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COMMUNICATIONS.

FOR THE STAR.

In my first number, I endeavored to shew the existence of a systematic opposition, on the part of the friends and partisans of the Hon. Wm. H. Crawford in this state, to every individual among their fellow-citizens, who, in the independence of a free soul, might dare to esteem some other man more worthy of the high and responsible office of chief magistrate of the Union, and use their influence in aid of such a character. Several weeks having elapsed since the public have been in possession of my views upon this subject, and nothing bearing the character of reply, denial of my statement, or even animadversion upon its nature, I fairly assume it as an admission of the position that was assumed. I now proceed, in compliance with the promise then made, to a brief examination of the nature of the claims of Mr. Crawford to the support and confidence of his fellow-citizens; and, first, to the point so repeatedly and warmly urged by the partisans of the Treasury Candidate, viz. "His moderation in yielding his pretensions to Mr. Monroe in 1816." Upon this subject, a correspondent of the Washington Republican, in a letter dated from Richmond, on the 10th of October last, is so full, satisfactory and decisive, that I am unable better to subserve the cause of truth than by closing my remarks, at this time, with the subjoined literal extract.

MARCUS.

It will be recollected by all, that before the meeting of Congress, in December, 1816, but two candidates for the presidency, had been seriously thought of by the republican party—Mr. Monroe and Mr. Tompkins; and that the latter (who had, in fact, very respectable pretensions to that high distinction) very early discouraged all attempts at division—on the conviction, that Mr. Monroe, from revolutionary and subsequent services, was decidedly the choice of the people. Not so with Mr. Crawford's partisans. Very early in the session, an intrigue was set on foot by them against Mr. Monroe, the "Virginia candidate." Mr. Tompkins having modestly withdrawn from the contest, the field was open to opposition, and the discontented, with the aid of Georgia, resolved to inflict a surprise on the nation. This of course, required much dexterous management. It was seen, that before the end of the session, a caucus nomination would be made. No time, therefore, was to be lost in making partisans for the event. This could only be done by personal solicitation and secret instigation. Newspapers were not, at first, resorted to, in order that the scheme might be withheld, until it was ripe, when the people. But, when a certain number of supporters were secured, in the two houses of Congress, the campaign was opened.

It was very easily perceived, that Mr. Tompkins' example, in declining a contest with the people's choice, might operate fatally, by contrast, on the conduct of the new aspirant. It, therefore, became necessary, that Mr. Crawford should assume a modest hesitancy—an unwillingness to attract or divide public favor—the more surely, by that very coyness, to win the prize that was pointed for. Not the imperial Iturbide himself was, on a late occasion, more averse to the purple, than Mr. Crawford, in 1816, to the presidency! Accordingly, Dr. Bibb, his particular friend, and a senator from Georgia, published in the National Intelligencer the following ingenious communication:

"It would seem from representations in the newspapers, that I am acting a very prominent part in the discussions concerning the ensuing presidential election. I am extremely reluctant to present myself before the public in such an affair, but it has become unavoidable. It is not strange that a question so interesting to the nation, as the election of chief magistrate, should at this time, be the topic of conversation and enquiry. I, however, have, in no instance, introduced the subject; nor have I been disposed to take an active part in any controversy respecting it. It is true that since my arrival at this place, I have been frequently consulted in reference to the pretensions

of particular individuals for the Presidency, by gentlemen who, from the relations subsisting between us, had a right to converse with me freely on any political subject. In consequence of repeated enquiries from them, whether Mr. Crawford was to be considered among the competitors, accompanied by a desire that his views should be ascertained, I communicated to him what had passed. He replied, without reserve, that he did not consider himself among the number of those from whom the selection ought to be made, and that he was unwilling to be held up as a competitor for the office.—I have performed no other part than to communicate this declaration (which I was authorized to do) to the gentleman by whom I was consulted.

WM. W. BIBB.

Washington, Feb. 1, 1816.

But as the friends, not in the secret of this manoeuvre, were in danger of giving implicit credit to this declaration, the very next day, we find in the Washington City Gazette, a paper devoted to Mr. Crawford then, as now, and at that time, almost the sole organ of himself and his partisans, the following counter declaration—headed, "PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE?"

