



THE "FREE PRESS,"

By George Howard,

Is 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 arrears.

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

Letters addressed to the Editor must be *post paid*.

POLITICAL.

THE TARIFF.

The following letter from Gen. JACKSON, was sent to Dr. L. H. Coleman, of Warrenton, in answer to some inquiries, contained in a letter addressed by the latter to the former. Similar inquiries having been made from other quarters, the General states in a note, that the same answer had been returned to them.—*Raleigh Star*.

Washington City, }
April 26, 1824. }

"SIR: I have had the honor, this day, to receive your letter of the 21st instant, and with candor shall reply to it. My name has been brought before the nation by the people themselves, without any agency of mine; for I wish it not to be forgotten, that I never have solicited office; nor, when called upon, by the constituted authorities, have ever declined where I conceived my services could be beneficial to my country. But as my name has been bro't before the nation for the first office in the gift of the people, it is incumbent on me, when asked, frankly to declare my opinion upon any political national question, pending before, and about which the country feels an interest.

"You ask me my opinion on the Tariff. I answer that I am in favor of a judicious examination and revision of it; and so far as the Tariff bill before us embraces the design of fostering, protecting and preserving within ourselves, the means of national defence and independence, particularly in a state of war, I will advocate and support it. The experience of the last war ought to teach us a profitable lesson, and one never to be forgotten. If our liberty and Republican form of government, procured for us by our revolutionary fathers, are worth the blood and treasure, at which they were obtained, it surely is our duty to protect and defend them. Can there be an American patriot, who saw the privations, dangers and difficulties experienced for the want of the proper means of defence during the last war, who would be willing again to hazard the safety of our country, if embroiled; or, to rest it for defence on the precarious means of national resource to be derived from commerce in a state of war with a maritime power, who might destroy that commerce to prevent us obtaining the means of defence, and thereby subdue us? I hope there is not; and if there is, I am sure he does not deserve to enjoy the blessings of freedom. Heaven smiled upon, and gave us liberty and independence. That same Providence has blessed us with the means of national independence, and national defence. If we

omit or refuse to use the gifts which he has extended to us, we deserve not the continuation of his blessings. He has filled our mountains and our plains with minerals—with lead, iron, and copper; and given us climate and soil for the growing of hemp and wool. These being the grand materials of our national defence, they ought to have extended to them adequate and fair protection, that our own manufactories and laborers may be placed on a fair competition with those of Europe, and that we may have, within our country, a supply of those leading and important articles, so essential in war. Beyond this, I look at the Tariff with an eye to the proper distribution of labor, and to revenue; and with a view to discharge our national debt. I am one of those who do not believe that a national debt is a national blessing, but rather a curse to a republic; inasmuch as it is calculated to raise around the administration a monied aristocracy, dangerous to the liberties of the country. This Tariff—I mean a judicious one—possesses more fanciful than real danger. I will ask what is the real situation of the agriculturist? Where has the American Farmer a market for his surplus product? Except for cotton, he has neither a foreign or home market. Does not this clearly prove, when there is no market either at home or abroad, that there is too much labor employed in agriculture; and that the channels for labor should be multiplied? Common sense points out at once the remedy. Draw from agriculture this superabundant labor; employ it in mechanism and manufactures; thereby creating a home market for your bread stuffs, and distributing labor to the most profitable account; and benefits to the country will result. Take from agriculture in the United States six hundred thousand men, women and children, and you will at once give a home market for more bread stuffs than all Europe now furnishes to us. In short, sir, we have been too long subject to the policy of the British merchants. It is time that we should become a little more *americanised*; and, instead of feeding the paupers and laborers of England, feed our own; or else, in a short time, by continuing our present policy, we shall all be rendered paupers ourselves. It is, therefore, my opinion, that a careful and judicious Tariff is much wanted, to pay our national debt, and afford us the means of that defence within ourselves, on which the safety of our country and liberty depends; and last, tho' not least, give a proper distribution to our labor, which must prove beneficial to the happiness, independence, and wealth of the community.

"This is a short outline of my opinion, generally, on the subject of your enquiry, and believing them correct, and calculated to further the prosperity and happiness of my country, I declare to you, I would not barter them for any office or situation, of a temporal character, that could be given me.

"I have presented you my

opinions freely, because I am without concealment; and I should indeed despise myself, if I could believe myself capable of desiring the confidence of any, by means so ignoble.

"I am, sir, very respectfully,
"Your most obt. servant,
(Signed) ANDREW JACKSON.
Dr. L. H. Coleman, }
Warrenton, N. C. }

The following extracts from the Treasury Reports of Mr. CRAWFORD, will give our readers some idea of the opinion he entertains of the Tariff bill. In his Report of 12th Dec. 1821, he says:

"But it is possible, that the progressive increase of the revenue which has been anticipated, and which is necessary to the full operation of the Sinking Fund, may not be realized. In that event, the public expenditure authorized by law, may, after the 1st of January, 1825, exceed the public revenue.

"The remedy in such case must be, 1st. an increase of the public revenue by an addition to the existing impositions."

"A general revision and correction of the duties imposed upon foreign merchandize seem to be required." "A correction of the existing duties, with a view to an increase of the public revenue, could hardly fail to effect that object to the extent of nearly 1,000,000 dollars annually. It is highly probable, however, that an increase on some of those articles might eventually cause a reduction of the revenue; but this can only take place where similar articles are manufactured in the country. In that event, domestic manufactures will have been fostered, and the general ability of the community to the public exigencies will have been proportionably increased."

Extracts from the Report of Dec. 23, 1822.

