

Political.

Tariff or Anti-Tariff?

From the National Intelligencer. If there be any one indisputable principle in the Democratic Locofoco creed, it is the political infallibility of Mr. Jefferson;

In regard to discrimination in the rate of duties on imports, for example, with a view to the protection of manufactures—at this moment the subject of clamorous denunciation by the whole chorus of the organs of "Democracy"—we are indebted to the Louisville Journal for calling our attention to the recorded evidence of Mr. Jefferson's opinion of the right and duty of the General Government to impose duties of discrimination for the purpose of protecting American interests.

Should any nation, contrary to our wishes, suppose it may better find its advantage by continuing its system of prohibitions, duties and regulations, it behooves us to protect our citizens, their commerce and navigation, by counter-prohibitions, duties and regulations also.

Here, it will be seen, is affirmed the constitutional right, not only to discriminate, but to prohibit; and, in one word, to meet, by our legislative measures in defence of our own productions, every step of foreign restriction.

But the "Journal" might have gone further in quoting from this Report of Mr. Jefferson, when Secretary of State, made to the House of Representatives in pursuance of a call upon him by that body.

"Where a nation imposes high duties on our productions, or prohibits them altogether, it may be proper for us to do the same by theirs, first burdening or excluding those productions which they bring here in competition with our own of the same kind; selecting next such manufactures as we take from them in greatest quantity, and which at the same time we could the soonest furnish to ourselves or obtain from other countries, imposing on them duties, lighter at first, but heavier afterwards, as other channels of supply open.

"We entreat our friends to mark of our prediction and warning. They will find all the influence which this Administration can gain in the Democratic party used to defeat it. The whole power of the Administration will be given to prevent the organization of the national convention—to distract its counsels—to defeat its nomination, no matter on whom the choice may fall. It will endeavor to set up a third party, and a third candidate—Mr. Tyler himself, if Judge McLean, or some other available, cannot be tempted to serve him."

"It is true," says he, "we must expect some inconvenience in practice from the establishment of discriminating duties. But in this, as in so many other cases, we are left to choose between the two evils. These inconveniences are nothing when weighed against the loss of wealth and loss of force which will follow our perseverance in the plan of indiscriminate."

"My dear Sir: I thank you very kindly for your friendly letter. I have at no time nor any where hesitated to express my decided disapprobation of the Tariff act of the last session, as well in respect to the principles upon which it is founded as to its details. In good time you will have my views in respect to that and other subjects before the public. In the mean time believe me to be,

"Very sincerely your friend and humble servant, M. VAN BUREN."

Now, out of the uncertainties (perhaps inevitable) of this short epistle, let us endeavor to pluck what must be its meaning. The "principles upon which the late act was founded" are very clearly—

First, and chiefly, to raise only enough revenue to meet the expenses of the Government, economically conducted.

Secondly, so to discriminate, in the details, as to give incidental protection to our own productions.

Now, to the first principle, neither Mr. Van Buren nor any body else can object.

As to the second, we happen to have his own perfectly decisive words, in a public letter, written about the same date to the Indiana Convention. It says:

"Of the constitutional power to make discriminations I have no doubt. Equally clear it is that the practice of making them has existed from the commencement of the Government, and constitutes a feature in every principal tariff bill which is to be found upon our statute book. They are indeed indispensable to the successful operation of every revenue bill."

"It (discrimination) is therefore a power the constant and faithful exercise of which is, in my judgment, demanded by considerations of justice, humanity, and sound policy."

The plurality of "principles," then, to which Mr. Van Buren objects, must be in the "details" of the bill, not its principles at all. He must hold that these details have been so managed as to make it, in many particulars, a prohibitory one. And that is the ground taken by the Free Trade portion of this anti-Tariff, Revenue-only and Incidental-Protection party.

Mr. Jefferson lays down the right of prohibition as positive, and its expediency as imperative. The pretended "Democratic" party now denounces as Federalists all who dare to hold that opinion—unless, happily, they should be themselves of the "Democratic" party.

But, historically, what is the fact? 1st. Senator Wright, the immediate party and personal representative of Mr. Van Buren, voted for the bill now denounced, and the Tariff part of this Free Trade party have loudly claimed for him the merit of having saved the bill.

