



Fighting Joe Wheeler
Camp 1372

The Fighting **Joe Wheeler** Dispatch

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for inclusion in "The Dispatch" to:

Fighting Joe Wheeler Camp 1372

P.O. Box 43362

Vestavia Hills, AL 35243

The Next Camp Meeting will be at 7:00 pm, Tuesday, January 11, 2011
at the New Merkel House

*** The monthly Leadership Meetings will now be held at 6:15 pm prior to the camp meeting ***

This Month: Past Alabama Division Commander David Allen will speak on General
Patrick Cleburne – A Brief Sketch of his Military Career and Alabama Connections

Words of Wisdom and Warning

“Next Monday the Convention in Virginia will assemble; we have still good hopes of its adoption here: though by no great plurality of votes. South Carolina has probably decided favourably before this time. The plot thickens fast. A few short weeks will determine the political fate of America for the present generation, and probably produce no small influence on the happiness of society through a long succession of ages to come.”

George Washington (letter to Marquis de Lafayette, 28 May 1788)

“If individuals be not influenced by moral principles; it is in vain to look for public virtue; it is, therefore, the duty of legislators to enforce, both by precept and example, the utility, as well as the necessity of a strict adherence to the rules of distributive justice.”

James Madison (in response to Washington's first Inaugural address, 18 May 1789)

“Once the justices depart, as most of them have, from the original understanding of the principles of the Constitution, they lack any guidance other than their own attempts at moral philosophy, a task for which they have not even minimal skills. Yet when it rules in the name of the Constitution, whether it rules truly or not, the Court is the most powerful branch of government in domestic policy. The combination of absolute power, disdain for the historic Constitution, and philosophical incompetence is lethal.” **Robert Bork**

“By pursuing his own interest [every individual] frequently promotes that of the society more effectually than when he really intends to promote it. I have never known much good done by those who affected to trade for the public good.” **Adam Smith**

“Liberty must at all hazards be supported. We have a right to it, derived from our Maker. But if we had not, our fathers have earned and bought it for us, at the expense of their ease, their estates, their pleasure, and their blood.” **John Adams**

“Among the features peculiar to the political system of the United States, is the perfect equality of rights which it secures to every religious sect.”

James Madison (letter to Jacob de la Motta, August 1820)

**Sign up for the Wheeler Camp Message Board and receive
“The Dispatch” by e-mail.**

Contact Compatriot Mike Little at cdr_mike_little@charter.net

Alabama: We Dare Defend Our Rights

“The principal for which we contended is bound to reassert itself, though it may be at another time and in another form.”

Jefferson Davis, May 1865

Commander's Report

Compatriots,

This is 2011, the start of the Sesquicentennial. Let us remember the brave men that fought the northern aggressor to keep the South, our home-place, free. January's events included:

- In 1861, the Southern States were seceding from the central government, plans were being made for the inauguration of President Davis in Montgomery.
- In 1862, the Battle of Stones River was continuing near Murfreesboro, TN.
- In 1863, the Army of Tennessee was settling into winter quarters in Dalton, GA.
- 1864 saw the return of the Army of Tennessee from the advance on Nashville, and the Army of Northern Virginia holding the lines at Richmond and Petersburg.
- 1865 brought defeat for the Southern Army's, but the spirit of the South still lives on in our hearts.

As we begin 2011 we have a lot of work and opportunity ahead of us. To meet the task ahead we have changed our meeting times and format. The leadership meeting, which was the 1st Tuesday of the month, will now be held at 6:15 on the 2nd Tuesday, prior to the camp meeting. We hope this will make it easier for those that must travel to the meeting (and those that travel for a living) to attend the meeting. The format of the camp meeting will change as well. The meeting will start at 7:00, and the program will start at 7:15 until around 8:00. We will follow with our break and begin the camp business meeting around 8:15. We think this will allow visitors and the speaker to leave at the break if they desire and not limit the business meeting. We will use the 1st Tuesday time slot as a review for the Alabama Division Reunion the camp will host May 21st, 22nd, and 23rd. Lot's of work for the committee members to do, please help us share the work load.

