

Communications.

FOR THE FREE PRESS.

I have recently discovered a publication in the Free Press, suggesting the propriety of passing a law extending a stay of execution two years in cases where specie is demanded in payment of debts; in the circle of my acquaintance there appears to be a large majority of the people in favor of the measure, while some few doubt its constitutionality. To satisfy myself on the subject, I have carefully examined our Bill of Rights, the State Constitution, and that of the United States, and can find no item that stands opposed to such a measure: (hold, says a wise legislator,) read the tenth section of the first article of the Constitution of the U. States: No State shall coin money, emit bills of credit, make any thing but gold and silver coin a tender in payment of debts, or pass any law impairing the obligation of contracts—and to extend a stay of execution two years, would be virtually making bank notes a lawful tender, or would certainly be impairing the obligation of contracts. Let us examine it—sometime anterior to establishing the State Bank of North-Carolina, we had a paper currency among us which was made a lawful tender by an act of the Legislature. I do not recollect of ever hearing their constitutional right disputed; it was a useful money within the State; it would pay the farmer's debts and save his property from being swept away by a specie sale—but it did not suit our traders abroad so well as bank notes, they would rather have them than the paper currency or the farmer's produce to pay their northern debts, though they pass at ten per cent. discount; in consequence of which the State Bank was established, and our lawful tender redeemed by that institution, their notes becoming a substitute for our currency. Well, so long as those notes were received as a substitute in discharge of debts the people were satisfied; but of late they are refused in payment, and specie is demanded; and surely the people have a right under such circumstances, to expect legislative aid. We do not request our Legislature to coin money, emit bills of credit, or make us a lawful tender; but simply to grant a stay of execution in certain cases, to enable the honest farmer to pay his debts and bear the vast discount between the money of this State and that of the United States, and save his property from being swept away at specie sales by ambitious creditors. And will any man say that such a law would violate the Constitution? Let us examine the second item, (to wit:) impair the obligation of contracts—the word impair signifies to injure or make worse, and will any man in his right mind say that by extending a stay of execution, the debt bearing six per cent. interest, with the addition of seven per cent. discount between the paper of this State and that of the U. States, will be injuring or making a con-

tract worse? I hardly can believe it. But there are other laws, fellow citizens, within the State which are worthy of some notice as well as the Constitution; one of which reads thus: Any person elected a member of the General Assembly, who shall by himself or any other person, directly or indirectly give or cause to be given any gift, gratuity, reward, or present whatsoever, or give or cause to be given by himself or any other person, any treat or entertainment of meat or drink at any public meeting or collection of people, to any person or persons whatsoever, for his or their vote, or to influence him or them in his election, shall be expelled from his seat in the General Assembly; and if on the day of election, shall forfeit £100. But, says one, if we do violate the law, as the people participate in the treat, surely they ought to excuse us; and further, as the practice is so prevalent in the State, if we were not to pursue it, we should render ourselves unpopular and have to stay at home—take heed that you do not render yourselves unpopular by neglecting that which will be of far more importance to nine-tenths of your constituents than a treat. For surely, if the Legislature has a right under the Constitution to make a law to stay execution four or six months, they could by same right grant stays of twelve or eighteen months, or suspend payment for the relief of oppressed citizens two years, as has been done some years past, by giving new and additional security to secure the debt—so that it cannot be unconstitutional, but like a further stay of execution, all of which is only an infringement upon individual right, to keep one citizen from too much oppressing another for the general good. And he that now thinketh he standeth may by the reverse of fortune need the same help, therefore, the Legislature should and ought to interfere to prevent oppression and thereby save the property and no doubt lives of some valuable citizens; for blood will be shed if persisted in and no interference by the Legislature, I feel confident. It is also unjust, unless it had been so understood when the contract was made, for the creditor is by obtaining specie adding seven per cent. to his debt, and the debtor losing it even if he could with convenience obtain the specie in discount for North-Carolina bank notes, which perhaps will not long be done as the pressure becomes worse. But the truth of the case is, the present banking system as going on is an oppressive speculation, an injurious monopoly, and an increasing curse to society; from which the people, the people in whom is the power, should deliver themselves.