2d. Mr. Van Buren himself voted for the most prohibitory Tariff ever passed in this country, and has usually been accused, by his present Free Trade allies, of having had a leading agency in concocting the "abominations" of that bill.

Now, the only allegation in his excuse is, "that he voted under instructions." What of that? He obeyed the instructions; and the fact of his having done so is decisive that he held a Prohibitory Tariff to be constitutional;—for the strictest stickler for instructions never held that these could set aside the Constitution.

As to discrimination, even Mr. Calhoun is completely stopped, by his own great and recent acts. He himself introduced into the Compromise Act a great number of articles to be admitted free of duty; and this, certainly, too, strengthened all the protective features, and weakened all the revenue features of that measure.

Again: If revenue is the only legitimate object of a bill of supplies, why have Mr. Calhoun and his party assented to the remission of all duties on tea and coffee? Is that discrimination or revenue? Nay, is it not protection, inasmuch as the foregoing these sources of supply created a necessity for additional duties on every thing else?

Mr. Tyler and the Democracy.

The relations now existing between Mr. Tyler and the party whose favor he is seeking, having betrayed his own, are of a very peculiar kind. He is like the hedge hog in the burrow of the rabbits, as the fable goes, who having availed themselves of his services and admitted him into their habitation, are afterwards very anxious to have him depart—his stiff, sharp bristles being very annoying. But the hedge hog replied that he found himself very comfortably situated, and if any of the respectable company present experienced inconvenience the door was open and they were at liberty to seek more commodious quarters elsewhere.

The Globe has been restless and uneasy on this subject for some time. It cannot suppress its fretfulness. We quote a paragraph from a late number of that journal:

"We entreat our friends to mark of our prediction and warning. They will find all the influence which this Administration can gain in the Democratic party used to defeat it. The whole power of the Administration will be given to prevent the organization of the national convention—to distract its counsels—to defeat its nomination, no matter on whom the choice may fall. It will endeavor to set up a third party, and a third candidate—Mr. Tyler himself, if Judge McLean, or some other available, cannot be tempted to serve him."

We must say that this shows a singular misapprehension of Mr. Tyler's position according to the representations of that gentleman's official organ. "Prevent the organization of the National Convention!" Why Mr. Tyler expects to go into that convention with the rest of the Democratic candidates. "Distract its counsels!" He wishes to harmonize its counsels in his own person. "Defeat its nomination!" He hopes to get it himself. As for a third candidate—that is a mistake. Mr. Tyler goes in as the sixth. Nor does he claim to belong to a third party; he belongs to the "Democracy." Why may not he have his friends as well as Mr. Van Buren or Mr. Calhoun?

Amid the diversity of views with which Mr. Tyler is regarded by his new allies, there is one point upon which all sections of them agree. They all unite in a perfect agreement of mind to take the offices which he may have to bestow. Van Buren men, Calhoun men, Buchanan men, Johnson men, Cass men, and any other variety of the Democracy, if there be any other besides the Tyler men par excellence, have no discrepancies of opinion or of action on this point. To serve their country in an official capacity they are ready and willing to waive any personal or political objections they may have to Mr. Tyler.—Baltimore American.

Look at the two great parties of the country, the one moving calmly, unitedly, majestically on, under a leader whom they love and admire, to the accomplishment of a mighty purpose, and the other, an ill-assorted and incongruous faction, disturbing the whole land with their loud and miserable wrangles about men and the spoils. Can there be a shadow of a doubt as to the result of a contest between two such parties? Is it at all strange that the Whigs await with burning impatience the appointed day of the conflict, and that the Locofocos dread it as they dread the day of doom?

TYLERISM.—Mr. Tyler has given offices to three members of the Locofoco National Convention from Indiana! One of them he has made Postmaster at Indianapolis; another Register of the Land Office at Vincennes; and a third Receiver of the Land Office at Jeffersonville. Of course, he had no intention of buying up their votes, though the uncharitable may be disposed to believe that such was his purpose!

HIGHLAND MESSENGER.

ASHEVILLE.

Friday Morning, Dec. 5, 1843.

