

he then declined the competition, he received many votes in the Republican Meeting of the Republican Members of Congress, by which Mr. Monroe was nominated; that he was, on the accession of Mr. Monroe, re-appointed to the head of the Treasury Department, and there yet remains; we speak of events and circumstances, within the knowledge of every reader, which bring down his history to the present day.

Will the Rhode-Island American yet ask of us, what are the pretensions of Mr. Crawford? We add, to what we have already said, that he rose to his present eminence, by the power of his talents, from a humble rank in life; that, in his own State, he first acquired distinction by his hostility to, and denunciation of, the stupendous Yazoo fraud, of which we are sorry to be obliged to revive the odious recollection; that, though his march has been onward to distinction, he is, in public life, plain and open in his manners, and in private life of the most domestic habits, spending all his leisure in the bosom of his family.

This is a plain unvarnished account of the Life and Character of a Man, of whom it is seriously asked from his friends, what are his pretensions?

It has been said by some, in quaint allusion, we suppose, to his athletic frame, that Mr. Crawford is "a giant at intrigue." Nothing can be more untrue. No human being, if we rightly understand him, can be more free from deceit or duplicity. We believe, indeed, it has been thought by some who have had to do with him, that he is at times too frank. Where are the proofs of his intrigues? We ask any one, in the spirit of candor, whether, if such had been his character, he would not have secured, by his own blandishments, or the agency of his friends, as many presses in his favor as he could. Has he done so? No. If he had, we should not, at this time of day, have been under the necessity of answering the question as to his "pretensions." The welkin would have rung with them. We are proud, indeed, that our views are the same as those expressed by most of the old and uniform Republican presses in different parts of the country, but in mere numbers, we apprehend, there is a fearful odds against us. Great industry has been employed in making enemies to Mr. Crawford, but very little in making him friends. Lest our silence on the subject should be misconstrued, we have thought it proper to leave no reason to doubt of the sentiments which we entertain of the titles of this gentleman to the favor of his fellow-citizens, and, at the same time, to state the grounds of them.

\*Our friend, Mr. Niles, is quite facetious and complimentary in his Weekly Register of Saturday, on the subject of this. He says the people of the United States had no more idea of electing Mr. Crawford President, than they had of electing him or one of us to that office. If blushes could be transferred to paper, the very ink we use would take its hue from our cheeks, at the unexpected honor of being placed on the same level, in popular estimation, with our worthy friend at Baltimore. But he is entirely too modest. We consider it by no means an impossible thing, nay, hardly an improbable one, that he may, at some future day, be proposed as a candidate for that high station. If he should succeed to it, he will put down all etiquette and ceremony, we warrant him. Every thing will be free and easy at the great house. We long to take him by the hand there.

In making this exposition of our views, we have carefully avoided any notice, by comparison or contrast, of the claims of other candidates for the Presidency. We speak only of the positive recommendations of Mr. Crawford to public favor, which we have been called upon so often to produce, that we could no longer resist the invitation. About the other candidates, we will only say, for the present, that we never have disparaged the merits of either of them, and, with our present feelings towards them, we never shall.

It may perhaps not be amiss to show, that the views we now express are perfectly consistent with our course in opposing the claims, preferred by the friends of Mr. Crawford, eight years ago. We recur with pleasure to our files of that date, and shall content ourselves with giving to our readers a single extract, to show the ground on which we then stood. In the National Intelligencer of the 22d February, 1816, it was thus concisely but distinctly stated:

"It has been said, we understand, that we have shewn disrespect to Mr. Crawford, one of the gentlemen held up by his friends for the Presidency, by copying from a northern print, some remarks on the Presidential election, in which his name was mentioned. Far from us was such an intention. We pointedly disclaim it. We deem too highly of Mr. Crawford, to suppose that his mind is capable of such an impression. But, no room shall remain for those of a different disposition. We have ever entertained for Mr. Crawford that sentiment which his stern principles and independent conduct are calculated to inspire; and we have seen nothing yet to weaken it. It is no derogation from his merits to say, that James Monroe has, in our opinion, still stronger claims, at this time, on the national confidence and affection. He has been longer in the public eye."

