

## Communications.

FOR THE FREE PRESS.

**Mr. Howard:** I should not trespass upon your wanton forbearance, but from my firm conviction of the importance of the subject under consideration, and the necessity of attracting public attention to its complex relation with their interest, comfort and happiness. Confiding in the wisdom of our present, venerable Chief Magistrate, and equally devoted to the policy of his subordinate executive officers, I should be the last who would attempt to impair the confidence of the people in the security of their lives and fortunes under the present Administration.

That to secure our rights eternal vigilance is requisite, and that knowledge and information can alone impart energy and efficiency to this great republican maxim, is a truth which in this age of wisdom and unexampled intelligence none will dare to question. The clashing of conflicting statements, and the violence of party animosity which so eminently characterise the course of the partisans of the present day, would seem however to exclude the possibility of arriving at a correct conclusion on the present condition of our national affairs.

It is a fact admitting of no concealment, (a thing by no means required,) that the curtailment about to take place in our mail facilities and accommodations, has wrought gloomy foreboding upon numerous citizens in the vicinity of Stantonburg, and although none are so rash and inconsiderate as to become disaffected with the Chief Executive, I believe there are many who would question the ability of his subordinate officer, Mr. Barry. We are willing to extend our greatest degree of impartiality in scrutinizing the conduct of officers; and allowing for the zeal of party ambition will for the sake of argument admit, that both committees have erred in their reports in regard to the indebtedness of the Department. But the question at issue is not whether the Department is in debt, or whether Mr. Barry is capable of discharging its duties; but, whether he has not conformed to the proposed policy of his predecessor. The leading object under the administration of Judge McLean, was to extend the greatest number of accommodations; to diffuse information generally—and although Mr. Barry has increased the accommodations to double the amount of his predecessor, and acted in obedience to his injunctions, yet his ability has been questioned. In his late elaborate and masterly address he has clearly shown, from the receipt of a letter addressed to him by Judge McLean, at his coming into office, that "it was deemed good policy in him (Judge McLean) to permit the expences to go beyond the receipts, in order that the surplus of former years might be absorbed. It is the true policy (continues he) to keep the funds active, and never suffer a large surplus to accumulate."

If it be true, as I will not permit myself to doubt, that when Mr. Barry came into office, the responsibilities of the Department were involved for years in prospect, to the amount of nearly 100,000 dollars a year beyond its revenues, then the question, with tenfold recrimination, might be asked, why all this abuse and poignant invective against the present pure and honest incumbent?

The majority of the committee on post offices and post roads, on application to the Postmaster General for the necessary amount of money that would relieve the Department, were informed that \$450,000 of the money which had been paid into the Treasury by the Department would effect the desired relief, one-third to be reimbursed the first year, one-third the second, and the other in 1837. This was the money which Mr. Barry wishes to avail himself of, the use of which under similar circumstances he showed was the policy of his predecessor. But such is the rancor of party animosity, that even the grievances of the people are overlooked amidst the turmoils of confusion that prevail throughout our happy republic.

I have premised thus far, Mr. Editor

on the conduct of our public functionaries, in order to palliate the supposed offence which the Postmaster General has given in the proposed curtailment of our mail facilities from Tarboroug to Fayetteville. It is indeed an alarming crisis with the people on the route between those respective places. I, for my part, would be willing that my letter and newspaper postage should be increased to double its present amount, rather than submit to those disastrous inconveniences. But such is the condition of things, and such only the means of remedying them. Congress, or a curtailment in the extent of mail accommodation on the most unproductive routes, can alone relieve the Department of its pecuniary embarrassment, and restore harmony and peace among an industrious and intelligent people.

The war which has been waged by an imitated and factious Senate on the Executive and his subordinate officers, is of perhaps unparalleled in the history of national legislation. It is, Mr. Editor, a war between men. Principle, law, reason, nor even the paramount consideration of the people's interest, operate no remorse of conscience in these lawless desperadoes. They will feign discover the greatest defects in the beautiful system and harmonious measures of the present Administration; they would impose upon the people the belief that anarchy and confusion have usurped the place of a wise, vigorous and a most equitable Administration; and yet they will dare to withhold that aid which our necessities require, and which with an air of conscious ability they would superciliously disdain to offer.

