



**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 arrearages.

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.

—  
"It now remains

That we find out the cause of this effect;

Or, rather say, the cause of this defect.

For this effect defective comes by cause."—*Hamlet*.

Mr. Editor:

Great allowances are to be made for the foibles and mistakes of those who are the head of our affairs, for they are no more than men; and for the miscarriages of their measures, for they are conducted by persons subject to the like passions and errors of judgment as other mortals: but this indulgence should never extend to a total neglect or indifference of their public conduct. Nor can the people be more eager to investigate the conduct of their public officers, than the truly upright are to put themselves upon the judgment of their country.—They, like gold out of the fire, come more refined out of a fair and equitable enquiry. Men that have nothing to fear, nor to hide from public view, will always advance their reputation by a faithful exhibition of their actions before the guardians of liberty. And they who, when called upon to answer for their conduct, take sanctuary under any other protection than their own innocence, can never be acquitted of public censure.

I was led to these reflections, sir, on perusing the Report of the Committee of Investigation, and the testimony and documents, relative to the "Vindictive accusation," recently made against WILLIAM H. CRAWFORD, the Secretary of the Treasury. It certainly must be a source of great satisfaction to the good people of the United States, to see their public officers acquit themselves of imputations cast upon them; provided that their defence does not rest upon artificial evidence made up of non-entities. Condemning the practice of prejudging any person, I would have refrained from making observations on this subject, until it had a *final decision*, but for the constant harping, by the friends of Mr. C. on this "*triumphant acquittal*."

As there are several practices brought into view by this Investigation, which were not previously known, and which I conceive to be entitled to the serious consideration of every true patriot, I will endeavor to "separate the wheat from the chaff," that my fellow citizens may "assign to each its due degree of value."

"The address contains two general charges against the Secretary; one, of mismanaging the public funds."

In support of this charge, it

appears that—1st. "Deposites of public money (was) made or allowed by the Secretary in the Banks of this District (of Columbia,) at the instance and on the solicitation of the Banks themselves, and as an *accommodation to them*," in direct VIOLATION OF THE CONSTITUTION; which provides that no money shall be drawn out of the Treasury but by an appropriation by law. And, further, "that there is a probability of final loss" of the money deposited in one of these Banks. The Committee "was of opinion that the practice itself was irregular and dangerous;" but, as "*a practice, of a like character, was stated to have been of early existence and long continuance*," they could not condemn the measure.

2d. "That, although the banks of Tombeckbee and Edwardsville were liable to account for deposits (of public money) 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 \$15,000 from the one, and \$20,000 (*unavailable funds*) from the other, of those banks, appears to have acted according to what he supposed to be the *rights of the parties*."

3d. "That the Secretary did omit to communicate to Congress (*in violation of an express law*) 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*."

4th. "That the balance now due from these (five of the western) banks is \$440,820 63; a great portion of which may be considered lost."

"The other (charge is) 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."

This charge is unequivocally admitted, for the Committee distinctly state—"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 *from accident, or from a belief that the papers so omitted were immaterial or not called for*; and that there is no evidence than any document or information has been withheld from improper motives."

Fellow-citizens, I would not be understood as having an intention to impugn the motives of the honorable members of the Committee of Investigation, to doubt the correctness of their conclusions, nor to question the *propriety* of the course pursued by the friends of Mr. Crawford, in this affair, from its introduction in the House of Representatives, until the present period. Believing that every one who has it in his power, and does not endeavor to promote the welfare of his country, according to

his station, is in some degree answerable for its misfortunes, I would merely direct your attention—1st. to the charges; 2d. to the defence; 3d. to the *grounds* on which this "*triumphant acquittal*" is bottomed.

Money, fellow-citizens, has been emphatically styled the sinew of war, and the bone and marrow of corruption and intrigue. What an immense field is opened for the exercise of these qualities by this power so unlawfully assumed. A public officer, at his own discretion, can distribute the people's money among his friends, *for their accommodation*, and when called upon for thus violating the Constitution of his country, is justified by the example of his predecessors. He can withhold papers and documents, when called upon by the Representatives of the people, and exonerate himself by saying that they were *immaterial*; and if, afterwards, they should appear to be material, that the omission was occasioned by *ac ident*. This may all be correct; but there is not a subject in any other civilized government in existence that would *dare* to act thus on his own responsibility. And, forsooth, should a person have the presumption to question the legality of these proceedings, although he establishes the principal *facts*, that the *Constitution and the laws of the land* have, in *several instances* been violated, yet, for thus doing what has heretofore been considered a laudable and praiseworthy act, he is to be hunted out of society.

We may boast of our liberty and our laws, and of the accountability of our public officers to the sovereign people; but let us remember, fellow-citizens, that indolence and passiveness are the forerunners of national destruction; and that, when there is found a way to stop these inquiries, the number of bad officers and rulers will increase. Should this spirit be once stifled, what would become of our liberties? Could the people be persuaded to remain passive and silent, regardless and insensible of the danger into which they might be brought by bad men and bad measures, the time of our dissolution as an intelligent and free people would be nigh at hand. Nothing is more fatal amongst human errors, that to put off the evil day, or to make light of such misfortunes as do not immediately affect us. No doubt there may be instances wherein it may be the highest prudence not to anticipate ill fortune, yet *principiis obsta* is a maxim in politics, as well as in corporeal diseases, never to be forgotten.

