



THE "FREE PRESS,"

By George Howard,

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COMMUNICATIONS.

FOR THE FREE PRESS.

"I speak not to disprove what Brutus spoke, But here I am to speak what I do know."—*Shakspeare.*

Mr. Editor:

It has truly been observed, that most of the difference of opinion which exists in the world, arises from the want of agreement, as to the meaning of terms and of propositions. This remark was forcibly called to my mind, on reading the observations, in your last paper, under the signature of *Freedom's Friend*.

As it contains two distinct propositions, I will notice them in the order in which they stand. The first is—

"Rely on it, he who votes directly, or indirectly, for any one who voted for that measure, (the tariff bill,) is himself a supporter of that measure."

Far from me be the attempt to justify the conduct of any person who advocated that bill in any manner. Nor, fellow-citizens, should I have obtruded myself before you on this occasion, but for the maxim—"that truth should prevail, tho' the heavens and the earth be shaken." And since, in this case, if we cannot applaud, we must condemn, let us examine it carefully and dispassionately, and cast our censure on the most culpable. Instead of suffering our attention to be artfully directed to the West, and to reprobating the conduct of a Western Representative, who acted in accordance with the known and expressed wishes of his constituents; let us draw a little nearer home, and inquire whether *our* Representatives have been zealous and faithful in the discharge of their duty.

It has always been a leading principle with the Executive of the United States, that in forming an administration the four great sections of our country should, if practicable, be as equally represented in the cabinet, as in the Halls of Congress. The South has been particularly favored by the present Executive: one of the Departments being repeatedly offered to citizens of the West, and as often declined, was tendered to, and accepted by, a Southern citizen. Thus favored in the cabinet, and presenting in the national councils a display of talent seldom equalled and never surpassed, how mortifying to our feelings to witness the passage of a bill so peculiarly oppressive on this section of the country: how must that feeling be increased by the reflection, that an individual to whom we looked for the protection of our dearest rights, has been so far forgetful of himself, and of the people he

so wilfully misrepresents, as not only to recommend, but *repeatedly to urge* the passage of a bill, against which their united voices were raised in loud and repeated murmurs.

That WM. H. CRAWFORD has acted in this manner, the following extracts from his Treasury Reports, cannot fail to convince the most sceptical:

In 1821—"A general revision and correction of the duties imposed upon foreign merchandise seem to be required."

In 1822—"It is believed to be expedient that the revenue should be increased. This may be conveniently effected by a judicious revision of the Tariff."

In 1823—"If, however, it be deemed advisable 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 "would be advantageous to the revenue, salutary to commerce, and beneficial to the manufactures of the country."

And yet, fellow citizens, with these facts staring us in the face, we are gravely told that Mr. Crawford is opposed to the present Tariff, and that he merely wanted a *judicious* revision of the one previously in existence. This subterfuge will not avail them. Hear what his warm friend and ardent supporter, the *National Intelligencer*, says:

"It may be fairly presumed, now, that the Tariff is settled for many years, and it is a subject of congratulation, that, being settled, the revision has approached so nearly to the beau ideal of a "judicious" one."

We are further told that he is a moderate Tariff man. As early as 1818, the amount of duties on a great many articles was specifically recommended by Mr. Crawford; most of which equalled, and some exceeded the present rates. I will notice one article in particular, as it is only used in the South—"On Cotton-bagging, 6 cents per yard." The present act has fixed the rate at 3½ cents per yard.

Let every individual, especially the farmer and agriculturist, as they desire to thrive by their industry, and to subsist honestly and comfortably; as they value plenty and the blessings that flow from it; as they wish for the increase of national prosperity and individual happiness; and as they regard the welfare of the present and future generations, ponder well this subject, and act according to the dictates of their own judgments.

We will now notice the second proposition, which is as follows:

"And in the first place I 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 General JACKSON has, or does, possess such a character, his warmest friends cannot conscientiously deny

Violence and immorality are certainly very indifferent passports to public favor; and should an individual possess these qualities, no person could be justified in advocating his claims to preferment, in either a civil or military capacity. That Gen. JACKSON possesses such a character, his friends "conscientiously deny;" and where can we apply for testimony so well, when people are divided in opinion about the character of a public officer, as to our national archives, and the repositories of documents; in these none can be mistaken, and they afford ample materials to justify us in saying, that his *energetic conduct*, mistaken for *violence*, has not only been exerted in defending the liberties of his country, and in promoting the happiness and welfare of the people committed to his care, but that it has been approved by a vast majority in our national councils. But these will not answer the object of most of our political writers: the "say so" of some, and the hypercritical comments of others, are pointed to as sources of authentic intelligence, while public documents are abandoned or forgotten.

Do we require further illustration on this point? Some of our worthy and respectable citizens are fearful of trusting this violent man at the head of the courtly and complaisant gentry at Washington; yet, should an attempt be made on the liberties of our country, by the despots of Europe, (which is not altogether impossible, however calm the political horizon may be at present,) and it would appear necessary to raise an army of 100,000 men, even these prudent politicians, would willingly place the violent Jackson at its head, and not apprehend any danger from the abuse of power. And, no doubt, would again act the grateful part so well described by the poet:

"When war and dangers come about, And all is trembling, fear and doubt, We'll call this veteran from repose To meet and fight his country's foes. But when the battle's strife is ended That country which his sword defended, Shall bid the hero in retirement go, And twine their favors on another's brow."