"If our correspondent, 'H. F. T.' will give us his proper name, we will publish his communication.

Omission.—In giving the names of the delegates from this county to the State Convention, the secretary in his report, omitted the name of Wm. J. Brown.

MR. CLAY ON THE TARIFF.

Upon the tariff question Mr. Clay has so clearly defined his position, that "the way-faring man, though fool, need not err therein." If we take his speeches we shall at once see what he is in favor of. But some of the Democracy, not content with the express declarations embodied in those speeches, have had some misgivings as to his present position on this important subject. Sometime in July last, two Democrats in Georgia addressed Mr. Clay a letter in order to ascertain his views upon the tariff question. Subjoined is Mr. Clay's answer:

ASHLAND, 28th July, 1843. Gentlemen:—I duly received your favor of the 12th inst., in which you inform me that conflicting opinions prevail in your state in regard to my opinions on the policy of protecting domestic manufactures and your request of my information in relation to them. I take pleasure in complying with your request.

My opinion is that the revenue necessary to an economical administration of the General Government ought to be derived in season of peace, exclusively from duties imposed on our foreign imports, and that a tariff for that purpose ought to be so adjusted as to afford reasonable encouragement to our domestic manufactures. I am opposed to direct taxation and internal duties, except in time of war, when they may be necessary to give vigor and success to our arms. I am opposed to the doctrine of free trade with foreign powers, all of whom subject our commerce with them to restrictions, often very great and burthen-some.

These opinions I have always entertained and still entertain. I never was in favor of duties being so high as to amount to a prohibition of articles on which they were laid. I have thought it best for all interests that there should be competition. I think it of great importance that a tariff should possess stability, as frequent changes affect injuriously all our great interests. To impart to it that character, it should be moderate, reasonable and certain.

I voted for the tariff of 1816, 1824 and 1832. I think they were all reasonable and moderate, at the times they were respectively passed. In the infancy of manufactures, the object being to acquire the skill and accumulate the capital necessary to their successful establishment, a greater degree of protection is expedient than is requisite after they have made a considerable progress. The difficulty lies in fixing that degree. In 1816 we were without much experience, and failed to make in all cases, a proper adjustment of the measure of protection. Eight years experience in 1824 enabled Congress to fix it with more equity and precision. Eight years progress in our manufactures in 1832 justified some reduction in the most of duties, and generally the tariff of 1842 is more moderate than that of 1833. As our manufactures advance and become perfect, less and less protection will be needed, until many articles will be able to compete with the foreign rival articles, without any protection at all in the form of duties.

I was not in Congress in 1828, and therefore did not vote for the tariff of that year. The duties in many instances imposed by that tariff were extravagantly high, and, in others, duties were imposed which were not called for by any interest. That tariff was a fraudulent production. It was framed by a combination of some members from the south, and some from the north, who were afraid openly to vote against a tariff, and yet wished to obtain credit for being favorable to supposed southern interests. It was so shaped, with the design of defeating the passage of any tariff; because it was believed that it was so injurious to the manufacturing interest in many respects, that the honest and true friends of that interest would not vote for it. Had it been defeated, those northern members, who united in concocting it, would have returned home and asserted that they were the true friends of protection, and that its really honest friends were inimical to it. But it was not defeated. The genuine friends of manufactures resolved not to be cheated by such a combination, and determined to take the bill for the sake of the good that was in it, notwithstanding the bad, which was put there against their consent. The scheme not having succeeded as designed, the southern members, who were concerned in it, afterwards bitterly reproached their northern confederates for the disappointment.

I have more than half a dozen times expressed within the last two or three years, on public occasions, the opinion which I now communicate as to a combination of the principles of revenue and protection in a tariff. I am your friend and ob't serv't. H. CLAY. Messrs. Joel Bannham and Robt. Blodoo.

