

Communications

FOR THE FREE PRESS.

To the Freeman of the Counties of Halifax, Northampton, Bertie and Martin:

We, the undersigned, for ourselves and by our agents, do hereby agree to decline being candidates for Congress, to supply the vacancy occasioned by the resignation of Col. Burton. We do this for the sole purpose of aiding the election of Mr. CRAWFORD to the Presidency; and we hereby pledge ourselves to use our best exertions to aid the cause in which we are embarked.

Given under our hands, the 23d December, 1824.

T. BURGESS,
GEO. B. OUTLAW,
Rich'd Jones, for }
JOHN ALSTON, }
J. J. Daniel, for }
JAMES GRANT. }

GEO. OUTLAW, Sen. of Bertie, is a candidate to represent this District in Congress, and if elected will support WM. H. CRAWFORD for President.

For the Free Press.

CONGRESSIONAL CANDIDATES.

A CAUCUS was held yesterday evening in this town, by the late candidates for Congress in this District, (for there were several) to choose the most eligible person to fill and supply the vacancy occasioned by the resignation of the late representative of this District.—The high contracting parties attended by themselves, their agents, and plenipotentiaries, and, after considerable consultation, the high parties issued their ultimatum, wherein it will be seen that the parties assigned, set over and transferred, the free voters of the counties of Halifax, Northampton, Bertie and Martin, in good order and well-conditioned, to the elder Geo. Outlaw, of Bertie. A sine qua non of the candidates' resignation was, that their respective vassals and tenants should vote for Mr. Outlaw, as the person most likely to succeed against our old representative, Mr. Willis Alston. Few things have excited more wonder and political curiosity than this state paper, or ultimatum of the parties; it is before the public and they will judge of its subject matter; but it is not, we trust, rash to say, that it is an extraordinary production. It would seem that the hateful principles of the feudal system are not yet extinct in North-Carolina—will the free and independent people of these counties submit to be transferred at pleasure, like sheep and oxen, by any set of men? Forbid it the shades of Hancock, Warren and Washington! But all this will not do—Gen. JACKSON is yet the man of the people, and it requires but little political sagacity to see that he will be the President of these United States—*esto perpetua* is the people's prayer.

Dec. 24, 1824.

For the Free Press.

Mr. Editor:

A printed Circular has recently made its appearance, purporting to be a resignation of four of the candidates, who had pledged themselves to the citizens of this Congressional District, that in the event of being elected they would represent them in the present Congress of the U. S. and announcing Geo.

Outlaw, sen. of Bertie, as a candidate for that station; their avowed motive for so doing is "for the sole purpose of aiding the election of Mr. Crawford to the Presidency." How far this singular manœuvre will aid the accomplishment of that object, time alone can determine; but as it is publicly declared that the Presidential question is to decide the election, it will afford the citizens of this district an excellent opportunity to re-consider their late decision. I deem it unnecessary, fellow-citizens, to recapitulate the claims of either Gen. Jackson or Mr. Crawford; they were freely canvassed pending the late election and must still be fresh in your memory; but there is one important consideration that in my estimation requires the serious and dispassionate investigation of every true patriot. Six months are past since it was publicly declared that Mr. Crawford was perfectly free from disease; since that period contradictory statements have frequently appeared respecting his situation; it has been asserted that his mental and physical faculties are so much impaired, as to incapacitate him from performing the duties of his office; in confirmation of this assertion, his friends admit that until recently he had to use a *fac simile* to sign his name; one will tell you that he is in perfect health, save an impediment in his speech; another, that he has a tottering gait; and a third, that his vision is imperfect; notwithstanding all this, his advocates pertinaciously adhere to him, and they would, if the fact could be concealed, though he were as senseless and as motionless as the Egyptian mummy, who we are told was embalmed 3000 years ago; nay, we doubt not, with some his very imperfections are powerful inducements for them to advocate his claims, for an automaton would answer their purpose far better than an Aristides or a Cato. I need not call to remembrance the insidious arguments used to influence the late election, their fallacy has been completely exposed. You were told that Mr. Crawford was the choice of the National Representation; but 66 out of 261 members attended the meeting that recommended him to the people. You were told that he was the choice of the nation; in the electoral colleges he received but 41 votes, not one sixth part of the whole number given. Virginia, his native state, and Georgia, the place of his residence, are his sole supporters, save Delaware; yes, Delaware, the only state in the Union where federal politics predominate, gave a majority for the misnamed "republican candidate." You have been told that eleven out of the twelve representatives from this state are in favor of Mr. Crawford, and yet from their extreme anxiety to have another elected, although it requires but a bare majority to decide the vote of the state, may we not reasonably infer that his partisans are conscious of their weakness and already anticipate defeat.