"We inserted, in a former number of the Gazette [Jan. 20.] a note stating—'We had good grounds for asserting, that Mr. Crawford had made no declaration, that he would not serve in the office of President, if nominated and elected by the republican party—neither himself, nor thro' any friend.' "Since then, Dr. Bibb has published [a] communication [as above] in the National Intelligencer, of yesterday; but we have, notwithstanding, AUTHORITY to say, that, on the question being put to Dr. Bibb, if he intended his letter to contravene the tenor of the note just quoted, he answered in the NEGATIVE. The reply which Mr. Crawford made on the same subject, only enhances his superior merit in the opinion of his friends." The words of this article which I have put in capitals and italics, will show the art with which Mr. Crawford was made to assume a virtue he had not, to forward his purposes. Similar declarations were repeated in the Gazette down to the period of the caucus, (the 16th of March,) and by Mr. Crawford's partisans, in and out of Congress.

The Democratic Press, then as violently opposed to Mr. Crawford, as now in favor of him, having stated that Mr. C. was not a candidate, on the authority of Gen. Root, (a member from New York, and a supporter of Mr. Crawford,) the Gazette of the 2d of March indignantly replies—

"The course which the editor of the 'Democratic Press' pursues, is very singular; and the use which he made of the name of Gen. Root is altogether presumptuous. Gen. Root has AUTHORIZED us to declare that he never put the question to Mr. Crawford, concerning the presidency, and that, consequently, Mr. C. could never have made to him any declaration on that subject whatever." The editor, Mr. Elliott, in the next Gazette, repeats that Mr. Crawford was a candidate, and that General Root was misrepresented, in the following strain:—"If the friends of Mr. Monroe and Simon Snyder have to resort to such pitiful equivocation; such miserable intrigues, with newspaper editors;—if such men as John Binns are the principal actors in this tragic-comedy of forcing a President, (Mr. M.) upon the people, by editorial squibs, tergiversation, fulsome flattery, and flagrant falsehood, his chance of success must be desperate in the extreme." Mr. Binns having since gone over to federalism and Mr. Crawford, in opposition to Mr. Monroe, and to Governor Snyder's friends, has now the advantage of being quoted as high authority by Mr. Elliott.

In another Gazette, about that period, Mr. E. says—"We have never looked upon him (Mr. Crawford) as having any claims or pretensions; as being the competitor or rival of any one; nor as setting himself up as the man of the people. Had he acted in that manner, the republicans who now insist on his serving, would never have thought of supporting him. It is confidently affirmed, nevertheless, that Mr. C. never did; and that he never will so far forget what he owes his country," &c. "as to proclaim that he will not serve the community." &c. "As for the 'Press's better authority,' we know the wires by which he is moved, and the less said about that the better. It was only the other day he insinuated that Mr. Crawford inclined towards the federalists, &c.

In connexion with the foregoing evidence, let the desperate effort to get Mr. Crawford nominated in the caucus be remembered, and the conviction must flash upon every mind, that he only appeared to decline a contest, the better to promote his success.—I. e. in the language of his paper, "to enhance his superior merit," and to gain "support." It has been shown that he never disclosed being a candidate, except thro' his partisans, Dr. Bibb and Gen. Root—both of whom, on being appealed to, explicitly declared, that there was nothing

in the statements of which they were the organs. If then it had been meritorious in Mr. C. honestly to have waived his small pretensions, in compliance to Mr. M. and the very general wish of the nation—long before expressed—what shall we say of the adroit endeavors to supplant Mr. M. which had been clearly traced to Mr. C.? The argument founded on his supposed moderation does not fall harmless to the ground: it recoils with accelerated force against the projector.—Nor do the votes which Mr. C. finally obtained in the caucus, furnish any evidence of his individual popularity, at the time, out of his own state, Georgia. There pre-existed in other states a feeling of jealousy to what was called, "the Virginia dynasty." The members of the New-York legislature had passed, unanimously, certain resolutions, recommending to the representatives of that state, in congress, to support any republican candidate, in the caucus, not a Virginian. Governor Tompkins declined putting himself at the head of this feeling, when, finding Mr. Crawford without any fixed system, in principles or measures—in short, derelict on the political surface of the times, he was fixed upon as the candidate of the discontented.

FOR THE STAR.

To the People of North-Carolina.

