



THE "FREE PRESS,"
By George Howard,

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COMMUNICATIONS.

FOR THE FREE PRESS.

"My business in this state,
"Made me a looker-on here in Vienna,
"Where I have seen corruptions
boil and bubble,
"Till it o'errun the stew; laws for
all faults,
"But faults so countenanc'd, that
the strong statutes
"Stand like forfeits in a barber's
shop,
"As much in mock as mark."
Shakespeare.

Mr. Editor:

It has been said by a great political writer, that all the governments that now exist in the world, except the United States of America, have been fortuitously formed. They have been altered, impaired, improved, and destroyed by accidental circumstances, beyond the foresight or control of wisdom. Their parts thrown against present emergencies, forming no systematic whole. That the government of the United States emanates from a written Constitution, and is a government of checks and responsibilities, and is in theory the best that ever existed in the world is equally true and incontestable; but whether its administration is best, or whether the remark of Pope, the eulogist of the British government, is about to be verified, that "that government is best which is best administered," time alone will ascertain. I will not say at present, that the government of the United States is corruptly administered, but will not any attentive and candid observer say with me, that it has been for some years past carelessly and negligently administered, bordering near on corruption. How will you account for the great and monstrous sums of money which the people of the United States have sustained the loss of, thro' the negligence, the inattention, or malversation in office, of the officers of the government, whose business it is to take care of the people's money: sum after sum is lost to an immense amount, and yet nothing is done by our Members of Congress to prevent this wide spreading mischief: it is time for the people to rouse and inquire what is the reason of this public calamity. Is it not the bounden duty of our Members of Congress, who hold the purse-strings of the nation, to guard against these shameful and serious losses of the people's money? It is. The Congress is the natural check upon the wicked measures of those who administer government. The Members of Congress are the Grand Inquest of the nation at large: it is their duty, as the conservators of the public, to be vigilant, and to watch over the welfare of the people; to see how their money

is applied and managed, to cause delinquents frequently to settle their accounts; and to see that the numerous officers of government, such as clerks, collectors of the revenue, postmasters, navy agents, contractors, &c. and many other blood suckers should give bond and security for the faithful discharge of the duties of their respective offices, and the care of the public money: but instead of which our members in Congress (with a few exceptions) during the session are seen prowling about the streets of the city, wrigling in here, and wrigling out there; intriguing for offices for themselves or for their friends; or intriguing and caucussing for some great officer of state to be the next President; feasting sumptuously at this man's table, fattened on the spoils of the country, and finally, like Esau of old, selling his birthright for a mess of pottage. Such, sir, is a faithful, but melancholy picture of the servants of the people.— Turn them out, fellow-citizens, as unfit agents of the public; and elect others who will be more watchful of the public interest: there are no hopes of many of them resigning when they receive eight dollars a day.

How comes it to pass, sir, that during the administration of General Washington that not a cent of the people's money was lost or misapplied? Have we in a few years become so degenerate or so corrupt as to lose millions? I know that it is difficult to exclude corruption; where there is any thing worth striving about, such creatures as men generally are, will use indirect means for obtaining it. Human nature, it is said, sir, is every where alike; it is the same in all ages, at all times, and in all countries; it is only the operation of moral and political causes that makes the social character different. The undue influence for offices prevailed at Rome so early as the 458th year from the building of the city, which occasioned the making a law to prohibit canvassing for votes. The difficulty of excluding corruption is no reason for giving over all endeavors to abolish it; we must resolve to be virtuous, however difficult it may be, or we are undone as individuals; we must root corruption out of the United States, or we are undone as a nation; and finally the Constitution will perish;—"Have not Rome, Lacedemon, and Carthage perished? It will perish when the Legislative power shall have become more corrupt than the Executive." Who that has visited the metropolis of the United States, during a session of Congress, does not recollect to have seen hundreds of candidates for fame and for fortune swarming in the streets of the city, crowding our public places, hanging on Members of Congress, seeking and intriguing for offices, contracts, places, &c. and which it is to be lamented too many of these caterpillars obtain, by undue influence, and without any honor or profit to the United States. It would astonish you, sir, to see mere Clerks in our offices of government, riding to their offices in the most splendid carriages, and from thence to their dinners; white drivers and

a white servant standing up behind the carriage, sometimes upon one leg, and sometimes upon the other, like a flying Mercury, aping the manners and customs of corrupt and degenerate Europe. To support these gay and costly equipages, it requires great sums of money; where does it come from, for a Clerk's pay is not sufficient to support him in this lordly style? From the sweat of the people, I will answer. Depend upon it, sir, "there is something rotten in the state of Denmark."

NEMA.

(Circular.)

HENRY CLAY.

Washington, May 25, 1824.

The friends of Mr. Clay adopted him in consideration of political principle, public service, and distinguished talent. Upon a full consultation, with a perfect knowledge of the facts, and a just estimate of all the probabilities connected with the question, they now determine to adhere to him steadily to the end. It is due to him, to his numerous supporters, and to the respectable States by which he has been nominated, to make this declaration.

They were prepared to make any sacrifice, the country, the cause, or the occasion, might demand. But his withdrawal now could produce no result, as his friends, in the electoral vote, would divide; their weight would be lost, and perhaps increase the doubt and uncertainty. The election must, in any and in every event that can be anticipated, come into the House of Representatives.