Mr. Clay's sentiments and views on the tariff question are here clearly set forth. To the positions taken by Mr. Clay the Democracy can certainly find no objections. He is in favor of an economical administration of the government, and that revenue to defray the expenses of such should be raised by duties on imports. Can the Democracy object to this? He is in favor of

so discriminating under a revenue tariff, as to afford reasonable encouragement to American manufactures. Is there a Democrat in the Union that can object to this position? He is opposed to any duty which amounts to the prohibition of the article on which it is levied—believing it best for all interests that there should be competition. Will not every Democrat in the Union say amen to this proposition? He is opposed to direct taxes and internal duties, except in time of war, and only then when they may be necessary to give vigor and success to our arms. Is this not in accordance with the sentiment entertained by the Democracy? He is opposed to the doctrine of free trade with foreign nations. And where is the Democrat who is in favor of admitting the fabrics of foreign nations into our ports free of duty, when these very nations levy a tariff upon our commerce with them, which amounts almost to prohibition? If such an one can be found, he certainly is not a lover of his country. And, lastly, Mr. Clay is in favor of a tariff being moderate, reasonable and certain. And every Democrat is undoubtedly in favor of the same.

Now these are Mr. Clay's sentiments upon the tariff question. His position cannot be misunderstood. It is now for the impartial freedom of this nation to say whether they believe them to be right or wrong. Now in what do the Democrats disagree with Mr. Clay on the tariff? After "all comes to all" it will be seen, that the principles of Mr. Clay and the Democracy upon this subject are nearly, if not precisely the same. But for the fact that Mr. Clay is a Whig, his views upon the tariff would be looked upon by the Democracy as purely democratic. Partisan feelings triumph over better opinions, and Mr. Clay is censured for his republican principles.

In a letter to the Hon. James A. Meriweth, of Georgia, dated October 2nd, Mr. Clay says:—"I never was in favor of what I regarded as a high tariff. And my present opinion is in perfect coincidence with that of the whole Whig party of the United States, including Georgia, as I understand it. We all believe that the revenue for the General Government should be derived from foreign imports to the exclusion of direct taxes, and the proceeds of the sales of the public lands; and that no more revenue should be levied than is necessary to an economical administration of the government; but that in levying it such discriminations ought to be made as will afford moderate and reasonable protection to American interests against the rival and prohibitory of foreign powers." Now no man who is prompted by candor, will charge either Mr. Clay, or the Whig party, with advocating a high protective tariff.—The Whigs are in favor of a tariff for revenue, affording incidental protection to American industry, and so is Mr. Clay. They go no farther, nor does Mr. Clay.—Now upon what ground can the Democracy object to Mr. Clay on the tariff question?

It really does seem that the Democracy have come to an understanding to oppose every measure which Mr. Clay advocates. Upon the tariff question, the principles entertained by Mr. Clay are precisely those of the Democracy, if they would acknowledge their honest convictions.

The Asheville (N. C.) Messenger is getting a little too familiar. We would advise the young progenitor of the profound disquisition that appeared in the Messenger of the 17th, to feed extensively on noodle-soup during the approaching winter, and keep warm flannels to his head and feet, else the brilliancy of genius displayed in his production, might sustain serious detriment from the intense frigidity of the climate of Buncombe, and the world thereby, be deprived of those intellectual feasts, which his superior acquirements will enable him to afford.—Abingdon Banner.

"The tenant of a bog, An envious little frog, Not bigger than an egg, A stately bullock spier, And sullen with his size, Attempts to be as big, With earnestness and pains He stretches, swells, and strains, And says, 'God Frog, look here! see me! Is this enough? No, no. Well, then, is this? Poh! poh! Enough! you don't begin to be! And thus the reptile sits, Enlarging till he splits.' You can make the application.

At the Whig State Convention recently held in Vermont, the subject of the annexation of Texas to the Union was discussed and strongly denounced. In a resolution upon the subject, which was adopted, it is positively asserted that "such annexation will be a virtual dissolution of the Union!"

It is reported that the Hon. Rufus Choate, Senator in Congress from Massachusetts, will resign his seat on the assembling of the new Legislature of that state in January next. Mr. Webster will probably take his place.

The Whig State Convention met at Raleigh yesterday. In a few days we shall hear who is the nonpareil of the convention. The Democratic State Convention meets at the same place next Thursday.

THE EXPLODED CALUMNY.

