

Communications.

FOR THE FREE PRESS.

WHITE LIES.

"A lie is a breach of promise; for whoever seriously addresses his discourse to another, tacitly promises to speak the truth, because he knows that the truth is expected."

But there are falsehoods, which produce no specific injury to individuals, and which in their general tendency cannot be considered either pernicious or criminal—such may be properly denominated "white lies." My object is, to show that the *colour* of the lie is frequently mistaken, and misapplied, consequently an injury produced when not intended.

Many persons, both young and old, male and female, are in the habit, in social conversation, of telling and exaggerating tales of fiction merely for the amusement of the company, without intending any injury to any individual whatever. The person who tells the tale, believing it at the same time to be false; and from his manner and style of delivery impresses the rest of the company with the same belief, cannot be said to be guilty of an evil intention, or a design to injure the person who is the subject of the tale. Although the intention may be an innocent one, and without a design to produce any injury whatever, yet, the subject of the jest may take up an idea to the contrary, fearing that the company may give credence to the story, and thereby be the means of injuring his reputation. Under this impression, he accuses the person who repeats the jest, of having propagated a falsehood against him, with a design to injure his character. When such a state of things occur, unpleasant consequences frequently ensue. In this case, the *colour* was misapplied. And it goes to show the necessity of always being well acquainted with the individual who is the subject of the jest, whenever we are disposed to indulge in this sort of amusement. For, although in the above case, it is evident that no injury was intended, nor indeed, was there any produced in the public mind; yet, the subject of it felt himself injured, and in consequence of which, expressed his determination to obtain satisfaction,—(a trait of conduct, attributable to his natural disposition—) therefore, I say it is all important to be well acquainted with the disposition of the person who is the subject of the jest, before we venture to take this liberty with his name.

Again—the *colour* is sometimes "mistaken," either designedly or through ignorance. If I ask an individual a civil question, which is of great importance to me, and it be in his power to deceive me by answering in the negative,—although an affirmative answer might disclose a secret, which it is his wish to conceal,—would it not be more consistent with moral obligation, to evade the question and not answer it at all, than to answer in the negative, thereby intending to deceive? Such an act may be considered by some, an act of prudence in certain ca-

ses, as it tends to maintain that confidence which was placed in them by another individual, viz: to keep a secret. If it be considered prudent to destroy the peace and injure the feelings of a man, by deceiving him, when at the same time, a simple truth could not possibly produce any injury to any human being, it is a false conception of this moral principle, and a "mistake" in the *colour* of the falsehood.

Under the canopy of a "white lie" he erects his standard of liberty! a liberty, a privilege to deceive! This liberty defeats its own end. For, as the speaker considers himself under no obligation to adhere to the truth, the faith of the hearer must be extremely perplexed; and when once deceived, and the deception produces a serious injury, he will never again give credence to any thing he says.

The latter case is one, in which there was evidently a design on the part of the speaker, to deceive the hearer—it was a wilful deceit; and when our expressions are not true in the sense, in which we believe the hearer to apprehend them, we wilfully deceive, or in other words we tell a lie. In this case, the speaker "mistakes" the *colour* designedly:—however, in the strict sense of the word, it cannot be considered a "mistake," as he has a knowledge of what he is doing, and therefore, knows that he is guilty of a wilful deception. On the other hand, we may view it in the light of a "mistake," as it is the wish of the speaker to impress the public mind with the belief, that he did not intend any injury by the deception. *Amphimedon.*



Tarborough,

SATURDAY, MAY 12, 1837.

Town Officers.—On Monday last, David Barnes was elected Magistrate of Police, and Randolph Cotten, Jas. W. Clark, Michael Hearn, Robert Joyner, and John Parker, Commissioners of Tarborough, for one year.

Alteration.—Our readers will perceive, by an advertisement on the first page, that the Trust Sale of Land, Negroes, &c. by Jesse F. Jones, will take place on the *second* Monday in June, instead of the first, as before advertised.

Congressional Candidates.—In the 12th district, Samuel P. Carson will be opposed by James Graham and Robert B. Vance. In a recent Circular to his constituents, Mr. C. says:

"Before I conclude, fellow citizens, permit me to bring to your notice the importance of a crisis which is fast approaching—a crisis big with the fate of the people's rights; and one which may decide forever the important question, whether the people will be governed by their own wills, or whether the *intrigues, management, and corruption*, of the present ambitious aspirants for office,

will again stifle their voices, and triumph over our dearest rights, perhaps, for ever. Such is the importance of the next Presidential election. But I rest confident, that in the contest the people will be heard, and distinctly understood. And that while corruption is made to tremble at the majesty of their power, that they will reward the merits of that patriot, statesman, and honest man, General Andrew Jackson, by elevating him to the highest office in their gift."