This like the Bank, is another instance, Mr. Editor, of their efforts to drive men into measures. The people can see that they are imposed upon, and they will rise in their majesty against these abuses. It magnanimity and fortitude are requisite to insure success to an important enterprise, let us stand firm to the present Chief Magistrate. Let the people see that they would be coerced by a moneyed oligarchy, and that this attack upon the Department is only an effort to force a curtailment in the mail accommodations, from an error entailed on the Department by Mr. Barry's predecessor, and they will repel with indignation these insidious attempts to decoy them from their warmest and most natural attachments. Let them strike a fatal blow at Biddle, the political Archimedes, who like his prototype of yore continues with his mighty engine to hurl with an impetuous zeal his extinguishable flambeaus of Bank corruption amongst an honest and patriotic people; and who with the uninterrupted security of its present position might with its mighty power undo and subvert the liberties of the people.

The sources from which these complaints have originated, may be traced to the Bank and that party who wish to usher Judge McLean into notice, from the supposition of his having discharged the duties of his official course more efficiently than the present incumbent. These false and insidious charges should be made to recoil upon the enemies of the people, with a recrimination proportioned to the zeal and energy with which they continue to propagate falsehood and the most unfair, unequalled abuse, upon the present honest, able, and patriotic incumbent.

But to conclude, Mr. Editor, the paper currency is the vital air which has imparted vigor to every impulse of wreckless opposition; it has infused its inebriating qualities into the minds of its servile votaries, who in the delirium of the moment would vociferate all that they know to the subversion of their own interest and that of all others. Yes, infuriated with its noxious vapors, they by their own desperate course would excite universal alarm, and even in some measure establish the position that man is incapable of self government. W.

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**Mr. Howard:** Your supremely sapient correspondent, "Consistency," in his most exquisitely consistent elucidation of his own political heterodoxy, as

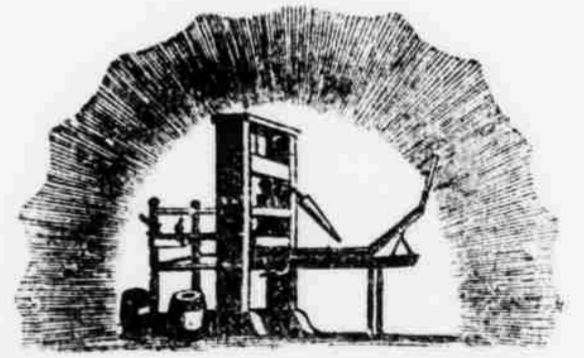
promulgated in your last paper, has given us quite a novel and amusing definition of the word which he has thought fit to assume as a suitable cognomen for his extremely consistent self. If his doctrine be consistent with his name, then it is very manifest that the great lexicographers Johnson, Walker, &c. have kept the world in gross darkness as it regards the definition of the word consistency.

This rare pink of consistency says, he "has voted for Jackson three times," and in "still a Jackson man, though he believes him to be an usurper of powers, as well in the cabinet as in the field of battle." Pray, what "powers" did he "usurp" "in the field of battle?" Why, I suppose, the "power" of flogging the enemy, a merciless pack of bloodhounds who were yelping at the gates of Orleans for "Beauty and Booty." And pray, Sir, what "powers" has he "usurped" "in the cabinet?" Why, I suppose, the "power" of opposing with all his "power," a still more formidable and dreadful enemy than the one of Orleans—a monster that has already the Genius of American Liberty, in its relentless fangs, ready to carter on its infernal work of a total annihilation of American freedom and independence; but for the "powers" which Jackson has "usurped" and exercises over it according to Mr. Consistency's notions of "usurpation" of "powers." If these are his "usurped powers," why, Liberty, instead of having ought to fear, has in reality much to hope for from such "usurpations."

"Consistency" says he is "a Jackson man" yet he rails out against both Jackson and his friends, particularly against those who were opposed to "his first election," but who have since become his friends, because of the genuine republican course which he has pursued, and the wisdom and fidelity with which he has managed the affairs of the nation since he has been "in power." He is "a Jackson man," yet it seems to be wholly incompatible with "Consistency," for "some one or two score of men of his acquaintance," and of course every other man who was opposed to Gen. Jackson when he "was first a candidate," ever to have supported him at all, notwithstanding "the old hero deceived them completely," and so far from being an "usurper" and "tyrant," has turned out to be a man after their own hearts, and the reverse of every thing that was apprehended from him on the score of his being a renowned "Military Chieftain." Yes, it is wholly inconsistent, according to this profound reasoner's sense of consistency, for any man or "score of men" ever to have supported Jackson, who were originally opposed to him, though his principles and views are in perfect unison with their own on all matters and things connected with the Federal Government. He seems to insinuate that those who were originally opposed to Jackson, should continue to be opposed to him, right or wrong, that for the sake of opposition (that is, for the sake of opposition to Jackson,) it would be better for them to take one of his "spring frog leaps" from their long cherished republican principles, than "remain in statu quo" and sanction Jackson's measures, which he knows they are bound to do so long as Jackson's politics and theirs are one and the same. Gods! what a superlatively consistent "Jackson man" this Mr. Consistency is!!! Yes, Sir, this Mr. Consistency is "a Jackson man," yet he pronounces the Jackson men to be the "most open-mouthed, noisy men in the whole country," and in the phrenzy of his over zealous consistency, compares Jackson to a "pack-horse," and his friends to "weather-cocks, spring-frogs and porcupines." He is "a Jackson man, voted for Jackson three times and would vote for him again," his "usurpations" to the contrary notwithstanding; yet he abuses Dr. Hall because "he is a first-rate Jackson man." Really, Sir, it does seem that he is unwilling for any man but himself to be "a Jackson man." He certainly wishes to monopolize the old hero, have entire possession of him in order that he may sell him to the monster Nick Biddle, the great purse-proud autocrat of the aristocracy and the Opposition generally. Old Nick no doubt, would

