



PROPOSALS,

For publishing, in the town of Halifax, a weekly newspaper,

CALLED THE

FREE PRESS.

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EXPERIENCE has so fully tested the utility of Newspaper publications, that the Subscriber deems it unnecessary here to dwell on the advantages resulting to a community from such an establishment. For the satisfaction, however, of those persons who may feel an interest in the success of the proposed undertaking, and also to afford a landmark for future guidance, he will endeavor to state, as near as possible, the course he intends to pursue.

The following subjects will chiefly engage attention:

A summary of the proceedings of our National and State Legislatures, with occasional extracts from the Speeches of our most distinguished Orators and Statesmen.

A particular account of all foreign and domestic events which may be thought generally interesting.

A correct Price-Current of the principal articles of export and import.

Also, to encourage Agriculture and Domestic Manufactures; to promote Internal Improvement; and to develop the resources of the country.

To disseminate useful information, whether of a Literary, Scientific, Moral, or Religious nature.

And to promote that free spirit of inquiry, respecting public men and measures, which is deemed the safeguard and conservative principle of Republican institutions.

Communications on any of the above subjects will meet with immediate attention.

GEO. HOWARD.

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CONDITIONS.

"The Free Press" will be published every Friday, at THREE DOLLARS per year, consisting of 52 numbers, and in the same proportion for a shorter period. Subscribers at liberty to discontinue at any time, on paying arrearages.

Advertisements inserted at fifty cents per square, or less, for the first insertion, and twenty-five cents each continuance.

Lists of Letters published at the terms prescribed by law.

Letters addressed to the Editor must be post paid.

For the convenience of correspondents, a box is placed at the office door, to receive their favors.

Persons holding Subscription papers, will please forward the names as soon as convenient.

Printing-Office.

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GEO. HOWARD,

Respectfully informs the inhabitants of Halifax, and its vicinity, that he is now ready to execute

PRINTING,

In all its variety, with neatness and despatch.

Blank Warrants for sale

AT THIS OFFICE.

N. Carolina Legislature.

SPEECH OF

MR. WILLIS ALSTON,

On the Caucus Resolutions, introduced by Mr. Fisher.

Mr. Alston had hoped, that the Preamble and Resolutions now before the House, would have taken a different course; he wished the motion to postpone them indefinitely had not been made, and that they might have been permitted to have been referred to a committee of the whole House, where their merits and demerits would have undergone a full and fair investigation; but as the motion to postpone indefinitely precluded him from any attempt to shape them as he wished, he should vote against it, with a view, should the motion not prevail, to propose such amendments or modifications, as would make them acceptable to himself, and perhaps to others situated as he was.

He did not believe with gentlemen who had preceded him in this debate, that Caucuses either violated the letter or spirit of the Constitution; for although there was a clause in the Constitution of the United States, that said no member of the Senate or House of Representatives should be an Elector, it could not be construed in such manner as to prevent them from expressing an opinion, as individuals, who they might prefer as President and Vice-President of the United States. He himself had been in several Caucuses, and never thought he had violated the letter or spirit of that Constitution we had all so solemnly sworn to support. When the contention of parties in this country was at as high a pitch as they ever had been before or since, he well knew, that both sides had Caucused: he alluded to the celebrated contest between Jefferson and Adams, when Jefferson succeeded to the Presidency of the United States. He would mention a circumstance which tended to show what he said was true. At the preceding election, Charles Cotesworth Pinckney was run with Mr. Adams, who, at a Caucus, was withdrawn, and Maj. Thos. Pinckney substituted in his place. He never considered the minority absolutely bound in a Caucus to surrender their opinions to the majority, for he well remembered that a Resolution was once submitted in Caucus so to bind them, and being objected to, it was withdrawn. Generally speaking, the will of the majority had been acquiesced in. In fact, he never knew an instance to the contrary; for the object of a Caucus was to harmonize and unite the party, so that a division should not take place, and give their opponents an opportunity of taking advantage of their divisions, and place a man in the Presidential chair against the will of the predominant party. But, said Mr. A. is there in the present contest for a President of the United States any thing like that state of things which heretofore existed? Certainly not, there is no contest about party, nothing like principle involved in the question. All the candidates who have

been brought before the public, are of the same politics, and all of them had distinguished themselves as honorable and patriotic men, and which ever of them should fairly be elected, he should cheerfully support the administration of, provided he did not violate the example and principles which his great predecessors had set before him. Mr. A. further observed, that if gentlemen would take a survey of the United States, they would find, if he might be allowed the expression, that the most high-toned of each of the old contending parties, were divided about who shall be our next President, and was there any thing strange in this? He contended that the best, wisest, and most patriotic men in our country, perfectly uniting in principle, may honestly differ about men. He said, that the present was a contest about men, and not about measures. He therefore did think, that any measure calculated to prejudice or bias the intelligent and enlightened people of the American Republic, in the exercise of their free choice, at this time, and under existing circumstances, useless, unnecessary and improper. Leave the people to exercise their own independent will, and they seldom err. He had no objection to declare this as a legislator or an individual; at the same time, he expressed his decided disapprobation of the Preamble and Resolutions as they now stand; but reject the motion to postpone, and you have them perfectly at command, you can alter, change, or modify them as you please. It does not follow at all, if you reject the present motion to postpone indefinitely that these resolutions are to be adopted: for he should vote himself against passing them, unless modified to suit his views. Are gentlemen afraid to meet the question fairly, openly and manly? He hoped not; why then not let us have an opportunity of placing the question before the enlightened and intelligent public, in the best possible shape of which it is susceptible? Mr. A. further observed, that his great objection to the election's finally going into the House of Representatives had very much diminished, when he took a view of the late Amendment to the Constitution of the United States. Before this Amendment took place, a choice had to be made from the five highest upon the list of those voted for as President and Vice-President of the United States; by the amendment, the House of Representatives are to make an election out of the three highest voted for as President. Could gentlemen see no difference here? As the Constitution formerly stood, one large state might bring its candidate within the five highest, and prevent an election by the people; but now, it would take a combination of three of the largest states to accomplish that which one might have done before the amendment. Again, in the event of no election being made by the House of Representatives, the Amendment provides that the Vice-President shall become President. You will, therefore, be sure of a President, whether the House of Repre-