Events coming up this Spring include the following:

- Camp Division review meeting Tuesday, 1/4 at 7:00
- Camp meeting Tuesday, 1/11 at 7:00 PM, (leadership meeting at 6:15 PM)
- Lee- Jackson Banquet at 6:00 PM at the New Merkel House, speaker Mr. John Killian.
- 1/19/2011, Robert E. Lee's Birthday.
- Division executive meeting Saturday, 3/5 at 8:00 AM at the New Merkel House.
- Confederate Memorial Day at Elmwood.
- Alabama Division Reunion May 21st, 22nd, and 23rd.

As you can see, lot's of work to do. We need ALL members to be involved, please help! Let us head into the New Year with our Confederate Heads held high. We have a lot to be proud of. Please remember the past as we head into the future and the New Year.

Happy New Year to All!

Thank you,
Hank Arnold
Camp Commander
FJW 1372



Adjutant's Report - January of 2011

Copied from: *Confederate Veteran Magazine, Volume II, No. 1, January, 1903. Pages 12 and 13*

Address By Charles Francis Adams At Charleston. Concerning The Right of Secession

At the eighty-third annual dinner of the New England Society, held at Charleston, Mr. Charles Francis Adams, of Boston, was the chief speaker of the evening, and his splendid address was on the philosophy of the great conflict of the sections in the war between the States.

The society held its annual meeting prior to the dinner, and elected officers for the ensuing year. The following were chosen, all being reelected; President, Dr. Charles S. Vedder; Vice Presidents, George W. Williams and J.R. Read; Secretary, Thaddeus Street; Stewards, Dr. J.S. Buist, W.S. Hastie, and Christian Larsen.

At the dinner there was a prominent company of about eighty members and guests. An elaborate and choice menu was served. The dinner occupied about three hours.

At 10 o'clock Dr. Vedder called for order and introduced the speech-making with a very interesting review of the year's work by the society. The president presented as the speaker of the evening, responding to the toast, "Forefather's Day," Mr. Charles Francis Adams. Mr. Adams was greeted with rounds of applause. He made an introduction of his speech with appropriate remarks as to its occasion and appositeness. His address was a development of his Chicago speech of a few months ago, on Robert E. Lee, in which he paid tribute to the patriotism and right motives of that great man. In this speech he repeated his opinion of the Confederate commander, and entered upon a philosophical analysis of the causes of the war of secession, and reached by logical process the conclusion that both sides were equally right in their contentions on the great issues involved in the interpretation of the constitution, and that the issue was settled by might instead of absolute right. Mr. Adams said:

"Not long since, circumstances led me into a dispassionate reexamination of the great issues over which the country divided in the midyears of the last century. As a result thereof, I said in a certain Phi Beta Kappa Society address delivered in June at Chicago: . . . 'If we accept the judgment of some of the more modern students and investigators of history—either wholly unprejudiced or with a distinct Union bias—it would seem as if the weight of argument falls into what I will term the Confederate scale.' . . .

"The question is now purely one historical; but on that question of the weight of authority and argument as respects the right of secession I find a divergence of opinion existing to-day so great as hardly to admit of reconciliation. On the one side it is taught as an article of the political faith that, not only was the right of peaceable secession at will plain, manifest, and expressly reserved, but that, until a comparatively recent period, it had never disputed. In the words of one writer of authority, 'through a period of many years the right of secession was not seriously questioned in any quarter except under the exigencies of party politics.' On the other hand, in the section of the country where my lot has been cast, this alleged heresy is sternly denounced, and those propounding it are challenged to their proofs. With equal positiveness it is claimed that, from the time of the adoption of the constitution down to a comparatively recent day, 'there was not a man in the country who thought or claimed that the new system was anything but a perpetual union.'"