give a round sum for him, five times the amount of the deposits at least. The old hero it is well known, is the main obstacle in the way of Nick's entire control of the Government; therefore, he would give no little to get possession of him. There must be an understanding with Consistency and Nick about the matter.

"Consistency" is "a Jackson man," yet he is opposed to Dr. Hall on account of his Jacksonism and "anti-internal improvement principles;" when at the same time he says, "I myself am opposed to internal improvements." He is opposed to precisely the same kind of internal improvements that Dr. Hall is, yet he censures the Doctor for opposing that which he himself is opposed to, according to his own declaration. Dr. Hall is a Jackson man, so is "Consistency," if he tells the truth; yet "Consistency," abuses Hall, because Hall like himself is a Jackson man. Dr. Hall is opposed to internal improvements, so is "Consistency;" yet "Consistency" censures Hall for opposing internal improvements, and attributes the failure of the Tarboro' and Hamilton Rail Road exclusively to Dr. Hall; who in fact had no more to do with that project than the man in the moon. Even our county candidates come in for a share of his abuse, on account of their friendship for Jackson and Hall and their opposition to internal improvements, yet Consistency is "a Jackson man," and "opposed to internal improvements." He certainly caps the climax of Consistency, and fairly outstrips himself in point of rhetoric, metaphors and profound logical reasoning. "Pack-horses, weather-cocks, spring-frogs," and the whole generation of "porcupines" and vipers, dance throughout his inimitable production of slangwhang and balderdash in all the mazes of metaphorical confusion, (as the immortal Junius would say,) and yet after all his heterogeneous comminglements of consistencies and inconsistencies, together with his most admirable elucidation of his own political principles, or rather political heterodoxy, I query if it would not puzzle even the most profound Philadelphia lawyer, (as the saying is,) to tell what he is, whether "Jackson man," Biddle man, no man at all, or whether "frog," or "porcupine." For my own part, I cannot see far enough into a mill-stone to comprehend him; therefore, with your leave, Mr. Howard, I will consign him over to public scrutiny, hoping that some one will finally ferret him out of his dark abode of mystification. Q IN THE CORNER.



## TARBOROUGH:

FRIDAY, AUGUST 22, 1834.

[P] We understand that the dwelling house of Mr. John Hopkins, in this county, was struck by lightning on Monday evening last—nearly all the window lights were shattered, and a Mr. Bennet Mayo, lying on the floor at the time, was so severely shocked that it rendered him senseless for a few hours. The rest of the inmates were uninjured.

### ELECTION RETURNS.

**Martin County**—Jesse Cooper, *Senate*. Edwin Smithwick and Raleigh Roebuck, *Commons*. Simon M. Smithwick, *Sheriff*. State of the Poll: *Senate*—Cooper 268, Samuel S. Shepherd 174. *Commons*—Roebuck 566, Smithwick 462, Alfred M. Slade 404. *Sheriff*—Smithwick's majority 48.

**Tyrrell**—Ephraim Mann, S. Charles M'Cleese and — Alexander, C.

**Halifax**—John Branch, S. John R. J. Daniel and William L. Long, C. James Simmons, (no opposition,) *Shiff*. Jesse H. Simmons, (no opposition) *Clerk Superior Court*. State of the Poll: *Senate*—Branch 259, Willis Johnston 245. *Commons*—Daniel 727, Long 687, W. M. West 674, Charles Gee 654.

**Northampton**—Wm. B. Lockhart, S. A. B. Smith and — Crump, C. State of the Poll: *Senate*—Lockhart 252, Wm. Amis, 136. *Commons*—Crump, 481, Smith 455, Samuel Calvert 376.