



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.

DOMESTIC.

SPEECH OF

MR. MACON, OF N. C.

In the Senate of the U. S. on a motion to postpone indefinitely, the consideration of the Resolutions proposing amendments to the Constitution of the U. S. in relation to the election of President and Vice-President.

Mr. Macon said, that these resolutions had been referred to a select committee; they had been maturely considered and reported upon by that committee; and now, because a certain other subject, not connected with them, had been introduced, no vote was to be taken upon them. What is the question before the Senate? It is upon the indefinite postponement of the resolutions; and not upon their subject matter. Why should not a fair vote be taken on them? Gentlemen, who are not entirely decided on business before the Senate, generally vote for a postponement. He tho't no proposition to amend the constitution, that had ever been before the Senate, had so much in favor of it, as the one that had been reported by this committee. It had, first or last, been recommended by almost every one of the states. And now, after all the time that has been spent about it, after one of the propositions had been discussed at full length, they are all to be thrown by. He well knew, that men would do, in relation to these things, as they thought right. He considered it an extremely unfortunate circumstance, that a subject which had nothing to do with the real question before the Senate, had been introduced, and was about to destroy all chance of considering the amendments to the Constitution.

Mr. M. said, he knew that no amendment could now be made to affect the next election. There must be a concession of opinion somewhere—every body feels the embarrassments we are laboring under; and yet we are not permitted to go on, and discuss the amendments by which these evils might be remedied. This amendment, he thought, would ensure an election, without going to the House of Representatives; and he hoped it would not be postponed. It is time enough to postpone them, when we find that we cannot make one that is fit to be adopted. We shall, then, have done our duty to our constituents, as faithful men. But, now, we are about to postpone them at the very threshold. If there ever was a time when the subject could be met gravely, it is the present. What was the condition of the country, at the time of the difficulty in the election of Jefferson and Burr? Great anxiety was spread from one end of the country to the other. The House of Representatives was voting thirty times, without coming to a decision—the most serious alarm pervaded the country. And yet, with this knowledge before us, we are not willing to make provision against similar occurrences. There was a charge of foreign partiality, on each side of the great parties existing at that

time. One was accused of fondness for the British; the other, for the French. There is no disposition of that kind now. We have peace, and we have plenty to eat; and, thank heaven, the tariff bill has not yet passed. Some think that the amendment will produce a consolidation of the government, and that the state lines will be lost. But almost all the states have agreed to it—almost all of them have called for the districting system. Mr. M. said, he did not believe that it would destroy the Constitution. He had heard so much, and so often, of the destruction of the Constitution, that he had almost become an infidel in respect to it. We have stood a sedition law, and an alien law, and there is not much danger but we may get along with any thing else. We have had these amendments regularly brought before us; and now, all at once, because allusions have been made to another subject, we cannot look at the amendments—we have got into a passion, and we must give them up. Nearly all the states have approved the districting system—and how is it to destroy the Constitution? The liberty of this nation does not, nor does that of any other, depend upon paper. It must have a foundation in the hearts of the people. Let a man depend upon himself, and he is free. If he is dependent on another, black or white, he will not be free. Freedom rests upon our dependence or independence. The people had, at first, a great dread of the President and Senate; but that fear has passed away.

We have, now, more candidates for the Presidency than we ever had before. How are my people, said Mr. M. to know these men? Why, when I go home, they will ask me whom I think to be the best man; or rather, who will tax them the least, which is the same thing. And, I presume, the same questions are put to other members. I am glad my colleague called for the yeas and nays on this question, for I hope the subject will not be postponed. In regard to Caucuses, I have no confessions to make. I have gone into Caucus, as honestly as I go to church. I don't care how many Caucuses, or how few there are. I care nothing about them. Once, however, I was, about twenty years past, taken in, by a Caucus, and said I would not attend another. I had intended to have given a history of some, on different sides, but it is decided not to be order.

How the choice of electors by districts, could possibly prevent an election of President, as has been said by the gentleman from South Carolina, I cannot possibly perceive. The number of votes given by the districts, would be equal to that now given. I do not understand how it can prevent an election.—Every generation has its own notion in politics, as well as in religion. Religious and political ideas are constantly changing. The Book of Judges gives a description of these changes, where it speaks of the departure of the people, after

the death of Joshua. So we forgot the principles which produced the Revolution. My state, happily, is neither a large nor a small one. It enjoys about an equal population, and does not increase much. What benefit can the present provision of the constitution be, if we get no President by it? I hope the Senate will return to the consideration of the proposed amendments.