#### FOR THE FREE PRESS.

Mr. Editor:

A late writer in your paper of Friday last, under the signature of "Callimachus," has called on Numa to give the public a second number explanatory of his first. Numa's complaisance cannot condescend to obey the call of this writer, or to enter into any argument with him, for he knows it would be in vain to reason a man down that never was reasoned up; but the public may expect something from me, it is therefore that I trouble you on this occasion.

Callimachus seems to be in a passion, and has forgot the argument in attempting to criticize on Numa; to which I will only say,

"On me when dunces are satirick,  
I take it for panegyrick."

I deprecate very much any newspaper controversy. Callimachus advocates his side of the question, and Numa his; it is not useful or proper to disfigure the columns of the press with invective or abusive vituperation. On that head I shall not enter the lists with Callimachus, determined, therefore, as Tristram Shandy very justly says to his mule, "never to argue a point with any of that family as long as he lives." Callimachus will therefore please to excuse me.

It seems, sir, that the friends of Mr. CRAWFORD take fire immediately when any thing is said touching and doubting the qualifications or eligibility of Mr. C. to fill the Presidential Chair; from them all is invective; they do not stoop to argument; their observations are dogmatic and authoritative!! This is passion; it is worse, it is prejudice. How extensive, how

despotic is the government of prejudice! In all the concerns of life we are more or less the subject of her control. In her sight generosity is profusion; economy, avarice; forbearance, pusillanimity; courage, rashness; virtue, ostentation; and religion, hypocrisy. Now, like the drunkard, she sees double; and now, like the jaundiced, she beholds every object tinged with an unnatural hue. In politicks her power is universal and irresistible. She stands sentinel at the avenues of the mind; guards with circumspection the approaches of truth and the assaults of reason; nor suffers their entrance into the inclosures of intellectual operations. She swears the Andes are mole hills, and public virtue self-interest; she sees angles in the circle, and the spirit of Cæsar and Cromwell in General Jackson. She discovers filth in the diamond, and treason in the best of patriots. It is the labor of wisdom to throw off her yoke; to examine men and facts as they are.

With how much heat and violence is agitated the approaching election of President. How vehement, how passionate the struggle. It is not the combat of principles, whose victory shall enliven, advance, establish, or benumb, congeal and destroy the energies, the honor, the prosperity of United America. But this opposition is always to be expected in free governments; indeed, if not carried too far, it is essential to the existence of Republican governments: "error may be tolerated, if reason is left free to combat it." The most upright, faithful and steady conduct in General Jackson, is no mean of meeting the good opinion of men, who, with

"The unconquerable will, the steadfast hate,  
And courage never to submit or yield."

But to return again to Mr. Crawford: Numa asserts again, and without the fear of contradiction, that in 1798 Mr. C. was a federalist, and that he did congratulate Mr. Adams on his administration of the government; and Numa asserts again that Mr. C.'s talents are not such as to fit him for the discharge of the duties incident to the office of a President; and more, that he is not the choice of the people. I would ask his friends where and when he has displayed such mighty talents—if he possesses any, they have been "hid under a bushel"—I recollect none, in the course of my observations, that excited any notice in me, from Mr. Crawford but one, and that struck my attention from its novelty and strangeness. It was this, sir: Mr. Crawford recommended, as the best and most eligible mode to bring the Indians out of a state of nature and to civilize them, was to encourage their marriage with the whites; that is, their squaws with our young men, and our beautiful females with the Indian savage. What think you of that as a stroke of genius and policy, Mr. Editor!! What a mongrel race we should have had in the United States in a little while, had the Secretary's advice taken place—what a generation!

"Black spirits and white,  
Red spirits and gray;  
Mingle, mingle, mingle,  
That that mingle may!"

As to the politicks of Mr. Crawford, they have not been correct; it is well known that he was strenuously opposed to the war. That war, sir, that gave to the United States a character and name—"a name that keeps the name of this country

respectable in every other on the globe." That war which protected our commerce on the high seas from depredation, and our ships from the search of British cruisers. That war, which since the sea has rolled a wave, or has been a field of carnage, there never was such fighting and such achievements as were done by our navy. That flag which had "braved the battle and the breeze," for a thousand years, was made to douse to the star-spangled banner!! But could Mr. C. have prevented it, those honors would not have brightened the American escutcheon.