In a government like that under which we live, emanating from the people, where all power is derived either mediately or immediately from them, and where each member of the community has a portion of the sovereign power residing in himself, it becomes that people to take a deep interest in all questions arising, which may affect their happiness; and it devolves upon them, as a bounden duty, not to remain inactive and unconcerned when their energies are necessary to the protection of their rights. In every branch of our government—in every department, civil, military and judicial—the people are the impulse which sets the great machinery in motion. The time is now at hand, then, when you are called upon to determine, in your minds, who shall be entitled to your suffrages for the next presidency; and in this all-important question, in which the most invaluable principle of civil liberty is secured to you—a right of choice of rulers—let it be said the people of North-Carolina have not been indifferent—that they have maturely considered the subject—that they have weighed well the claims of the different candidates, and that they have wisely selected the man from whose character it may be fairly inferred his administration will at once result in the happiness of their own state, and of the general good. You have in nomination for that high and responsible office men, whose characters and public services entitle them all to respect—men who have, in different situations, filled, with honor to themselves, and usefulness to their country, the most exalted stations within the gift of the government. From among that number you are to make your choice; in doing which let it be said North-Carolina has bowed to no influence—has been subject to no control; that she has stood forward upon her own responsibility, determined to think and act for herself upon a question, in the determination of which her voice is not among the least important; that she has pursued that course of conduct which marks with falsehood those who dared to assert that her vote would be regulated by Virginia; and that, by an independent vote, she has proven to the world she is not ignorant of her own importance.

Among the number of those who are candidates for the presidency, where can we find one whose character secures to us what we have reason to expect from JOHN C. CALHOUN? In him we find combined the three great qualifications, honesty, capability, and faithfulness to the Constitution—a man, who, by a long train of services to his country, has proven to the world that the promotion of her happiness is the ruling principle of his conduct—who, in every situation in which he has been placed, has given us the most unequivocal evidence of his superior talents—whose liberal sentiments and opinions in the cabinet are in strict accordance with the great mass of the people, and proclaim him an anti-radical—whose view of men and measures is with the penetrating eye of one ready to detect the least aberration from the path of political rectitude—and, in short, whose whole course of public conduct marks him the disciple of Washington. Such is the man who North-Carolina should support, and with a patriotic exultation do we behold the daily increase of his friends, in opposition to all the trick, stratagem and subterfuge which is called in requisition against him. To advance arguments in support of this character is unnecessary, for those most

hostile to his election have never denied or contradicted it: they have tacitly assented to its truth, by seizing on the fallacious objection to his name as the only pretext for their opposition. They have wearied themselves and tortured their brains in search of grounds of opposition, and, with all their combined energies, this in-substantial one is all they have been enabled to invent or discover. This they have pictured in the most frightful colours, and held forth to the people the evils which may result from investing one so young with such power. How absurd and ridiculous the objection! In no other light can it be viewed than political impety. The constitution, that sacred bulwark of our liberties, declares his age is not objectionable. The wise framers of it foresaw the consequences which might result from inexperience, & provided for it, by making it requisite the President should have arrived at the age of 35; and shall it be said we should reject authority like this? That we should discard Mr. Calhoun as incompetent to fill the office, and in doing so, discard, as unwise and impolitic, that article of our Constitutions assume to ourselves, with arrogant presumption, a deeper insight into the human character and national prosperity than the authors of that charter of freedom, than whom wiser, or more virtuous men never lived in any country or age? Mr. Calhoun has now reached his fortieth year—that period of our existence when the human mind is most vigorous and energetic—most ripened into perfection. Wisdom and experience are not consequences of old age, but of application and observation. In old age the want of those qualities are less excusable—in youth the possession more commendable. Should we then reject Mr. Calhoun, because we cannot trace the furrows of age on his brow, or the snows of sixty years in his silver locks, even though our judgments tell us that in all things else he has not his superior? Those most inimical to Mr. Calhoun's election cannot make such sacrifices of feeling as to deny his unequalled powers of mind, whether employed in the cabinet, in debate, or in social and scientific conversation. They are all ready to exclaim that eight years hence he will be the people's choice—worthy of the highest honor that can be bestowed upon him—worthy of their suffrages. Can so great a change be wrought in his mental faculties, or the purity of his heart, in so short a space of time? Can we hope that the brightest luminary in the political hemisphere will receive much additional lustre by shifting on in undisturbed quietude for 8 years? Or shall we compel him to wait with patience the expiration of another's administration, when the public good protests against the delay? Impossible. Their arguments, like the globe of suds, may delight and dazzle for a moment, but must finally explode. They may make a momentary impression, and flatter for a time the friends of Mr. Crawford, but, long ere the eventful moment shall arrive, the people will see their fallacy—they will laugh to scorn those who shall tell them the man of their choice is unfit to be their President, because he has not the stamp of old age. Mr. Calhoun's friends offer as reasons why he should be chosen, his honesty, his capacity, his attachment to the Constitution. Place these requisites in the balance, and they will preponderate against millions of years.

Let me, then, recommend to your serious consideration the claims which this gentleman has to your notice. The result must be most favorable; for, in his character, will be found that inestimable compound which makes the statesman, the politician, the patriot and the man of worth.