Worthy of Imitation.—In the pine woods of Wilkinson county, (Geo.) a couple were in 1806 married—the gentleman, a bachelor, forty years of age. Since that time they have lived in a state of uninterrupted happiness, which has been crowned by the birth of twenty-one children, ten sons and eleven daughters, all alive and healthy at the present time.



Tarborough,

FRIDAY, AUGUST 15, 1828.

This number closes the fourth volume of the Free Press, the second since its location in Tarborough. At the conclusion of the last volume we expressed a hope, that we should be enabled on commencing the fifth volume, to present the Free Press to its patrons in an enlarged and improved form; but we regret to state, that the "signs of the times" in our pecuniary horizon indicate very plainly, that an increase of expenditure in any business would be very imprudent at the present time, especially where an adequate return is merely problematical. Our expences at present are as much as we conveniently can manage, and the prospect is not sufficiently encouraging to justify their increase. We are desirous to improve our paper, and will embrace the first favorable opportunity for so doing that presents itself; until then we must beg the indulgence of its patrons. It will be recollected, that there is no necessity for a new subscription on the commencement of the next volume, for those who are desirous to continue their support to the Free Press—those who wish to discontinue will please give us notice to that effect. We have made a favorable alteration in our terms of publication, extending the time of the middle payment until the end of the subscription year—if the first payment is made within a few weeks of the commencement of the year, it will be considered in advance. The terms, as modified, are as follows:

THE "FREE PRESS,"

By Geo. Howard,

Is published weekly, (every Friday,) at TWO DOLLARS per year, (or 52 numbers,) if paid in advance—Two Dollars & Fifty Cents, if paid within the subscription year—and Three Dollars at the expiration of the year—for any period less than a year, Twenty-five Cents per month. Subscribers at liberty to discontinue at any time on paying arrears. Subscribers residing at a distance must invariably pay in advance, or give a responsible reference in this vicinity. No subscription discontinued unless a notification to that effect is given.

Advertisements, not exceeding 16 lines, will be inserted at 50 cents the first insertion, and 25 cents each continuance. Longer ones at that rate for every 16 lines. Advertisements must be marked the number of insertions required, or they will be continued until otherwise ordered.

Letters addressed to the Editor must be post paid, or they will not be attended to.

Editors of newspapers, having accounts against this office, or, which they expect us to collect, are requested to forward them immediately, that arrangements may be made to have them liquidated.

ELECTION RETURNS.

Edgecombe County—L. D. Wilson, without opposition, *Senate*. Benjamin Sharpe and Benj. Wilkinson, *Commons*. State of the Poll: Wilson, 551—Sharpe 788, Wilkinson 767, John G. Blount 625. The following are the votes in the different districts:

	Sharpe.	Wilkin.	Blount.
1st dist. Tarborough,	23	27	50
2d - Brake's,	31	39	19
3d - Dixon's,	108	78	102
4th - Barnes's,	47	46	23
5th - Petway's,	38	32	8
6th - Amason's,	88	72	44
7th - Barterfield,	90	88	11
8th - Sparta,	72	57	32
9th - Armstrong's,	45	52	34
10th - Jenkins's,	43	28	24
11th - Harrell's,	72	47	31
12th - Leggett's,	27	39	47
13th - Parker's,	40	23	76
14th - Logsboro',	12	38	39
15th - Lynch's,	16	35	35
16th - Maner's,	4	41	40
17th - Pitt's,	32	25	10
Total,	788	767	625

Nash.—Wm. W. Boddie, *Senate*. Gideon Bass and Fred. Battle, *Commons*. State of the Poll: Boddie 301, N. J. Drake 161, Sen. Bass 356, F. Battle

366, Willie Pridden 313, Jesse Battle 307, *Commons*.

