such that, in the words of their resolutions, as "honest men and true Republicans they could not conscientiously support him" as declared by the gentleman who stated the objects of the organization "The character of the nominee was too well known, and too unfavorably known, to a large portion of the people of the District, to enable any person with due respect to his own individual repute to sustain and support him".

and a part of the delegations from Surry and Alamance withdrew from the Convention

and this declaration approved by

It should be recollected that this resolution was adopted by Forty-three delegates to that District Convention in a public meeting and

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and with the countenance,
in the presence, of more than one hundred
Republican Citizens not members of the Con-
vention.

The character of the men composing
this Convention should also be taken into con-
sideration and their ~~means~~ opportunities for
knowing the reputation of this man.

It is probable that in no Congressional District
of the State, could there be found forty three men
of more marked intelligence, and more
unimpeachable integrity than those whose
names appear as the ~~organizers~~ members
of this Convention. They are men of mature age,
high position ~~and~~ almost without exception,
and of the straitest sect and sternest faith,
as Republicans. Almost every one of them
has that knowledge of the general character
and repute of Wm. H. Henderson which
would entitle him to credence as a wit-
ness in a court of justice in reference
to the same. A large proportion of them
have known this character for twenty
years and some from his boyhood. This
course was approved by ~~him~~ such men as
Hon. Welker and Judge Dick, and others
undoubted Republicanism, without ~~ques-~~
tionness and of marked party loyalty.
Indeed one of these gentlemen alleged as
the only thing which could have induced

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him to take any part in any political matter at this time, the exceeding bad character of Mr Henderson.

—— It should not be forgotten that it was no matter of personal favor toward any unsuccessful candidate, no preference for another man, no matter of friendship or partiality for any man which induced this movement. This was fully and explicitly set forth. Any one of fifty different men in the District would have been cheerfully, and cordially supported by every one of the delegates, and by myself also. In fact it is probable that not another republican could be found in the District whose nomination would have caused any dissension

—— But besides this, there is the very important fact that this organization represented more than one half of the comprised the entire delegations from the Counties of Forsyth, Randolph, Guilford and Person which counties give more than one half the Republican vote, and considerably more than one half the Republican majority of the District, and in addition thereto a part of the delegations from two other counties. If then the right inheres in the majority of the Republican party, to nominate its own candidates Mr Henderson is in no sense even the nominee of the party.

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A Wenckan Lourgee

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On the other hand a majority of that party, through their delegates, repudiated him upon the spot.

——— Again, it should be borne in mind that the friends of Mr Henderson, voted down a resolution offered in the Convention by Mr. Barnett of Perry, asking candidates to withdraw and allowing a full and fair canvass of the merits and demerits of each, but shut off all discussion and called for an immediate vote. Thereby many of the delegates who supported Mr. Henderson under a mistaken apprehension of his real character, were prevented from ascertaining the same and voted under an honest hallucination, in respect to the man.

——— It will be seen that your intention and plan of a new Convention is in entire harmony with the wishes and desire of this organization. By considering the powers conferred upon the Committee of Conference, as set forth in the proceedings of the Convention (a copy of which I forward herewith) it will be seen that such a conjuncture was apprehended by the Convention itself. It was hoped that some arrangement could be made on the spot, but the remainder of the Convention rejected with scorn, all attempts at compromise and harmony. All negotiation was refused.

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— And now, gentlemen, in regard to myself. At no time, did I especially desire the nomination, and especially not after the nomination of Mr. Henderson, and upon the issue presented by the division, viz: the personal character of Mr. Henderson. Personally, I had no hostility to him. My own knowledge of the man was very slight, having from the first, been anything but an admirer of the man, having a feeling akin to disgust for certain glaringly apparent traits of his character, I had purposely refrained from all personal intercourse with him. In accepting the unanimous call of the convention which asked me to represent them, I did so, under the firm conviction that the Republican Party, would awake to its true interests, would end the contest and put up a third man. I anticipated that it would be done then and there. I was not only willing but anxious that it should be done. I heartily endorsed the action of those who withdrew from the Convention, believing, as I still believe, that the true and ultimate interests of the party demanded it. As a Republican, no man can excel me in devotion to the honest, actual interests of that party, but I believe those interests to be coextensive with, and equivalent to, the interests of the Republic. This principle would prevent me from supporting Mr.

