

# PRESENTMENTS

OF THE GRAND JURY OF CLARK COUNTY,  
FEBRUARY TERM, 1831.

## GEORGIA, CLARK COUNTY.

*Superior Court, February Term, 1831.*

**H**AVING gone through the business of the present Term, the Grand Jury as the organ of the county, believe that they act in accordance with the will of its citizens, when they present as a very great grievance the present unjust and oppressive system of representation. Various reasons might be assigned why the number of members in our Legislature should be reduced:

1st. Because the present system of representation is at war with the fundamental principles of our government. 2d. The late expression of our public sentiment on this subject shows conclusively, that a large majority of our citizens sincerely wish the Constitution altered in that respect. 3rd. Because according to the present, small counties that pay nothing comparatively into the treasury, draw therefrom to pay their representatives, money contributed by larger counties. Either of these objections to the present plan of representation, this body believes should destroy it—this body see's it their duty to call the attention of our citizens to the means by which our constitution is to be changed. There are only two methods by which that instrument can be altered or amended.

1st. By two thirds of both branches of our Legislature.

2nd. By calling a Convention. Experience has proved that the first method is ineffectual, for effort on effort has been made, to pass a bill by a constitutional majority to reduce the number of our representatives, but without success. Nor have we been more fortunate in our exertions to have a convention authorised by the Legislature. Is there then no remedy—must we forever submit to the inconveniences and hardships of the present system? No, our citizens have a right which they have never parted with, and which they can yield to no government. They can whenever occasion requires it, rise in their majesty, elect their representatives for a Convention, and through them make what alterations in their constitution they deem proper. We therefore recommend to the people of Georgia to take this subject into serious consideration, and determine whether they will submit to a system so unjust and oppressive.

The Grand Jury in taking leave of the Court, beg of his honor Judge Clayton and the Solicitor General, Turner H. Trippe, to accept their thanks for their polite attention.

We request that these our presentments be published in the Athenian.

WM. STROUD, Foreman.	JOHN DEANE,
WILLIAM M. MORTON,	JOHN MOORE,
WM. JONES,	JOHN G. MAINE,
BURWELL PERRY,	JOHN TOTTY,
HILL SCOGGIN,	JAMES LANGFORD,
WM. APPLING,	ROBERT CAMRON,
THO. E. WILLIAMSON,	ABEL FLEMING,
JOHN BRIGHTWELL,	DAVID STEPHENS,
JOHN C. WRIGHT,	RICH. RICHARDSON.

On motion of the Solicitor General it is ordered, that the foregoing resolutions be published agreeably to request.

The foregoing presentments are truly copied from the minutes of the Superior Court of Clark county, at February Term, 1831—this 19th Feb. 1831.

ROBERT LIGON, Ck.