Mr. Adams reviewed the framing of the constitution, and pronounced that instrument "a pious fraud," the work of metaphysicians. He then concluded as follows:

"Historically speaking, from the close of our second war of independence—commonly known as that of 1812—the ebb and flow of the great currents of influence have set in new and definite channels. Gradually they assumed irresistible force therein. Side by side two civilizations—a Chang and Eng—were developing. North of the Potomac and the Ohio a community was taking shape, the whole tendency of which was national. Very fluid in its elements, commercial and manufacturing in its diversified industries, it was largely composed of European or other descendants, who, knowing little of States, cared nothing for State sovereignty, which, indeed, like the unknown God to the Greeks, was to them foolishness. This vast discordant migration, the railroad, the common school, and the newspaper were rapidly merging, coalescing and fusing into a harmonious whole. Naturally it found a mouthpiece; and that mouthpiece preached Union. It was not exactly a consistent utterance, for, less than a score of years before, the same voice had been loud and emphatic in behalf of State sovereignty. But manners change with fortunes, and principles with times.

"So much for Chang, north of the Potomac and the Ohio; but with Eng, south of those streams, it was altogether otherwise. Under the influence of climate, soil, and a system of forced African labor, the Southern States irresistibly reverted to the patriarchal conditions, becoming more and more agricultural; and, as is always the case with agriculture races and patriarchal communities, they clung ever more closely to their traditions and local institutions. Then it was that Calhoun, the most rigid of logicians, in obedience to an irresistible influence of the presence and power of which he was unconscious—Calhoun, the Unionist of the war of 1812, and protectionist of 1816—turned to the constitution. He began that 'more diligent and careful scrutiny into its provisions, in order to ascertain fully the nature and character of our political system.' Needless to say, he there found what he was in search of. But a similar scrutiny was at the same time going on in New England. As a result of the

Continued



continued ~ Concerning The Right of Succession

two scrutinies, Chang and Eng both changed sides. Before, Chang's side of the shield was gold, while that of Eng was silver; now, Chang saw quite clearly that it was silver after all, while Eng recognized it as burnished gold of the purest stamp. Both were honest and both fully convinced. Both also were right; the simple truth being that no man can serve two masters, and two masters the fundamental law prescribed. The inevitable ensued.

"But what was the inevitable? That, again, as I read the story of our development, was purely a matter of circumstance and time. Fate—the Greek necessity—intervened in those lists and decided the issue of battle. To my mind the record is from its commencement absolutely clear on one point. After the 15th of July, 1788, when the last of the nine States necessary to the adoption of the federal constitution acted favorably thereon, a withdrawal from the Union, all theories to the contrary notwithstanding, became practically an issue of might. Into the abstract question of right I will not enter—least of all here and now. But conceding everything that may be asked on the point of abstract right—looking only on imperfect and illogical man as he is, and as he acts in this world's occasions and exigencies—I adhere on this point to my own belief. In 1790 Rhode Island was spared from being 'coerced' into the Union only by a voluntary though very reluctant acceptance of it; and from that day to 1861 any attempted withdrawal from the Union would, after long argument over the question of right, have ultimately resolved itself into a issue of might.

"Here again the elements of the Greek drama once more confront us—the fates, necessity. What at different epochs would have been the probable outcome of an attempt at withdrawal? That ever, at any period of our history since 1790, a single State, no matter how sovereign, even Virginia, could alone have made good, peaceably or otherwise, a withdrawal in face of her unitedly disapproving sister States, I do not believe. Naturally, or as a result of force applied, the attempt would have resulted in ignominious failure. But how would it have been at any given time with a combination of States, acting in sympathy—a combination proportionately as considerable when measured with the whole as was the Confederacy in 1861? I hold that, here again, it was merely a question of time, and that such a withdrawal as then took place would never have failed of success at any anterior period in our natural history. It was steam and electricity which then settled the issue of sovereignty; not even men in arms. Before 1861 steam and electricity, neither on land nor water, had been rendered so subservient to man as to make him equal to the prodigious, the unprecedented task then undertaken and finally accomplished. In that case, might in the end made right; but the end was in no degree a foregone conclusion.