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Henderson, under any circumstances, for such a position. Neither as a Republican nor as a citizen could I do so. I know of no other man of any prominence whatever in the District whom I would not have cheerfully supported. ~~This being the case, gentlemen~~ Henry accepted the nomination, however disagreeable the task, I was compelled to present to the people the issue between the two portions of the party. This I have done, with as much consideration for the feelings of Mr Henderson (if he has any upon the subject) as the circumstances would of the case would allow. I have not considered it my duty to thrust myself into any of the meetings appointed by Mr. Henderson, or those at which he was advertised to speak. I felt that it was due to him that I should not. Wherever I was advertised to speak I have endeavored to attend. This has been done at the greatest inconvenience to myself. ~~and I am~~ I did it simply as a matter of duty enjoined upon me by a large and most respectable portion of the party. The issue is now before the people of the District and I am willing to leave it in their hands to dispose of in convention or otherwise as may seem proper, to you and to them.

And now with regard to the propriety of calling a new convention. I am re-

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quested to sanction ~~such~~ a call for such convention, as a member of the Executive Committee of the District. It would be unjustly improper for one who has been put forward as a candidate, to take any action as a member of the Committee. I am clearly of the opinion that those members who are not thus situated should take such action in the premises, as may seem to them proper and wise.

The fact should not be overlooked that the Conservative Candidate is as nearly unexceptionable as any man of that party can be, to Republicans. An honorable man, a scholar and a gentleman, - an undoubted Union man and an "iron-clad." In all respects the most dangerous man that party could have put forward to oppose Mr. Henderson, ~~and~~ had there been no discussion.

I have no doubt that three thousand stanch republicans in this District would vote for him sooner than sacrifice Mr. Henderson or run the risk of his election by not voting at all. I have no doubt that nearly as many more will refrain from voting for any Copperhead candidate if Mr. Henderson is alone in the field.

CHAUTAUQUA COUNTY NY HISTORICAL SOCIETY 2015

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Greensboro N.C.
October 1868.

Hon Thomas Settle
J. H. Stabback } Members Republican Ex Com
Fifth Con District

Gentlemen

Having been informed by you that it is the intention of yourselves, and others, to secure the holding of another Republican Convention, in the Fifth Congressional District,- and having been requested to state to you my impressions in regard to the same, I have to submit for your consideration and to make public for the information of the voters of the District the following:

I am in favor of calling a new Convention, for the following reasons

1st The Executive Committee of the District has clearly the power so to do at any moment when the interests of the party may demand the same, even if it be admitted that the previous nomination was a perfectly fair and honest one. But still more apparent and imperative is this power and duty when as in the present instance, there is a very grave doubt as to the legality of the nomination itself and so large a proportion of the party are averse to the nominee under any circumstances whatever.

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It should be remembered that the entire delegations from the Counties of Randolph, Forsythe Guilford and Person, and a part of the delegation from Surry and Alamance with-drew from the Convention, at the very time of the nomination and formed an "Independent Republican Organization" differing only from the remainder of the Convention in this, that they held and declared that the character of the nominee was such that in their words of their resolutions, as honest men and true Republicans they could not conscientiously support him" are as declared by the gentleman who stated the object of the organization "The character of the nominee was too well known, and too unfavorably known to a large portion of the people of the District, to enable any person with due respect to his own individual repute to sustain and support him. It should be recollected also that this resolution was adopted and this declaration approved by Forty three delegates to that District Convention in a public meeting and in the presence, and with the countenance of more than one hundred Republican Citizens not members of the Convention.

The character of the men composing this Convention should also be taken into consideration and their opportunities for knowing the reputation of this man.

It is probable that no

Congressional District of the State, could there be found forty three men of more marked intelligence, and more unimpeachable integrity than those whose names appear as the members of this Convention. They are men of mature age high position almost without exception, and of the straitest sect and sternest faith as Republicans.

Almost every one of them has that knowledge of the general character and repute of Wm H Henderson which would entitle him to credence as a witness in a Court of justice in reference to the same. A large portion of them have known this character for twenty years, and some from his boy-hood. Their course was observed by such men as Mr Welker, Judge Dick and others, men of undoubted Republicanism without captiousness and of marked party loyalty. Indeed one of these gentlemen alleged as the only thing which could have induced him to take any part in any political matter at this time, the exceeding bad character of Mr Henderson.