sentatives make an election or not. This provision he considered of vast importance; for he well knew that an opinion prevailed among the best and wisest men in the nation, that, in the event of no election being made, as the Constitution stood prior to the Amendment, that the Union was dissolved; that we should have been left without guide or compass to steer the National Ship.

The gentleman from Beaufort, (Mr. Blackledge) has emphatically told us, that we are, by this motion, to test, whether we approve or disapprove of the Preamble and Resolutions as they now stand. Had it not been for this remark, he (Mr. A.) might have been spared from troubling the House with any observations. Now, Mr. Speaker, continued he, can this motion try the question, when so many of us declare that we are opposed to the Preamble and Resolutions as they now stand, but have no objection of expressing our opinion as to the propriety or impropriety of a Congressional nomination? If a Congressional nomination amounts to an election, as gentlemen I have no doubt believe it will, or why so solicitous for it, he, for one, would prefer, at the present time, when all party distinctions were lost, that the election should go into the House of Representatives, rather than to be thus made. He feared nothing from a combination of small States. Let any gentleman cast his eye around, and take a survey over the United States, he would find the small States scattered over this wide-extended continent and intermixed between the large States possessing totally different interests and views; an union, therefore, of small States, to the prejudice of the Union, is next to impossible; neither had he any fear that corruption would or could find its way into the House of Representatives. But, on the contrary, in Caucus, a few large States combining together, taking with them a few small States, could make an election. For instance, let New-York, Pennsylvania and Virginia combine, and they will fix on you whom they please. And is it at all unlikely that one or two demagogues in each of those States may sway the balance? Here, then, you can have a President palmed upon you by a fewer number of members of Congress, than you would be likely to have, if the election should finally go into the House of Representatives? Why, then, shall we be deprived, by the present motion, of expressing our opinion in that shape that best suits our views? If the Resolutions cannot be made satisfactory to the majority of the House, they can still be rejected, or even then postponed, if it be the wish of a majority.

Mr. A. said, he did not intend to follow the example of some gentlemen, by making remarks to the prejudice of any particular candidate; he would, however, take the liberty of stating to the House, what would be recollected by every member in it, that some two or three sessions of Congress past, a certain set of motion-makers had started up in Congress, for their

motions had been printed in every part of the United States, calling for information, as he verily believed, to create a prejudice against the present administration. They soon found themselves mistaken, and they changed their mode of attack. If his memory served him, their next attack, Mr. A. said, was directed at the head of the State Department; but when the doors of his bureau were thrown wide open to the call, and every thing they called for given, clamour on that head was soon hushed into silence. Their next attack was directed against the War Department, and if one hundredth part of what was said and insinuated, had been true, he was quite certain that the officer who presides over that department, would not, in this Assembly, find a man to raise his voice in his favor; but what was the result? that officer, with a promptness that always characterizes his conduct, gave all that was called for, and completely put to shame those who had made the call. He shewed to them and the nation, that instead of extravagance and waste, he had brought chaos to system, and had actually, by his arrangement, saved millions to the nation. He had reduced the expense of each man in service nearly one half. He asked gentlemen to recollect what had recently taken place far up the Missouri river: American citizens had been butchered, plundered, and deprived of their hard earnings; the ground had been stained by the blood of white men, by the savage tomahawk and scalping knife, and many thousand dollars worth of property lost, all of which was owing to this party, who prevented by their motions in Congress, a force from marching in time to take post high enough up the river, so as to have saved harmless, such of our enterprising citizens who might have ventured in pursuit of game. It would seem as though the Secretary of War had foreseen the events which have followed; for he had actually given orders to march an armed force, and to erect a fort high enough up the river, to have prevented what has occurred, but was prevented by an interference, improper and unwise, to say the least of it. He should, therefore, unless gentlemen permitted him a fair opportunity of amending the Resolutions, be compelled to vote against the motion to postpone indefinitely.

Connecticut forever!—By the existing laws of the state of Connecticut, all persons between the ages of 4 and 16, are entitled to a share of the public school money, and are to be numbered annually in the month of July or August for that purpose. We have the authority of the School Commissioner, (says the New-Haven Register) that there was in the last enumeration a mother and her daughter in the north-west part of the state who were both entitled to school money!—*Beat this who can!!!*

Vermont.—It is said that there is one justice of the peace to every 177 souls in this state.