



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.

COMMUNICATIONS

FOR THE FREE PRESS.

"Hear now my reasonings."

To detect and oppose bad men or bad measures, Mr. Editor, is laudable; it is the duty as well as the interest of every individual that has it in his power. But it is as much incumbent on the members of society to unite in supporting good men and good measures, when they are attacked by writers, who confound right and wrong, good and evil, and promiscuously decry and misrepresent every action or sentiment which is not on a level with their capacities. Under this impression I would, sir, with your permission, address a few words to my fellow-citizens, on the following remarks, which appeared in your paper of the 18th (ult.) under the signature of *Callimachus*.—After "asserting" that Mr. CRAWFORD has "been more consistent in his political career than any other candidate for the office of President," he withdraws a previous exception of Gen. JACKSON, on account of a recent discovery of his real sentiments, and concludes as follows:

"And what was so much dreaded by the honest Republicans of '93, is coming thick upon us; and we shall at last find ourselves but a contemptible atom in the huge mass of a consolidated government. Is a man who advocates principles of such a tendency a fit person to be President of the United States? Gen. Jackson does!!!"

That this, fellow-citizens, is another evidence of the melancholy fact, that no expression can be so perfect but it is capable of misrepresentation, will readily be admitted on a perusal of the following paragraph; from which, it is presumed, the above logical deductions were drawn:

"Now is the time to exterminate that monster, called party spirit. By selecting characters most conspicuous for their probity, virtue, capacity, and firmness, without any regard to party, you will go far to, if not entirely, eradicate those feelings which, on former occasions, threw so many obstacles in the way of government; and perhaps have the pleasure and honor of uniting a people heretofore politically divided."

Will Callimachus ask for proofs when "I assert" that the adoption of these principles were strongly urged by the illustrious Washington: and that they have not only been advocated but practised, in a greater or less degree, by each succeeding administration since the formation of our government? Will he require proofs when "I assert" that republicans were appointed to office under the federal administration of John Adams: and that federalists have held distinguished civil and military offices under the

republican administrations of Jefferson, Madison, and Monroe? Unquestionably not. He cannot have been such an inattentive observer of recent events, or so totally regardless of the history of his country as to doubt the fact.

But let us proceed to an investigation of the consistency of Mr. Crawford: and here I would remark, that in thus analyzing his political career, I will equally avoid those assertions, that are so obnoxious to Callimachus, and those arguments in which he appears to be wholly enveloped; and confine myself solely to a statement of a few facts, which the friends of Mr. Crawford, with all their double interpretations and illusory distinctions, have not been enabled to disguise from the people. And which will exhibit such proofs, such "damning proofs," of his inconsistency, that even the arguments of Callimachus shall not efface this foul blot on the political escutcheon of Mr. C.

In July 1798, under the administration of John Adams, and after the passage of the Alien and Sedition laws, Mr. Crawford stands convicted of having drafted and sanctioned an Address, expressing, "the most unlimited confidence in the firmness, justice, and wisdom of that administration." I do not "assert" that the Address had direct reference to the Alien and Sedition laws, nor to any "particular part of his administration:" there are the words, and they are not "too nice" "for the comprehension" of the people.

In the session of 1807-8, Mr. Crawford made his first appearance in the councils of his country, as Senator in Congress. During that session, Mr. Jefferson, then President of the United States, recommended to Congress the laying of an embargo, to save our immense mercantile capital from French and British spoliation: Mr. Crawford voted against this measure, in a small minority, with all the federalists.

In 1809, when the "Republicans" had determined to repeal the embargo, and pursue more active and energetic measures, we find Mr. Crawford again on the "opposite" side, voting against the repeal of that act.

In 1811, under the administration of Mr. Madison, on the motion to renew the Charter of the United States' Bank, which was so obnoxious to the republicans of that day, Mr. Crawford voted with all the federalists.

At a subsequent period, Mr. Madison transmitted a message to Congress, detailing the injuries inflicted on us by Great Britain, and recommending measures suitable to the emergency. Mr. Crawford characterized this message as having all the ambiguity of a response from the Delphic Oracle; and solemnly admonished the Senate against preparation for war. At a later period, when the war became obviously inevitable, Mr. C. opposed the creation of a navy, pronouncing it "worse than ridiculous to think of defending our commerce by a navy."

Fellow-citizens! I have con-

finied my remarks solely to the political consistency of Mr. C. and have endeavored to illustrate it by an exhibition of some of his public acts and opinions. Facts are stubborn things; no art nor power can change their nature, and they will always prevail over the most plausible colorings. We have seen this "honest republican of '98," complimenting the federal administration of John Adams; and this "consistent" republican, opposing some of the principal features in the republican administrations of Mr. Jefferson and Mr. Madison. I have not noticed Mr. Crawford's opposition to the administration of Mr. Monroe, presuming that no "proofs" will be required on this head, since his friends have openly assumed the name of "Radicals," and hold him up as the great reformer of abuses. Will Callimachus still "assert" that Mr. Crawford has been more consistent in his political career than Gen. Jackson? If so, I humbly ask for "the proof! the proof!" If he can point to a single instance wherein Gen. J. acted with the federalists in opposition to a republican measure—if he can produce an entire sentence that directly advocates federal principles, or has a tendency to a consolidated government—if, fellow-citizens he can produce "proofs" of such dereliction, on the part of Gen. J. from those principles for which he fought in "times that tried men's souls," and which he has always professed to maintain, in the closet and in the field, I will acknowledge that Callimachus has a better knowledge of his political career than he who now addresses you; and should he furnish "proofs" to counterbalance the aberrations of Mr. Crawford, I will cheerfully acquiesce in his opinion, and yield the palm of political consistency to Mr. C.