It should not be forgotten that it was no no matter of personal favor toward any unsuccessful candidate, no preference for another man, no matter of friendship or partiality for any man which induced this movement. This was fully and explicitly set forth.

Any one of fifty different men in

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the District would have been cheerfully and cordially supported by every one of the delegates and by myself also. In fact it is probable that not another republican could be found in the District whose nomination would have caused any dissension. But beside this there is the important fact that this organization comprised the entire delegations from the Counties of Forsyth Randolph, Guilford and Person, which Counties give more than one-half the Republican vote, and considerably more than one-half the majority of the District, and in addition thereto a part of the delegations from two other counties. If then the right inheres in the majority of the Republican party, to nominate its own candidates Mr Henderson is in no true sense the nominee of the party. On the other hand a majority of that party through their delegates, repudiated him upon the spot.

Again it should be borne in mind that the friends of Mr Henderson, voted down a resolution offered in the Convention by Mr Barnett of Person, asking Candidates to with-draw and allowing a full and fair canvass of the merits and de-merits of each, but shut off all discussion and called for an immediate vote. Thereby many of the delegates who supported Mr Henderson under a mistaken appreciation of his real character, were prevented from

ascertaining the same and acted under an honest hallucination, in respect to the man — It will be seen that your intention and plan of a new Convention, is in entire harmony with the wishes and desires of this organization. By considering the powers conferred upon the Committee of Conference, as set forth in the proceedings of the Convention (a copy of which I forward herewith) it will be seen that such a conjunction was apprehended by the convention itself. It was hoped that some arrangement could be made on the spot, but the remainder of the Convention rejected with scorn, all attempts at compromise and harmony. All negotiation was refused.

— And now gentlemen, in regard to myself. At no time, did I especially desire the nomination, and especially not after the nomination of Mr Henderson, and upon the issue presented by the division, viz: the personal character of Mr Henderson. Personally I had no hostility to him. My own knowledge of the man was very slight. Having from the first been any-thing but an admirer of the man, having a feeling akin to disgust for certain glaringly apparent traits of his character. I had studiously refrained from all personal intercourse with him. In accepting the unanimous call of the Convention which asked me to represent them, I did so under the firm conviction that the Republican party, would awake to its true interests; would end the contest

and put up ~~the~~ a third man, I anticipated that it would be done then and there. I was not only willing but anxious that it should be done, I heartily endorsed the action of those who with-drew from the Convention, believing, as I still believe, that the true and ultimate interests of the party demanded it. As a Republican, no man can exceed me in devotion to the honest and real interests of that party, but I believe those interests to be coextensive with, and equivalent to, the interests of the Republic. This principle would prevent me from supporting Mr Henderson, under any circumstances, for such a position. Neither as a Republican nor a citizen could I do so.

I know of no other man of any prominence whatever in the District whom I would not have cheerfully supported. Having accepted the nomination, however disagreeable the task, I was compelled to present to the people the issues between the two portions of the party. This I have done, with as much consideration for the feelings of Mr Henderson, (if he has any upon the subject) as the circumstances of the case would allow. I have not considered it my duty to thrust myself into any of the meetings appointed by Mr Henderson, or those at which he was advertised to speak. I felt that it was due to him that I should not. This has been done at the greatest inconvenience to myself. I did it simply as a matter of duty enjoined upon me by a large and most respectible portion of the party.

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The issue is now before the people of the District, and I am willing to leave it in their hands to dispose of in Convention or otherwise as may seem proper to you and to them.

And now with regard to the propriety of calling a new Convention, I am requested to sanction a call for such Convention, as a member of the Executive Committee of the District. It would be manifestly improper for me who has been put forward as a Candidate, to take any action as a member of the Committee. I am clearly of the opinion that those members who are not thus situated should take such action in the premises as may seem to them proper and wise.

The fact should not be over-looked that the Conservative Candidate is as nearly unexceptionable as any man of that party can be, to Republicans. An honorable man, a scholar and a gentleman, — an undoubted union man, and an "iron-clad". In all respects the most dangerous man that party could have put forward to oppose Mr Henderson, even had there been no dissension. I have no doubt that three thousand staunch republicans in this District would vote for him sooner than support Mr Henderson or run the risk of his election by not voting at all. I have no doubt that nearly as many more will refrain from voting for any Congressional Candidate if Mr Henderson is alone in the field.

CHAUTAUQUA COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY 2017