"In other words, forecasting strife, and measuring the coercive force available at a time when steam on land and water was in its stages of earlier development, J.Q. Adams regarded the attempt at an assertion of national sovereignty as so futile that, though he most potently and powerfully believed in that sovereignty, he looked upon its exercise as quixotic, and consequently, not to be justified. A dissolution of the Union, at least temporarily, he believed to be inevitable. So strongly was he convinced of the power of the disintegration influence as contrasted with the cohesive force, that the late Robert C. Winthrop, then a young man of twenty-seven, writing in 1836, described him as saying, in the course of a dinner table talk, that 'he despaired of the Union, believing that we are destined soon to overrun not merely Texas, but Mexico, and that the inevitable result will be a break up into two, three, four, or more confederacies.' 'Inevitable!' The unexpected alone is inevitable. These two utterances were, the one in 1836, the other in 1839. In 1839 there were not five hundred miles of constructed railroad in the United States; steam had not been applied to naval construction; electricity was a toy. So far as he could look into the future, Mr. Adams was right; only the unexpected was to occur! It did occur, and it settled the question. In 1788 the preponderance of popular feeling and affection was wholly in the scale of State sovereignty as opposed to nationality. In 1800 the Union was, in all probability, saved by being taken from the hands of its friends, and, so to speak, put out to nurse with its enemies, who from that time were converted to unity. In 1815 the final war of independence gave a great impetus to nationality, and the scales hung even. In 1831 the irrepressible conflict began to assert itself and now they inclined slightly but distinctly to nationality, the younger of the two sovereigns asserting a supremacy. Between 1831 and 1861 science threw steam and electricity into his scale, and in 1865 they made the other kick the beam. But when all is said, merely a fresh illustration had been furnished of the truth of that scriptural adage in regard to a divided service.

"Such are the conclusions reached from a renewed and somewhat careful review of a record frequently scanned by others. They found in it the outcome of great orations, labored arguments, and the teaching of individuals. I cannot so see it. It is, as I read it, one long majestic Greek tragedy.

Like to the Pontac sea
Whose icy currents and compulsive course
Ne'er feels retiring ebb, but keeps due on
To the Propontic and the Hellespont,

so that great drama swept on to its inevitable catastrophe, fate and necessity ever the refrain of its chorus until, at the end, the resounding clash of arms.

"For better, for worse, a new era then opened. In what I have said I have dealt with a past in which, as I see it, the forces of nature—the 'unseen hand at the game'—decided the issues involved. But there are times also when men have their turn, both asserting and establishing their superiority over fate, shaping destiny to their desires, triumphing amid the slings and arrows of outrageous fortune. In closing, were I to look for such a spectacle, I fancy it would not be in vain, nor would my search be far or long. I should find it here in the South, and not least in Charleston, in a manly adaption to unsought-for conditions, in the resiliency of a vigorous race casting calamity lightly aside, 'a dewdrop from the lion's mane.' To what extent the issues of the past are bygone, my being here and discussing them in this presence bear conclusive evidence. And, indeed, coming from Massachusetts to South Carolina, it gladdens my heart here to see, if I may in closing use the great language of Milton, 'a noble and puissant nation rousing herself like a strong man after sleep, and shaking her invincible locks; an eagle renewing her mighty youth, and kindling her undazzled eyes at the full midday beam.'"



Camp

Fighting Joe Wheeler

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Invites you to our 2011 Lee-Jackson Banquet

- Saturday, January 15, 2011 – 6:00 p.m.
- Location: New Merkel House
~ Catered by Ms. Myra's BBQ
- Speaker: Dr. John Killian
- Cost: \$15.00 per person
- Semiformal attire – Coat and tie or Confederate/Period Attire
- Pay in advance to the camp or at the door. Advance checks payable to Camp 1372.



Come and enjoy good food, camaraderie and old fashion Southern hospitality as we hear what promises to be an inspiring and informative speech from Dr. John Killian.