HALIFAX.

FOR THE FREE PRESS.

NO I.

My Fellow-citizens:

The time has come when it behooves every patriot of America to step forward in the defence of the liberties of his country: a defence, however, not called for to be made on the field of battle, to repel an external foe; but to protect us from the clouds of ignorance and fanaticism, which seem to thicken and lower over our political horizon. It is to defend innocence, virtue, and liberty itself, that our country calls upon us to step forward, and oppose the rapid strides which prejudice is making upon ignorance, and design upon prejudice. In carrying on this opposition, it will become necessary to speak candidly, and to call things by their proper names; however poignant and acrid it may be to the taste of some, or stinging to the conscience of others. Our maxim is, "that truth should prevail, tho' the heavens and the earth be shaken;" but even truth, by those who have an indisposition to receive it, is attended to with an adder's ear; and is perverted and ridiculed by others, whose designs, intrigues, and ignorance it exposes. That such

should continue to shoot at it while there is an arrow in their quiver of detraction, is not otherwise to be expected: but truth, immortal in its nature, will stand the durability of ages, though often obscured by the ephemeral triumphs of falsehood, ignorance, superstition and error. Our country has hitherto been blessed with the triumph of truth and liberty; under the auspices of these, the land of our fathers has flourished, and we have been a happy people. But lo! our national policy is now changed! and we, who by the whole face of the earth have been acknowledged to be an agricultural people, have by an act of the last Congress been declared to have been a manufacturing one. A discovery which has been made entirely by the sagacity of our new-fangled politicians, or would-be political soothsayers: for they do not pretend, that the sacrifice, which must be made by the farming and agricultural interest of the country, will at all result to the benefit of the present age; but that future generations, who, (for aught we know) may never make their appearance upon the face of the earth, are to receive its immortal blessings.

It may be so; I am neither a necromancer, nor a fortune-teller; and therefore I profess no learning of future events. I should, however, have had more confidence in the result, had there not have been so much difference of opinion amongst the soothsayers themselves; as a great number of them seemed to have thought, that those blessings would have been wrought in fifty years, while the greatest number were very confident that it would require a hundred; some, however, were in favor of a hundred and fifty years, and others more, which produced at first much division in the camps of the gifted gentry, and at once, seemed to have augured their final defeat. But, unfortunately for this country, there was one point on which they all agreed, and around which they all rallied; (that is) "that future generations would ultimately be blessed by it."

Whether the people will support these political soothsayers and their advocates, in carrying into effect such a measure, or consent to be legislated for as a manufacturing people, instead of an agricultural and a farming one, it is submitted to them to say. If so, let them go to the polls, and vote for him who is in favor of encouraging domestic manufactures, by making every farmer and agriculturist in the commonwealth pay its cost, without the prospect of an earthly benefit one hundred years to come. And let not the people be deceived in discriminating those who advocated these political soothsayers and their doctrines; for rely on it, he who votes directly, or indirectly, for any one who voted for that measure, is himself a supporter of that measure; and whether he does this intentionally or unintentionally, it is the same thing in the end to the farmer—his interest sustains an injury, and he becomes a sufferer by the assault.

Having committed to the

hands of the people those political soothsayers and their advocates, I shall now proceed to make some animadversions upon the character of an individual, who is held up and supported for the chief magistracy of this nation. Commenting upon the character of any individual, is at times disagreeable; but doubly so, when commenting upon the character of an individual, who we must all confess, has rendered many great and meritorious services to his country. It is a subject which I approach with that degree of awe and solemnity, that becomes the occasion; and should conceive myself totally unjustifiable in even doing this, were it not the loud call, which my country makes on every patriot in the Republic to defend its honor and its liberty.

Into the protection of whose hands the liberties of this country are to be committed, is at this time the great question which agitates this nation to its centre; and upon which the people must soon be called to decide. In making this decision, it becomes every man, who has a regard for his property or his freedom, to ponder well in silent meditation on the qualifications of the different personages who are held up as candidates to fill that distinguished and all-important trust; and to make known to his fellow-citizens, either in private or in public, the reasons by which he has been led to decide.

As there is but one of the candidates by whose elevation I am apprehensive of any great or immediate danger resulting to the liberties of the nation. I feel it a duty incumbent on me, to state the reasons upon which these apprehensions have been founded, which I shall do with brevity and candor: and in the first place will make this assertion, that should the character of an individual afford evidence of violence or immorality, that there would be reason to apprehend danger by placing into the hands of its possessor, the liberties of a nation, is a proposition to which all rational men will readily subscribe. That Gen. JACKSON has, or does, possess such a character, his warmest friends cannot conscientiously deny: nor do I yield in point of friendship for Gen. Jackson to any man in this nation. My reasons for opposing his pretensions to the Presidency, at this time, is not that I admire Gen. Jackson the less, but that I love the liberties of my country the more; but for that, and indeed, I should have been amongst the last, to have drawn aside the veil, which concealed his defects, and have made apparent those blots which must ever darken his escutcheon, and tarnish his brightest victories; for the exposition of these, he is indebted more to his pretended friends, who have improperly dragged him, (although wearied with years,) before the public; to answer, I fear, some base and designing purpose: and I am fearful, very fearful, that they are endeavoring to force upon the General more weight than he can conveniently carry; which, should he even be successful, must ultimately compel him to sink beneath its ponder-