Complimentary.—Mr. Van Buren, a Senator, and Mr. Cambreleng, a Representative in Congress from the State of New-York, arrived in Raleigh on Sunday the 29th ultimo, on their return from an excursion to the South, and left there the subsequent Wednesday. On Monday, they dined at Gov. Burton's, in company with a large number of the citizens; and received an invitation to partake of a Public Dinner, which they declined. The Raleigh papers contain the invitation of the Committee, and the replies thereto, from which we have extracted as follows—Mr. Van Buren, after declining the invitation, says:

"I feel bound to notice your impressive reference to that great political principle, which more than any other distinguishes between men and parties at the present day, viz: a desire to confine the action of the Federal Government within the limits designed by the framers of the Constitution. You certainly do no more than justice to your State, when you claim for her the great merit of having been among the earliest, most consistent, and efficient advocates of this fundamental principle. All dispassionate observers will admit that the measures to which you allude justify the claim you express. The spirit of encroachment has assumed a new and far more seductive aspect, and can only be resisted by the exercise of uncommon virtues. But it is consoling to know, that all that is necessary to make that resistance effectual, is an inflexible adherence to those sound doctrines which have ever characterized the politics of North-Carolina. When the opinions which do honor to you become the general sentiment, then, and then only, will the safety of our political institutions, and, consequently the liberties of the people, be placed beyond the reach of contingencies."

Mr. Cambreleng, (who is a native of this State,) answered as follows:

Gentlemen—I regret that an indispensable engagement prevents me from accepting the very polite invitation of the citizens of Raleigh.

Allow me, gentlemen, to participate in the just pride you must feel that "North-Carolina has never been found among those who oppose the General Government in measures adopted for the good of the Union." When that Union was threatened, and the public cause demanded it, she and other patriot States were foremost in sustaining the Federal Government in the exercise of every power necessary to maintain our honor and defend our country: while others, unfortunately, were most anxious to strip it even of

the powers common to every form of government. It is not among the least remarkable of the revolutions of the day, that with little exception, those who were so lately distinguished for their resistance of federal power, when the crisis required its full exercise, should be now, from motives perhaps too obvious to be questioned, most zealous in their efforts to usurp every attribute of sovereignty. At such a moment it is some consolation to the patriot States of the Union, to find themselves again associated in defending the public interest against the unconstitutional efforts of a despairing ambition. Whatever may be the result, it will always give me pleasure to recollect that even my exertions, however humble, have been noticed with approbation by the citizens of Raleigh, to whom I beg you to express my grateful acknowledgments.

Accept, Gentlemen, the assurance of the very great respect of your ob't serv't,

C. C. CAMBRELENG.

Will. Polk,

Wm. Boylan, and

Joseph Hawkins, Esquires.

We understand that a meeting of the friends of Gen. Jackson, in Franklin county, will be held at Louisburg on the 19th inst. for the purpose of adopting measures for the promotion of his election to the Presidency of the U. States. *Raleigh Star.*

Sporting Intelligence.—The Belfield Races commenced on the 17th ultimo:

Mr. Clay's Sally McGehee walked over the course for the Proprietor's Purse.

Jockey Club Purse, \$400, three mile heats, was taken at two heats by Mr. Johnson's Shakspeare, beating Sally McGehee.

The *Lawrenceville* Races commenced on the 24th ultimo:

A Sweepstakes, \$100 entrance, was taken at three heats by Mr. Clay's b. c. Andrew Scoggin, beating Capt. Harrison's b. c. by Virginian, and Mr. West's b. f. by Archie. (Mr. Johnson paid forfeit.)

Proprietor's Purse, \$200, two mile heats, taken at two heats by Capt. Harrison's ch. f. P. Q. S., beating Wm. R. Johnson's ch. f. Nancy Abner, and Mr. Duan's b. f. by Virginian. (Won very easy.)

Jockey Club Purse, \$650, four mile heats, taken at two heats by Capt. Harrison's ch. h. Red Gauntlet, beating W. R. Johnson's Pirate, and Dr. Shell's ch. f. by Napoleon—time, 8m. 20s. & 8m. 24s.

The *New Market* Races commenced on Tuesday, 1st instant:

A Sweepstakes, (ten subscribers,) taken at two heats by Mr. Johnson's b. c. by Contention, beating Mr. Harrison's g. f. by Virginian, Mr. West's cr. co. f. sister to Mulatto Mary, and Dr. Minge's s. c. Weyanoke by Virginian—time, 1m. 51s. & 1m. 54s.

Proprietor's Purse, \$300, three mile heats, taken at two heats by Mr. Garrison's s. m. Sally Hope, beating Mr. Johnson's b. h. Pirate—time, 6m. 4s. and 6m. 6s.

Jockey Club Purse, \$700, four mile heats, taken at two heats by