Granville.—Thomas Hunt, Jr. without opposition, S. Robert Potter and James Wyche, C. State of the Poll: Potter 1091, Wyche 523. John Glasgow 426, J. C. Taylor 390, Robert Jenkins 94. [It is said that Mr. Potter is the author of the Granville resolutions relative to the Banks, and that he was elected expressly on the ground of his hostility to the Banks, and of his pledge to bring them to the notice of the Legislature.]

Affray.—On Saturday last, an inquest was held in this county on the body of John Abrams, who died the preceding day: the jury returned a verdict that he came to his death by blows inflicted on him by David Hattaway, of Halifax county, on the preceding Saturday in the town of Tarborough. Adams and Hattaway were in town on that day and got into a fight, in which the former was severely bruised. Hattaway is under recognizance to appear at the ensuing Superior Court.

Louisiana.—The Administration papers are highly elated at the result of the recent elections in Louisiana, and some even go so far as to assert that the Presidential question is settled by them. Now we do not believe the parties are so nearly balanced, that the loss or gain of five votes will materially affect the result. They forget to remember, also, that at the last Presidential election the Legislature of Louisiana nominated Mr. Clay, yet Gen. Jackson received three of her electoral votes Mr. Adams 2, and Mr. Clay nary one!

Electoral Tickets.—We present to our readers the Jackson Electoral Ticket for this State—and, in consequence of their being no other press located in this vicinity, we have concluded to publish the Adams Electoral Ticket also, that our readers may become acquainted with the names of the individuals composing both Tickets.

NORTH CAROLINA
Jackson Electoral Ticket.
(Election on Thursday, 13th Nov. next.)

For President,
ANDREW JACKSON.
Vice-President,
JOHN C. CALHOUN.

- ELECTORS.**
- 1st dist. Robert Love, of Haywood county.
 - 2d - Montford Stokes, of Wilkes.
 - 3d - Peter Forney, of Lincoln.
 - 4th - John Giles, of Rowan.
 - 5th - Abraham Philips, of Rockingham.
 - 6th - John M. Morehead, of Guilford.
 - 7th - Walter F. Leake, of Richmond.
 - 8th - Willie P. Mangum, of Orange.
 - 9th - Josiah Crudup, of Wake.
 - 10th - John Hall, of Warren.
 - 11th - Joseph J. Williams, of Martin.
 - 12th - Kedar Ballard, of Gates.
 - 13th - Louis D. Wilson, of Edgecombe.
 - 14th - Richard D. Spaight, of Craven.
 - 15th - Edward B. Dudley, of New-Hanover.

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Adams Electoral Ticket.
For President,
JOHN QUINCY ADAMS.
Vice-President,
RICHARD RUSH.

- ELECTORS.**
- 1st dist. Isaac T. Avery, of Burke county.
 - 2d - Abner Franklin, of Iredell.
 - 3d - Robert H. Burton, of Lincoln.
 - 4th - Edmund Deberry, of Montgomery.
 - 5th - James T. Morehead, of Rockingham.
 - 6th - Alexander Gray, of Randolph.
 - 7th - Benj. Robeson, of Cumberland.
 - 8th - James S. Smith, of Orange.
 - 9th - William Hinton, of Wake.
 - 10th - Edward Hall, of Warren.
 - 11th - Samuel Hyman, of Martin.
 - 12th - Isaac N. Lamb, of Pasquotank.
 - 13th - William Clark, of Pitt.
 - 14th - William S. Blackledge, of Craven.
 - 15th - Daniel L. Kenan, of Duplin.

(COMMUNICATED.)
Mr. Howard: At a barbaque on Beach Swamp, in Halifax county, on the 7th inst. a vote was taken in Capt. White's company, on the Presidential question:
For Jackson, - - - 79
Adams, - - - 3 only!
[A correspondent in the town of Halifax, gives the following as