HALIFAX.

—  
FOR THE FREE PRESS.

—  
CANDIDATES FOR  
THE PRESIDENCY.

—  
"Amicus Plato sed magis amica veritas."

Mr. Howard:

I have taken the liberty to give to the people, through the medium of your paper, a few remarks on the political characters of those gentlemen, who have been named as candidates

for the all-important office of President of the United States.

Mr. J. Q. ADAMS is a man of splendid talents, a fine scholar, an elegant writer, and possesses considerable knowledge and experience in civil affairs; but he lacks political integrity. Talents and abilities are against the man who is not politically honest. Arnold had talents and abilities; but who would trust Arnold? The elder Adams possesses more learning, experience and abilities, than his son; yet who would, were he not so far advanced in years, wish to see him again President? "The Cunningham Correspondence," and "Review" of the same, by T. Pickering, prove, by the most incontrovertible evidence—1st. The strong aristocratic disposition of the whole of this family. 2d. They prove in plain terms the political meanness of the present applicant for the people's favor.

John Adams informs his friend Cunningham, that the sharpest and most bitter pieces that ever came from the press against the Republican party, (whom he calls Jacobins) emanated from the pen of his son J. Q. Adams. He was, until he turned apostate, the most unrelenting and rancorous of the federal phalanx; he turned traitor to his party, but not to his original principles, for the sake of office; he cut a somerset, and vaulted out of the federal into the republican ranks, in a way the most dishonorable. Jefferson recommended an embargo, the bill was reported and run thro' the Senate of the United States three times in the small space of four hours. Mr. Crawford moved, on one of the readings of the bill, that the further consideration of it be postponed until the next day, that they might act understandingly on it. Mr. A. with all the zeal of a new convert, made the following remarks, as taken down in writing by his colleague—"I would not consider—I would not deliberate—I would act. Doubtless the President possesses such further information as will justify the measure!" How servile was this conduct! How low he stooped for his exaltation! Will any reflecting man vote for a person so destitute of principle? A senator, sent by his state to consider, and to deliberate, says he will do neither, but submit to the will of the President. How different was Crawford's conduct! If he was not permitted to deliberate, he resolved to vote against the bill; or, because he had foresight to know, what the whole world now knows, that it would be a useless measure, and not produce the desired effect. Yet there are tyro's in politics, who offer this vote of Crawford's as a reason for their opposition to him.

Mr. CLAY, is a gentleman possessing imposing talents, and some pretensions to oratory, but nothing that will bear any thing like a comparison with the efforts of the ancient or modern school. There is one attainment which a President should not be destitute of—it is sound judgment: this quality of the mind is in a great measure the gift of nature. Mr. Clay is miserably destitute of it; no effort

of his can ever acquire it. He has, I will not say corruptly, but from the defect aforementioned, been gradually sapping the foundations of our Constitution, by his system of construction. When he cannot find a power for Congress to act under, he immediately begins to imply, infer, and conjure up powers by *construction*. The Bank law, Roads and Canals law, the Tariff, are among the most prominent of the acts on the statute book, when a plain common sense man might read in vain, in the Federal Constitution, for a power to authorise Congress to pass them. Yet they are, *fas aut nefas*, sent forth as laws, and Mr. Clay may be said to have been the principal agent in the passing of each of them.

He is prodigal of the public money. Before the recognition of the independence of the South American states, he offered an amendment to the civil list bill, appropriating \$100,000 for the purpose of defraying the expenses of diplomatic missions to those governments. By his exertions, four ambassadors, with each nine thousand dollars outfit, and nine thousand dollars salary per year, have been despatched, when *Charges des Affaires*, or Consuls General, with diplomatic powers, would have done our business just as well. We have ambassadors at nearly all the governments in Christendom, when they have none with us. I have just read of one of ours, (Gen. Dearborn) having been offered, as a present, a medal, with the King of Portugal's portrait set with diamonds, for his efforts in preventing the people of that country throwing off despotism, and resuming their former constitution. Mr. Clay's popularity rests on his efforts in support of the late war, and the aid he gave Senator Thomas in effecting the Missouri compromise; take these props from under him and he falls to the ground. He lacks that sterling stamp of character, which should always belong to the President. He can, with Jefferson's manual in his hand, preside over the House of Representatives, but he is unfit for higher office.

(to be continued.)

Louisiana.—A citizen at Louisiana contradicts an assertion of the National Intelligencer, that from appearances, Gen. Jackson will receive the votes of Louisiana for the Presidency. He states that "there is no probability of Gen. Jackson's obtaining the vote Louisiana; that Mr. Clay will get the vote of that state, if his friends think he has any prospect of success. If not, the vote will be for Mr. Crawford or Mr. Adams. Mr. Crawford (he adds) is gaining very fast in Louisiana. Such is the information received from every part of the state, by letters from the most influential characters."

Ohio.—In this state there are three tickets formed. One for Clay, one for Adams, and one for Jackson. The popularity of these gentlemen, from present appearances, may be rated in the order in which they are named. Jackson apparently is rising rapidly in public estimation.