To this very day there can be found in the Democratic ranks, those who still reiterate the charge of "bargain, intrigue and corruption," against Mr. Clay, notwithstanding the author of the base fabrication has acknowledged its falsity. During his trip to the west, Mr. Adams addressed the citizens of Maysville, Ky., and having been called out upon the subject of the coalition between himself and Mr. Clay, by Gen. Collins, he used the following language:

"I thank you, sir, for the opportunity you have given me of speaking of the great statesman who was associated with me in the administration of the General Government; at my earnest solicitation—who belongs not to Kentucky alone, but to the whole Union; and is not only an honor to this state and this nation, but to mankind. The charges to which you refer, I have, after my term of service expired, and it was proper for me to speak, denied before the whole country; and I here reiterate and reaffirm the denial; and as I expect shortly to appear before my God to answer for the conduct of my whole life, should these charges have found their way to the Throne of Eternal Justice, I WILL, IN THE PRESENCE OF OMNIPOTENCE, PRONOUNCE THEM FALSE."

This solemn declaration of the venerable man who stands, as it were, with one foot in the grave, and who in the course of nature, must soon appear before the Judge of all judges, is enough to satisfy any man of the falsity of the charge, and he who still persists in his belief of the charge, must consider his fellow men incapable of telling the truth. There cannot now be a man in the United States who honestly and sincerely believes in the truth of the charge of "bargain, intrigue and corruption." In Mr. Clay's case the promise of the Bible has been signally verified—"No weapon that is formed against thee shall prosper; and every tongue that shall rise against thee in judgment thou shalt condemn."

LATEST FROM TEXAS.

By the arrival of the steamship New York, from Galveston, Texas papers have been received at New Orleans to the 13th ult. A good deal of excitement prevails in Texas in relation to the conduct of President Houston. He attended a public entertainment given him by the citizens of the city of Houston, on the 8th ult., at which he made a speech, and gave the lie direct and positive to the reiterated charges of treachery, &c. The Navy, too, came up for its share of animadversion. The Houston Citizen says that "the reason of the awful secret act was explained, and in that explanation there was found no single vestige of that treason and that high and inexorable assumption of power which has so long framed fruitful topics of editorial panic-makers and demagogues."

The tone of public opinion in Texas appears to be very favorable to the annexation. The Redlander says that "an almost unanimous voice of the people would hail as the proudest era of their lives, the time that would again permit them to assume the lofty title of American citizens." The Houston Telegraph expresses a similar opinion.

Life of Gen. Washington.—In another column the reader will find the advertisement for this work. What American but desires to possess a correct history of our country's hero—the greatest man the world has ever known? This is the very work that he should have. The numbers already issued are highly spoken of by the press.

Weekly Courier & New York Enquirer.—The attention of the reader is invited to the prospectus of this paper in another column. It is a large and handsome sheet, and as cheap as could be asked. In politics it is thoroughly Whig, and goes for Henry Clay for the Presidency all the time, and is an able advocate, too.

God's Lady's Book.—The December number of this popular magazine has been upon our table several days. The Lady's Book is too well known to need commendation from us. Its contributors are among the most popular male and female authors in America. The contents for the current month fully sustain the high reputation the Lady's Book has acquired.

Congress met last Monday. Probably we will receive the President's message in time to lay it before our readers next week.

A Reminiscence.—In 1798 an election took place in the Legislature of Virginia for a United States Senator. The vote stood for Henry Tazewell 117, James Madison 28, and John Marshall 13. Since that Mr. Madison has filled the highest office within the gift of the American people, and Mr. Marshall the highest in the judiciary, and their names will be cherished as long as the country itself shall endure; but Mr. Tazewell is now almost forgotten. How fickle is popular opinion!

From the Rutherfordton Republican. Meeting in McDowell.

In accordance with the views of the Hon. James Graham, in a number of the Republican of the 8th ult., the citizens of McDowell county held a meeting, at which upon motion of K. P. Willis, Esq., Wm. B. Rust, Esq., was appointed President, and A. Conley Secretary.

The meeting was addressed by Mr. Willis, explanatory of the object, showing the importance of some organized plan, however small in its inception, to arouse the citizens of the state to develop her mineral resources, various and inexhaustible in their nature.