BRUTES.

FOR THE STAR.

Gentlemen.—When Mr. Monroe was first a candidate for the presidential chair, a great majority of our Senators and Representatives were in favor of Mr. Crawford; yet I now call upon those gentlemen to declare, whether had Mr. Crawford been a candidate, he could have got five hundred votes. Mr. Crawford was then solicited (it is said) by many members of Congress to allow his name to be held up as a candidate. No! no! he was too prudent for that.—How much more noble was the conduct of the late Mr. Calhoun! The presidency (said he on a similar occasion) is not to be solicited or rejected. Neither John, nor Orlando, nor Marcus, &c. but A Plain Looker-on.

POLITICAL.

THE PRESIDENCY.

The premature period at which a large portion of the editors of the U. States

commenced the discussion of this subject, together with the extreme virulent, angry passions excited by many of them on both sides, had almost induced us to determine on taking no part in it. This disposition we should in all probability have adhered to, notwithstanding all that had of late been said by the numerous editors of the other states in the Union, but for the prominent and decided stand, taken by the editor of the Raleigh Register in support of the claims of his favorite candidate, WILLIAM H. CRAWFORD, Esq. upon the good people of this State, as being eminently qualified to fill the high, and all important office of Chief Magistrate of these United States. But not satisfied with holding up Mr. Secretary CRAWFORD to the citizens of our state as a pattern of excellence, and eminently qualified for such a trust, he comes out in round terms, and takes upon himself to assert that most of the whole population of the western and middle sections of the state are decidedly in favor of his election to the Presidency; and the eastern and other parts of the state, that he has not heard from, or knows nothing about, he presumes (we know not on what grounds but because it is his own opinion) are likewise disposed to favor his election; and that, finally, he entertains no doubt but the whole vote of this state will result in favor of his friend Secretary CRAWFORD.

Now we know the editor of the Register is old and venerable in the editorial department, and in that capacity is entitled to our profound respect; but in this instance we must beg leave to differ with him in opinion; not only as regards the man best qualified to take the helm of our national ship, and steer her with judgment and precision, the next four or eight years, but also as regards the opinion of a respectable part, and we hope a majority of the good citizens of this state.—We pronounce it to be our unqualified opinion, that JOHN C. CALHOUN, Esq. the unchanging Republican, the firm Patriot, and able Statesman, a friend to the Navy and Internal Improvement, is the man best qualified to fill that high and exalted station, the Presidential chair of a great and magnanimous nation. And although we shall not presume to say (as our brother editor of the Register has done for the people of the west) that all the people of the east are in favor of our candidate, we will say, that we know many respectable and influential men in this section of country, for whose sound judgment and deep penetration of men and things we have the most profound respect, are in favor of the election of JOHN C. CALHOUN to the Presidency. And if we are not greatly mistaken in our conjectures, there will be many more, previous to the day for the choice of the electors; and some few perhaps, even in the western part of the state, the opinion of the editor of the Register nevertheless.

We have copied below the judicious and appropriate remarks of the editors of the Raleigh Star of the 15th ult. on this subject, to which we can cheerfully subscribe, as being in unison with our own sentiments and feelings. Our columns may hereafter be considered open to a free, dispassionate discussion of the subject, in favor or against any one of the candidates, reserving to ourselves the privilege of animadverting on any communication when we think proper, or rejecting them entirely if we deem them inadmissible.

From the Newbern Sentinel.

THE NEXT PRESIDENT.

Who shall be our next President, is a question to which various answers are given. Scarcely a paper can be found whose editor is not prepared to point out the successful candidate, and to decry as puny every attempt to injure his popularity. This course is undeniably pursued by the friends of Mr. Crawford. In those parts of the country where his prospects are least encouraging, we find the presses engaged in his service boldly proclaiming him as the favorite of the people—and the only candidate worthy of consideration.—This is strikingly illustrated in a column of editorial remarks in the last Raleigh Register. The editors state, unhesitatingly, "that Mr. Crawford will sit in the Presidential Chair, and that North-Carolina will assist in placing him there." Now it can be shown, with a greater degree of probability, that Mr. Crawford will not occupy the Chair of State, and that North-Carolina, so far from aiding him in his strides to that dignified seat, will give her vote to JOHN C. CALHOUN. Even in the District of Raleigh, a majority of the people are said to be opposed to Mr. Crawford; and in many of the Western counties his popularity is rapidly on the wane. As respects the Eastern section of the State, I affirm, upon the best authority, that he will not receive one