But is "aiding the election of Mr. Crawford," the sole motive for this extraordinary proceeding? There are in this state a class of politicians who are such warm admirers of the discipline of the Virginia school, and so closely wedded to Virginia politics, that, like a timid child, they dread abandoning their leading-strings, having no confidence in their own strength. Can they still flatter themselves with the hope that North-Carolina will

follow the trail of Virginia? Virginia, who never in one solitary instance, has evinced a disposition to advance the interests of North-Carolina, in a physical or moral point of view? Who never has deigned to notice her but as a sportsman would his obedient spaniel, for correction or reproof? No, no: the veil is rent: *the charm of Virginia influence is broken*: North-Carolina, firm and erect, presumes to think and act for herself; her hardy yeomanry have burst their fetters, and Virginia policy will henceforth, ere its adoption, have to stand the test of scrutiny. In this instance it has been weighed in the balance and found wanting: Gen. JACKSON is the people's choice, and he will be our next President, and *the vote of North Carolina will aid his elevation*. Nine out of the thirteen Congressional Districts in this state gave a decided majority for the PEOPLE'S CANDIDATE, and their representatives will not, they dare not, act in direct opposition to the instructions of their constituents, audibly and unequivocally expressed through the medium of the ballot-boxes; they know full well that *vox populi* is the sheet anchor of our institutions, and when that is disregarded or abandoned, the safety of the Republic is endangered.

HALIFAX.

FOR THE FREE PRESS.

MASONIC FESTIVAL.

A numerous meeting of the members of the Masonic fraternity was held in this place on Monday last, for the purpose of celebrating the Anniversary of St. John the Evangelist. They met at the Masonic-hall at 11 o'clock, opened a lodge and proceeded to install the officers; a procession was then formed which moved to the church, where they were addressed for a short time by the Rev. Richard Carter, whose eloquent and appropriate discourse it is believed gave general satisfaction. The procession was again formed and moved to the Mansion-house, where an elegant repast was prepared. The festivities of the day closed with a splendid ball, in which the beauty and fashion of this place and its vicinity shone with peculiar lustre.

FREEMASONRY.

At this season, when Masonic Festivals and Processions are so common, it must be natural for those, who have not been admitted into the benefits which result from the institution; and for what purpose it has been patronised by so many great and illustrious personages. From the profound secrecy, in which the system of masonry is very strictly, as well as properly involved, its benefits now are, and will for ever be, best known to the members of the fraternity.—Thus far, however, may be asserted without fear of contradiction, that it promotes Philanthropy, benevolence, and morality; and that in proportion as masonry has been cultivated, the countries in which it has shed its benign influence, have been proportionably civilized.

There is, likewise, a very important advantage attached to masonry, viz. that its signs and tokens serve as a kind of universal language; so that by means of them people of the most distant nations, may become acquainted, and enter into the most friendly intercourse,

with each other. In this society, the bigot, and the enthusiast throw aside their rancour, and will readily take by the hand a brother, who walks in the paths of moral rectitude, and will treat him with tenderness, humanity, and delicacy, whatever diversity of opinion may be entertained between them, with respect either to politics or religion.

Thus through the instrumentality of Freemasonry all those disputes, which have so much agitated and disturbed the world upon subjects, concerning which it has been found impossible to come to a final conclusion, and which only tend to irritate the mind, are avoided. Here harmony and peace predominate. The Chinese, the Algerine, the Persian, the native of Indostan, the Turk, and Jew, may, under the masonic banners, associate in love with their Christian brethren, and participate of all the benefits of the institution; nor is any dispute tolerated between whigs and tories, federalists and democrats, or any other political factions.