He is now sustained by a weight of influence equal to that of any other candidate; he has more personal and political popularity, and they believe can compete successfully with any man in the nation.

They now offer to the consideration of the people the following candid statement of the relative strength of the parties—from which they will be able to judge correctly of the views herein taken. It is useless to disguise or misrepresent the facts. It is due to the subject and the People to state the truth; and all other means are disdained:

It is believed that Mr. Adams will have six states:—Maine, Massachusetts, New-Hampshire, Rhode-Island, Connecticut, and Vermont, 51

Mr. Crawford will have three states:—Virginia, North-Carolina, and Georgia, 48

Gen. Jackson will have four states:—Pennsylvania, Tennessee, Alabama, and Mississippi, 47

Mr. Clay will have six states:—Ohio, Kentucky, Indiana, Illinois, Missouri, and Louisiana, 46

It is believed that New-York, New-Jersey, Delaware, Maryland, and South-Carolina, have given no decided indication, and that in these the question is entirely open. Mr. Clay is known to have numerous influential friends in each of these states. His chances are equal to any, and superior to some of the candidates.

They will not speculate upon the probable votes of those states

—the changes that may happen, the combinations that may be formed, and the events that may intervene. But, after the most dispassionate consideration of the subject, they are candidly of opinion that Mr. Clay will be returned to the House of Representatives. To the wisdom of that enlightened body, if it be unavoidable, they with confidence submit his claims.

Entertaining the highest respect for the other candidates, they will not indulge in any invidious comparisons of their strength. But it may perhaps be assumed, that if from any cause, Mr. Crawford should not receive the vote of New-York; if General Jackson should not receive the support of some of the doubtful states—or if Mr. Adams should not receive the vote of New-York—Mr. Clay must be returned to the House, without calculating any of the contingent or probable events that may render that event certain.

If, contrary to all probability, Mr. Clay should not be returned to the House, his friends, having done their duty, will be able by concentration to control the event—they will hold in their hands the balance—they will determine between the opposing and conflicting interests, and secure to the country a Republican administration.

Under all the views taken, it is determined to recommend to his friends to adhere to him steadily—and to await with confidence and patience the issue now pending before the people.

ANDREW JACKSON.

Virginia.—At a meeting of the Fredericksburg Corresponding Jackson Committee, held at the Town-Hall, on the 14th of June, 1824:

Communications were read from the Corresponding Committee at Winchester, &c. proposing that a Convention be called for the purpose of framing an Electoral Ticket, and naming the town of Fredericksburg as the place for holding such Convention.

Whereupon, it was resolved, that those persons in the different Electoral Districts in this state, favorable to the election of Gen. Andrew Jackson as President, and John C. Calhoun, as Vice-President of the United States, be requested to appoint Delegates to a Convention to be holden in the town of Fredericksburg, on Wednesday the 29th day of July next.

[Signed by the Committee.]

As a full meeting is desirable, and it may be inconvenient for some of the Delegates to attend, the Committee respectfully suggest to such, the propriety of appointing proxies to act for them.

It is with much pleasure the Committee inform the friends of their Candidate, that they could immediately form a Ticket composed of some of the most respectable and enlightened citizens of the State; but they deem it best to lay before a Convention all the information they have received, and by concert form such a Ticket as may emphatically be denominated the "People's Ticket."

The different Editors in this

state and the District of Columbia, are requested to publish the foregoing.

The Committee.

Important decision.—The Court of Appeals of Virginia decided on Friday, in the case of Brooks and Hobson, that the securities of an executor are not responsible for the proceeds of any lands of the testator, sold or otherwise disposed of by him or his executors, under the authority of the will of the first testator. And that securities of the first executor are not liable for the acts of his executor, although the will of the first executor may have directed that the second executor should give no security.—*Enquirer.*

New-York.—The Mercantile Advertiser of Friday, says:—"It is stated to us, by gentlemen who have made particular enquiries, that there are now erecting in the Eighth Ward of this city, about one thousand houses; and it is computed that the whole number of houses built the present season and now building in the whole city, will exceed three thousand.

Western Commerce.—Within the two last years, no less than 10 steamboats have been built at Pittsburg, Pa. and there is now one on the stocks.— Their tonnage was as follows: 240, 230, 120, five of 100, 80, and 60.

Navy.—The trial of Midshipman Barney, for the alleged murder of a sailor, on board of a vessel of which he was mate, terminated at New-York on the 3d inst. Barney was acquitted, the jury considering it an act of justifiable homicide, while in the discharge of his duty.

Catholic Religion.—A German paper says, "The Pope has made an additional grant of \$24,000 annually, *de propaganda fide*, for the special purpose of encouraging the progress of the Catholic Religion in the United States of America."

La Fayette.—A New-York paper states, that this distinguished patriot has declined the invitation to come to America in a national vessel; and that he would shortly embark at Havre for that port in one of the line packet ships.

Execution.—Jones, the colored man, convicted of murder committed on board the brig Holkar, was hung on the 11th inst. on Ellis's Island, near New-York. The place was surrounded with steam, team, sail, and row boats, filled with people. He was reconciled to his fate, and to his last moments confessed his guilt, and the justice of his punishment.

Ship-building.—Cotton sails and leather bottoms will in a short time be substituted for hemp and copper. We have seen almost satisfactory evidence in favor of the change. Economy and durability are certainly in favor of cotton and leather, if correct conclusions have been drawn from recent experiments.

Petersburg Intellig.