For the present, sir, I shall conclude this number, and I beg leave to assure Callimachus, that I have no wish to carry on a political contest with him; each has an undoubted right to espouse the cause he undertakes. The press is free and open to all, and Callimachus is at liberty to "draw his gray goose quill" in defence of Mr. Crawford; but I should think it most proper for him to wait until these serious charges of malversation in office against Mr. Crawford, by Mr. Edwards, were investigated. A public character, sir, who is a candidate for the high honor that Mr. C. aims at, should be like Cæsar's wife, not only chaste, but above all suspicion. I should be glad if Mr. Crawford could exonerate himself from the charges exhibited against him by Mr. Edwards; "but before he is placed face to face with his accuser, and the facts investigated by a competent tribunal, his partisans should not talk of a triumphant vindication."

But again, in conclusion, sir, the only way to enable us to arrive at the truth, in political affairs, is to banish every prejudice; to obtain a full knowledge of facts and arguments relative to every question in debate; to mingle, with a scrutiny of public characters, the same degree of candor, which we wish exercised towards ourselves; and rely alone on the testimony of men of information and honesty, and who are not interested.

NUMA.

#### CONGRESSIONAL.

##### EDWARDS'S MEMORIAL.

The committee appointed by the House of Representatives to enquire into the charges exhibited by Mr. Edwards against the Secretary of the Treasury, reported the result of their deliberations on Tuesday, 25th ult. The following are extracts:

"The address contains two general charges against the Secretary; one, of mismanaging the public funds: under which, various illegal transactions are alleged, in reference to the deposit of the public moneys in certain banks, and the mode in which such moneys were allowed, afterwards, to be repaid; the other, imputing to the Secretary the suppression of papers and documents, or failing to communicate them, when they ought to have been communicated, in answer to resolutions of the Houses of Congress.

Referring to what has been said in the introduction to this report, and repeating that Mr. Edwards has not had an opportunity of supporting his charges by his presence and testimony, the result of the facts which have appeared to the committee, thus far, in this investigation, and of their deductions from them, when applied to the recapitulation of charges, as stated at the end of the address, is: First. That the evidence re-

ferred to and examined, does not support the charge of having mismanaged the public funds.

Second. That the uncurrent notes, mentioned in the second charge, appear, by evidence satisfactory to the committee, to have been received and deposited by the Public Receivers, at a time when they were receivable under the resolution of Congress of 1816. That, in the principal case, that of the Bank of Missouri, the bank did not make itself responsible for such notes as cash, and, therefore, the Secretary was bound to receive them from the bank; that, although the banks of Tombecke and Edwardsville were liable to account for such deposits as cash, if the construction which the committee gives to their contracts be correct, yet, that both the Secretary and the banks expressed a different opinion as to the meaning of those contracts, and that the Secretary, in receiving fifteen thousand dollars from the one, and twenty thousand dollars from the other, of those banks, appear to have acted according to what he supposed to be the rights of the parties, and with a proper regard to the interest of the United States, under the circumstances which then existed.

Third. That no intentional misstatement has been made to the House, of the amount of uncurrent bills received from the banks; although a sum of two hundred and eighty dollars of such bills was omitted through mistake.

Fourth. That, although the Secretary may have misconstrued the effect of some of the contracts with the banks to the extent before mentioned, the committee finds no grounds for the charge that he has misrepresented them, inasmuch as the contracts themselves were submitted, with the reports, to the House.

Fifth. That the Secretary did omit to communicate to Congress the reasons which led him to direct the deposit of public moneys in the three local banks of Chillicothe, Cincinnati, and Louisville, where the Bank of the United States had branches, but there is no reason for supposing that any concealment was intended, or that the omission was occasioned by design.

Sixth. That, in some instances, papers called for by resolutions of the House have not been communicated with other papers sent in answer to such calls, but these omissions have happened either from accident, or from a belief that the papers so omitted were immaterial or not called for; and that there is no evidence that any document or information has been withheld from improper motives.

Having already expressed the opinion that this investigation ought not to be terminated, until the person preferring the charges shall have been examined, and regretting the circumstances which render such an examination impracticable during the present session of Congress, and thinking that Mr. Edwards may be expected at Washington, within a few days, the committee feel it their duty to recommend to the House that they be required to sit after the adjournment, for the purpose of taking his examination, if an opportunity shall be presented."

From the above report it appears that the balance now due the government, from five of the western banks is \$440,820 63; a great portion of which may be considered lost.