The basis of masonry is peace, good will to men; and he knows very little of its essential and fundamental principles, who does not feel it as an imperious duty to promote, as far as may be in his power, the happiness of the whole human race, particularly of those, who may be connected with himself in the same fraternity.

From these observations, the utility of masonry must be sufficiently apparent. Its benefits are well known to its members, who deem them invaluable; and to the world it must appear obvious, that a distressed mason, will, in most parts of the globe, find a brother ready and willing to assist him.—*Let brotherly love PREVAIL,—and continue.*

THE ABUSES OF MASONRY.

The Masonic society has received more injury, by introducing Strangers to its principles, and in suffering men to enter its sacred walls, who were not fit materials for the edifice, and who could not have the working tools of the Craft adjusted to them; than from all the derision the world can throw upon it—Weigh them in the balance, they are found wanting—*TEKEL must be written upon them.*

Do we put upon them the *twenty four inch gauge*, there is no division to be found—no part for God.

Bring the *plumb line* to such a one: he neither stands upright before God or man, it will not fit; put the *mallet* and *engraver's chissel* into the hand of the most skilful workman, there can be no appearance of the diamond found.

Bring him upon the circle of universal benevolence; present him with some of our precious jewels—he has no eyes to see them, he will cautiously avoid them.

Point him to the rounds of Jacob's ladder—he cannot climb; Heaven-born charity is a stranger to his bosom.

Attempt to make use of the trowel—there is no cement of brotherly love and affection in him.

Such materials are totally unfit for the Masonic edifice, and ought to be thrown over among the rubbish. And now brethren by reason of the introduction of strangers among the workmen, our ancient and honorable institution is brought into disrepute. Let our actions and morality, therefore, be such as to silence the tongue of slander, and blunt the dart of envy.

N. Carolina Legislature.

SENATE.

Friday, Dec. 17.

Mr. Love, from the committee of Finance, reported that it is inexpedient to pass any law compelling Sheriffs, before they advertise lands for sale for taxes, to make oath that they cannot find perishable property.

Mr. Wellborn, from the joint select committee, to whom was referred the subject, reported that it is inexpedient at this time to alter the time of the meeting of the Legislature.

Saturday, Dec. 18.

Mr. Montgomery, from the select committee, to whom was referred the resolution, directing an inquiry into the salaries and fees, of the public officers, &c. requested that the Committee be discharged from the further consideration of the subject, which was agreed to.

Mr. Barringer, from the committee on Agriculture, reported a bill to continue in force an act, passed in 1822, for the promotion of Agriculture and family domestic manufactures; which was read the first time.

The House resolved itself into a committee of the whole, Mr. Speight in the Chair, on the bill concerning the election of Sheriffs, vesting the right thereof in the people. After some time the committee rose and reported the bill with sundry amendments; the principal of which was to strike out the first section. The House refused to concur—30 to 28. The question on the passage of the bill was determined in the affirmative. Yeas 31, Nays 27.

Monday, Dec. 20.

The Senate resolved itself into a committee of the whole, Mr. Wilson in the Chair, on the bill to carry into effect a contract entered into by Benj. Robinson and Wm. Robards, commissioners on the part of the state, with certain Indians of the Cherokee nation; and after some time spent therein, the committee rose, and the Speaker resumed the chair. The chairman then reported progress, and obtained leave to sit again on Wednesday next.

Tuesday, Dec. 21.

A bill to amend the act of 1821, establishing an Academy in the town of Halifax was read the third time, and ordered to be enrolled.

Wednesday, Dec. 22.

A bill to authorise the town commissioners of Halifax to make a settlement with the commissioners, appointed under the act of 1818 to sell and lay off the town lots, and for other purposes passed its second and third readings, and was ordered to be enrolled.

A message from the other House, proposing that the select joint committee appointed to consider the resolutions of the Legislature of Georgia proposing an amendment to the Constitution of the United States, be discharged from the consideration thereof. Agreed to.

The bill to authorise & direct the Supreme Court to be holden in the several places therein named, and to advance the administration of justice on the trial of Equity causes, was read the third time, amended, and ordered to be engrossed—yeas 32, nays 28.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

Thursday, Dec. 16.

Mr. Alston, from the select committee, to whom was referred the memorial of the Manumission Society, made a report,