He also thought the plan proposed by Mr. Graham, would be the best to excite the citizens of each county to have a repository at the county site, with a keeper to arrange and classify the mineral and fossil specimens, with such other curiosities as the citizens may present, to add to the beauty and interest of such a cabinet which would be the means of placing samples from the hand of each citizen when they could be examined by the more learned and experienced in such matters, and under the cover of the owner, or the state, much of the hidden treasure that is now buried in the bowels of the earth. As a further object, in aiding the state to make a similar arrangement at the Capitol, or University should she ever be so fortunate as to have a Legislature sufficiently enlightened in its principles of Mineralogy or Chemistry, to know the inseparable connection of such resources, with the prosperity and durability of their Government. But the politician of the present day, in their party-strife for political honors, prefer to encourage the branch of mining, that drives tunnels, and sinks shafts which lead to the pockets of the people, instead of their mother-earth—the original source of all wealth, knowledge, and happiness.

If England has clothed herself with the majesty of power, and wielded the terrific wand of her greatness over the surface of the whole globe, by making such knowledge the handmaid to her manufacturing arts and her agriculture. Why should North Carolina, in the infancy of her mines, with its accumulated wisdom of ages, fear to foster by legislation, a system through which, in a few years, her general intelligence would be greatly increased, and at the same time have a public channel by which such information should reach her citizens, as they in turn, be enabled to inform the world of her mineral wealth?

It is true, the history of gold mining is unfavorable in the eyes of many, as regards profits. Admit, therefore, that it should have but few permanent gold miners it seems from the beauty, purity, or incorruptible quality of gold, that the Duty designed it, as the purest metal on the surface of the earth, to introduce and school man to search for other minerals of a less precious character, but more abundant in their character.

After the remarks of Mr. Willis, it was proposed that Dr. Graham should be the keeper of the cabinet of specimens at Marion, the county site of McDowell, which was unanimously approved.

It was further moved by Col. Thomas J. Forney, that the proceedings of this meeting be published in the Rutherfordton Republican, Charlotte and Raleigh papers, and the Highland Messenger.

WM. B. RUST, Pres't. ALBERT CONLEY, Sec'ry.

From the Charleston Courier.

WASHINGTON, Nov. 22, 1843.—Some doubts have been expressed whether the President will have the nerve to urge the annexation of Texas against the fast gathering storm which it has excited. Indeed, it has been whispered, to-day, that the whole thing will be a flash in the pan. It is said that, finding hostility where he expected support, he will strike out the whole subject from his message. But the tones of the Madisonian, up to this very day, gives no indication of any such course. Disensions in the Cabinet are again talked of, and Mr. Upshur and Mr. Spencer are made to figure as leaders of the two factions. There is little truth in it except so far as this—that the breach between Mr. Upshur and Mr. Spencer is utterly irreconcilable—that Mr. Spencer's influence has declined and Mr. Upshur's become predominant. I would not be surprised at a speedy blow up in the Cabinet, and the retirement of Mr. Spencer. The annexation question may produce a crisis, for it is well known that this is Mr. Upshur's measure.

A few of the members have arrived, made choice of their seats, and again departed. Mr. Senator Allen, of Ohio, has gone to Richmond, as some say, to plan the Van Buren Campaign, the organization of the House, &c.

The organization of the House will be a matter of great interest. In the first place, it will be necessary to ascertain who are the members. That this is not always easy the New Jersey case will attest. The members from Georgia, Missouri, New Hampshire and Mississippi are elected by general ticket, contrary to the apportionment law. Mr. John Campbell, when his proposition for suspending the law as to this Congress failed, gave notice that he would contest the right of members elected contrary to the provisions of that law, to take their seats. It is now said that the Whigs will contest these seats, not with an expectation of succeeding, but with a view to force the Van Buren men to identify themselves with nullification. Mr. Benton declared that the law should be nullified, and I presume it will be.

There is an increasing probability of a strong combination against the election of Mr. Jones, or any Van Buren caucus candidate, as Speaker. It is now asserted that there will be forty anti-Van Buren Democrats, who, with the Whigs, will form a decided majority. The western men are urging their claims to the Speakership. Mr. Wilkins, of Pittsburg, and Mr. John W. Davis, of Indiana, are spoken of.