Mr. Editor, when plain facts, and plain reasonings upon them, are clearly laid before the people, they are as competent judges of them, and understand their real interest as well as persons of more knowledge and better education. That they may read, reflect, and decide for themselves, is the sincere wish of your humble servant,

HALIFAX.

FOREIGN.

PORTUGAL.

We gave in our last a brief sketch of an explosion at Lisbon, which created for the time much consternation, but which soon subsided. Some of the papers intimate that the affair grew out of a drunken frolic, but we have been able to find no good foundation for this singular movement. A thousand rumors were afloat upon the subject, at least 999 of which must be incorrect. It seems that while the King was shut

up, and that when the Corps Diplomatique demanded admission to him, M. Hyde de Neuville declared that Europe only acknowledged the king. His firmness succeeded, and an Aide-Camp of the prince introduced the Corps Diplomatique to the king, who declared that what was going on was unknown to him, and was not done by his orders; and that his son was about to arrive. In fact, Don Miguel soon arrived, knelt down, kissed his father's hand, and declared to the ambassadors and ministers that a conspiracy against his life had been discovered; that he had been obliged to take the measures he had taken to prevent it; that if the Corps Diplomatique had been stopped for an instant, it was because he feared some mischievous persons might enter the palace under their protection; and that he now came to receive his majesty's commands.

News was received in London, on the 22d May, the purport of which was, that the King of Portugal had been restored to the full possession of all his authority, and that the prince had been compelled, not only to resign the command of the troops, but to withdraw himself from Court.

SPAIN.

The general amnesty has at length been published in Spain. The principal exceptions are: The chiefs of the military insurrection of the Isle of Leon; the members of the Cortes who proclaimed the dethronement of the king at Seville; the chiefs of military insurrections in different parts of Spain, &c. the assassins of Veneza, the judges of Elio, and the authors of the massacres in the prisons of Grenada. The London Times speaks of this decree as "something called—we should presume by the rule of contrariety—an amnesty, addressed by the clement Ferdinand of Spain to his subjects. It is sometimes said, foolishly we think, that the exceptions prove the rule; but in this case, certainly, the exceptions prove that there is no rule, for there is nothing but exceptions. All are pardoned except every body. That is the rule and exceptions in six words." It is said that the councils of the Holy Alliance have produced this amnesty. If so, the same councils will be most wisely exerted, both for Ferdinand and Europe, in convincing him that what were once the possessions of Spain across the Atlantic, are no longer so; and never again can become so. We say never; and we say it upon adequate grounds.

TURKEY.

Nothing certain is known as to the intentions of the Pacha of Egypt, and conjecture itself seems to be puzzled. The account of the great conflagration at Cairo is confirmed, and it is stated in some eastern letters that the fire was set by design, by the Pacha himself, that, under pretext of recruiting his finances and his stores, he might excuse himself with a good

grace from taking a part against Greece. Another view of the subject, however, is given in a letter from Constantinople, of the 9th of April, in which, after mentioning the departure of a part of the fleet, it is said that the fleet is only going to the islands of the Archipelago; and that the Morea and Idra are given up to Mahomet Ali Pacha, to put down in the best way he can. It is also stated that the Pacha's son, Ibrahim Pacha, leaves Egypt with a regular force this season. It is then added, and if true it is a very important feature in this intelligence, that "they have hopes to treat with the Greeks, allowing them to govern themselves, on paying an annual tribute. They expect the Greeks will have confidence enough to treat with the Pacha of Egypt—with the Porte they do not seem inclined to treat at all—and they are all in the right."

SOUTH AMERICA.

Peru.—A letter, dated Guayaquil, March 18, says: "I left Lima in the hands of the Spaniards. They entered the city, 3000 strong, on the 26th ult. the handful of patriot soldiers retreated before them. All was quiet, foreign property was respected, and no excesses committed. What will be the event of these things it is impossible to say. The Spanish army is formidable; but if Bolivar has time to get his troops from Venezuela, he will be successful—but should the Spanish army press hard upon him before the reinforcement arrives, he will be compelled to retreat.

Lima is now blockaded by Admiral Guise. Business will be entirely suspended so long as the Spaniards have the command on shore. Many voyages will be destroyed in consequence, as there is no other market of importance on the coast for the consumption of provisions."

The writer of the letter subsequently on his journey from Lima to Callao, was attacked by fourteen or fifteen robbers, who wounded and robbed him, but some officers providentially came up and rescued him from the hands of the assassins.

ENGLAND.

The English Court.—The King of England lately held a splendid drawing-room, at the old palace of St. James, and it being the first that had occurred for several years, it was most numerous attended. We observe the American Minister enumerated among the company, but not his lady. To give some idea to those of our fair countrywomen, who may perhaps occasionally be tempted to admire in fancy the finery of such pageants, we have made two extracts from the court circular (which, including the detailed description of the ladies dresses, occupies some 10 columns of the London Courier) relative to the disasters of this famous *fete*.

The first relates to occurrences in the royal palace, and almost in the royal presence, the second to out door scenes.

"The company continued to