"To provide for the estimated deficits of years 1825 and 1826, as well as to meet any extraordinary demands upon the Treasury, which unforeseen exigencies may require, it is believed to be expedient that the revenue should be increased.

"This may be conveniently effected by a judicious revision of the Tariff, which, while it will not prove onerous to the consumer, will simplify the labors of the officers of the revenue." "It is, therefore, respectfully submitted, that all articles composed of wool, cotton, flax, hemp, or silk, or of which any one of these materials is a component part, be subject to a duty of 25 per cent. ad valorem. The duties upon glass, and paper, upon iron and lead, and upon all articles composed of the two latter materials, may also be increased with a view to the augmentation of the revenue. In all these cases, except articles composed of silk, it is probable, that the effect of the proposed augmentation of duties, will gradually lead to an ample supply of those articles from our domestic manufactories."

Extracts from the Report of Dec. 31, 1823.

"The views which are herein presented, are founded upon the idea, that no extraordinary expenditure is to be incurred. If, however, it be deemed advi-

sable to give increased extension or activity to the navy, or to aid in objects of internal improvement, it is believed that such additional means as may be required, may be obtained by a judicious revision of the Tariff. Such a measure was recommended in the last annual Report, with a view both to the increase of the revenue and the simplification of its collection; and further reflection and experience have tended to strengthen the opinion then entertained, that its operation, without being onerous to the community, would be advantageous to the revenue, salutary to commerce, and beneficial to the manufactures of the country."

From the Richmond Enquirer.

To the freeholders of the counties of Charlotte, Rockingham, Prince Edward, and Cumberland; and Commonwealth of Virginia:

Fellow-citizens, friends and freeholders! A recurrence of the same painful disease that drove me from my post, some two years ago, again compels me to ask a furlough; for I cannot consent to consider myself in the light of a deserter. But no consideration whatever would have induced me to leave Washington, so long as a shadow of doubt hung over the transactions of the Treasury; which I was (among others) appointed to investigate. It was at my instance, and not without considerable resistance on the part of a majority of the Committee, that the Secretary had the opportunity given him, to file his answer to the accusation of Mr. Edwards. I was satisfied that justice required this course to be pursued, at the same time that it would expedite the business, and abridge the labor of the Committee. If the Secretary's conduct was defensible, who could make that defence so properly as the party accused? If otherwise, it was high time that he should be dismissed from a station of which he was unworthy.

I confess, that I was not without some misgivings, that all was not right. Holding myself aloof from the intrigues and intriguers of Washington, I had remained a passive spectator of a scene, such as I hope never again to witness. Not that I was without a slight, a very slight preference in the choice of the evils submitted to us for our acceptance. I inclined towards Mr. Crawford for some reasons which were private and personal, and with which it is unnecessary to trouble you—but chiefly, because you preferred him to his competitors, and because if elected he could, in a manner be compelled to throw himself into the hands of the least unsound of the political parties of the country: that he would, by the force of circumstances be constrained to act with us (the people) whilst the rival candidates would by the same force of circumstances be obliged to act against us—and with the tribe of office hunters and bankrupts, that seek to subsist upon our industry and means. The number of these that infest Washington, especially during a first session of Congress, and above all, about the termination of an adminis-

tration, is inconceivable to those who have not seen the swarms.

I said, that I had some misgivings, that all was not as it ought to be. But when I read the reply of Mr. Crawford, I had not a shadow of doubt remaining on my mind. It is the most triumphant and irresistible answer that ever met the accusation of a base and perjured informer. I have no doubt that there is not a mercantile house in our Atlantic cities, that has not lost a much heavier percentage on its western debts, than we have done, since Mr. Crawford took charge of the Treasury; even supposing the sum now due to be wholly lost. And it is a matter worthy of notice, that the very people at whose prayers and entreaties, and to save whom from utter ruin he has pursued a line of conduct that has been the most virulent accusers and persecutors, for that very conduct, which has contributed at once to their relief, and at the same time been serviceable to Government by rescuing a large debt from the almost total loss which would have followed a rigid exercise of his authority. He has availed himself of discretionary powers reposed in him by the law, for that purpose, and with that intent, to mitigate the severity of the sufferings of our western fellow citizens, whose clamors, had he taken a different course, would have dissolved the present feeble and distracted administration of our government; and Actæon like, he is assailed by the very hounds he has cherished and fed.

I confess that this base, unmanly conspiracy against Mr. Crawford has given to my mind a degree of interest in the ensuing election, that ten days ago I deemed it impossible for me to feel. I shall rejoice in the discomfiture of a plot got up, as I verily believe, in Washington, for his destruction; for I know too well the baseness and timidity of the character of Edwards (self-convicted as he is) to believe that he would have dared to take such a measure, even covered by flight from the resentment of his injured enemy, without a promise of protection from a high quarter—and here I say, once for all, that I impute nothing unfair to any one of the candidates for the Presidency. But how have the aspersions of this calumniator been met? By the most temperate, passionless, mild, dignified, and irrefragable exposure of their falsehood, without one harsh word towards their author.

The pilot admonishes me to end this letter. If the people of Virginia shall be mad enough to call a Convention, I make an humble tender of my services. I have lived and hope to die a freeholder, and when I lose that distinction, I shall no longer have any motive to be proud of being your faithful servant.
JOHN RANDOLPH, of Roanoke Nestor, at sea, May 17, 1824.

Connecticut.—The Presidential Electors in this state are to be chosen by the people, and vote by general ticket. At a meeting of the members of the Legislature a ballot was taken which stood: Adams 124, Jackson 14, Crawford 7, Clay 2.