Hard times.—The Nantucket Enquirer gives the annexed gloomy picture of the stagnation of business in that place: "No place in the United States feels perhaps more severely the want of markets for its peculiar products than the Island of Nantucket. Dependent on the ocean, and on the prospect of a mart for its gifts, we find ourselves, from the wealthiest merchant down to the very printer, almost reduced to the predicament of the Birmingham buckle makers, at the moment when shoe strings came into vogue. Our ship owners, justified by experience, have adventured their whole capital in the whale fishery; our hardy mariners return, laden with the spoils of the great deep; but the expectations of both are baffled by the depreciated value of our staple commodities. Our merchants are, therefore, fast abandoning the pursuit, and emigrating from the land of their fathers; and our seamen are forced to seek less grateful employment in other ports. Universal discouragement and hopeless depression seem to predominate, business is frightened from our shores; want dares to invade the shop of mechanical industry; our wharves exhibit no signs of commercial life, save what are indicated by the bustling of a few skippers of small craft, soliciting sales of onions and potatoes; and our streets, during the live long day, are as silent and bare, as those of Boston before 10 o'clock on a rainy Sunday morning, wind E. N. E."

"Witherford the Prophet." This celebrated savage warrior is at length vanquished; the destroyer is conquered; the hand which so profusely dealt death and dissatisfaction among "the whites" is now motionless. He died at his late residence near Montpelier, in Alabama, on the 9th ult. His deeds of war are well known to the early settlers in South Alabama, and will be remembered by them while they live, and be talked of with horror by generations yet unborn; but his dauntless spirit has taken its flight—"he has gone to the land of his fathers."

"Billy Witherford," denominated "the prophet," was about one fourth Indian, (some say 'half a breed') his ancestry on the white side having been Scottish. It has been said that he boasted of having "no yankee (meaning American) blood in his veins."

This ferocious chief led the hostile attack upon Fort Mims, (at Tensa,) on the 30th August, 1812, which resulted in the indiscriminate and shocking massacre of men, women and children, to the number of near four hundred. He was also a leader,

(associated with the Prophets Francis and Siquister) at the battle fought on the 23d Dec. following, at Ecchenachaca, or the 'Holy Ground,' which had been considered by them inaccessible to their enemies, and the "grave of the white men;" but it proved a fatal delusion. His party suffered great loss of warriors, and all the provisions, munitions of war, &c. deposited at this place of imaginary safety, being as they supposed, rendered secure by the influence of some supernatural agency.

It is stated, that after being "saturated with the blood of the Americans, and witnessing the almost total extinction of his own tribe, he voluntarily and dauntlessly flung himself into the hands of General Jackson, and demanded his protection."

Combination of Indians.—The Missouri Intelligencer, of March 5th, [printed at Franklin] contains the following information: "We are indebted to the politeness of a friend at Fort Osage, for the following information, direct from Arkansas, which is from an authentic source: Major Cummings, the commandant at Fort Smith, has demanded of the Osage Chiefs those who committed the late murder in that quarter. The chiefs are willing to surrender them, but cannot force obedience, as the murderers refuse to be given up, and are protected by a majority of the nation. The commandant has given them until the 15th of January to consider of it; at the expiration of which time, unless they should be given up, an attempt will be made to take them by force. They threaten resistance, and say that if such an attempt should be made they will compel the Mission families to supply them with provisions, and the traders to furnish them all their guns and ammunition. The Osages are divided into several bands, one of which, the Chienios, did the mischief.—The others did not hold themselves in any manner accountable for the depredations of that band, and will, in all probability, in case of necessity, assist the traders in their vicinity."

"A letter of late date from a respectable source on the Arkansas, states that the Osages, Cherokees, Kickpoos and Delawares met at Chouteau's trading house, and joined in a great dance. Mr. Augustus Chouteau stated that this savored very much of a combination of those nations against the whites. Such a thing would be dangerous to the frontier settlements of Arkansas and Missouri, and require a considerable force to quell it. The Union Mission family are much alarmed, and the Harmony family do not consider themselves free of danger."

"The settlers upon the Arkansas are raising volunteers, and have already organized one company. If it should be necessary, we have no doubt that Boon's Lick could furnish a few riflemen of bold hearts and correct aim."

Money.—Three new Banks and eight or ten Insurance Companies have lately been incorporated in New-York, with an aggregate capital of five millions of dollars.