

The Star, and North-Carolina Gazette.

No. 13.

RALPH, (N. C.) FRIDAY, MARCH 26, 1824.

Vol. XV.

THE STAR,
And North-Carolina Gazette,
Published weekly, by
BELL & LAWRENCE.

Subscription, three dollars per annum.—No paper will be sent without at least \$1 00 in advance, and no paper discontinued, but at the option of the Editors, unless arrears are paid. Advertisements, not exceeding fifteen lines, inserted three times for one dollar, and twenty-five cents for each continuance.—All letters to the Editors must be post-paid.

COMMUNICATIONS.

FOR THE STAR.

GENERAL JACKSON.

On the 6th of March, 1824, a company of infantry commanded by Capt. Jones, and a company of cavalry commanded by Capt. Russel, met together at Mr. Joseph Shaw's, in the upper part of the Hawfields, in Orange county; many other citizens of the neighborhood assembled also at the same place, in consequence of public notice given; that the opinions of those assembled would be taken on the subject of the next presidential election. Dr. JAS. A. CRAIG¹ presided them at some length, on the subject of the approaching election; after which it was proposed that the people present should give in their votes for the respective persons named for the presidency, which being agreed to, a vote was taken, which, together with the vote of Captain Hurdle's company, gave the following result:

For GENERAL JACKSON, 201 votes
Wm. H. CRAWFORD, 16
JOHN Q. ADAMS, 5

The following preamble and resolutions were then submitted by Dr. CRAIG to the committee, and were unanimously adopted:

Whereas it has hitherto been the practice for our representatives in the state legislature to nominate an electoral ticket, and such nominations are unnecessary, anti-democratic, and unconstitutional, and a gross violation of the rights of the people; and we consider such a procedure at variance with the well known wishes of the great majority of the freemen of North Carolina.

Whereas the chief magistracy of this nation is a post to which the free people alone should call any individual to occupy; and to them alone are guaranteed, by the constitution and political institutions of our country, the authority to elect their own rulers, and that from them alone can emanate a choice of public officers, and that it is the exclusive right of the people to hold public meetings for the adoption and sanction of public men and measures.

And whereas the general sentiments of the republican party throughout the union, as have been lately expressed, evidently demonstrate the fact, that the reasons which originally produced a caucus for the presidential and vice-presidential nominations, no longer exist, and that its continuance would involve considerations of national impolicy, and implicate the pure and sacred principles of our republic; and that we deem the delegation system the last mark of democracy; and if the free people of this republic be left to make choice for themselves, their decisions would be characterized by wisdom and unanimity, and no undue exercise or abuse would be made of the elective franchise.

Resolved, therefore, That we highly disapprove of a congressional caucus for the purpose of nominating persons for the offices of President and Vice-President, as we deem such caucus nominations an unjustifiable attempt to influence unduly, and to impede the free exercise of the most important privileges of freemen, and ascending to establish a practice at variance with the principles of the constitution of our country.

Resolved, further, That we warmly commend the conduct & determination of the majority of the members of congress, who, with so much honor and independence of spirit, resisted all solicitations of the Caucus party to join their names, whose aim was to dictate to this nation a supreme ruler; and discountenancing a practice so mischievous and offensive; which cannot fail to secure to them the support of the great body of their constituents.

Resolved, further, That this meeting recommends General ANDREW JACKSON for the next President of the United States, because the imperishable fame his military services have gained, and his long tried and invaluable services in many complex diplomatic duties, convince us that in the talents required for a statesman, and the duties devolving on a President of the union, he will field the palm to none; because his elevation in the estimation of the American people, has been solely owing to himself, and that his entry into life was unattended by any extrinsic advantages of fame or fortune; because he would infuse new life and vigor into every department of government, and thus elevate his country in the eyes and estimation of the world.

Resolved, further, That this meeting pledge themselves to support ANDREW JACKSON for the office of President of the United States.

1st. Because he has ever been a firm and unflinching republican.

2d. Because he was an active and conspicuous demagogue when other pretenders to democracy were engaged in expressing their confidence in the federal dynasty of '98.

3d. Because he is the only surviving soldier of the revolutionary war, whom the suffrages of a free people can elevate to the presidential chair.

4th. Because he has devoted his life to the service of his country, and concluded her sacred struggle with glory and renown.

5th. Because he is not only an incorruptible patriot, and intrepid soldier, but an enlightened statesman, no less distinguished in the cabinet than in the field.

Resolved, therefore, That we do respectfully and earnestly recommend to our fellow-citizens of North Carolina, and to such of our fellow-citizens throughout the union, as are favorable to the election of ANDREW JACKSON, to call meetings, and organize themselves in such manner as shall give efficiency to their measures, and the promotion of the important subject we have in view—the election of "the man who has filled the measure of his country's honor."

JAMES A. CRAIG, Chairman.
VICTOR M. MURPHEY, Secretary.

FOR THE STAR.

Messrs. Editors.—The fairest mode of procuring the sentiments of this state, on the presidential election, is either by a State Convention, or by County Meetings. The first would be the most correct, but, probably, the most difficult. That of County Meetings would be sufficient for every purpose. Either would express the sentiments of the people, which ought to be ALL POWERFUL. As far as these meetings have taken place in the state, they are opposed to the Caucus Ticket. But, as the people ONLY have the right of election, THEY ought to come forward in their strength, and not permit themselves to be bamboozled by a minority, who wish to govern by intrigue.

Whoever may be the choice of the people, ought to ride; but the people ought to be left to THEIR FREE WILL.—Their wishes ought to be known, and that at an early period.

ONE OF THE PEOPLE.

FOR THE STAR.

GEN. JACKSON.

No. I.

The purest treasure mortal times afford,
Is spotless reputation; that away,
Men are but gilded loam or painted clay.

While the eventful tide of time rolls on, and different circumstances transpire, there are few occurrences, particularly in a government like ours, which do not exhibit some claims to our attention and partially demand our regard; whilst our attention is at one time arrested in the contemplation of events which may be expected to succeed the mysterious behaviour of the European cabinets, at another we are absorbed in meditating on an eventual crisis, which time, in its revolutions, is about to produce at home. While we are surprised at the darkness of the designs of our enemies abroad, we are enveloped in the gloomy obscurity of uncertainty, unconscious what individual is intended to mount the presidential chair, and wield the future destinies of this now seemingly prosperous and happy land.

Among the several candidates for this exalted and highly responsible office, we see displayed, in its most beautiful appearance, the strength and prowess of American genius. That each of the candidates is comparatively calculated to discharge the duties which would naturally and necessarily be incumbent on him, none will hesitate to acknowledge; but that they all possess and exercise equal demands on the generosity and gratitude of their country, I am persuaded is not to be so easily conceded. Some have forfeited this prerogative by their former actions, and it is to be hoped that they will never regain it.

The two candidates who should excite particular interest in the bosom of every friend to his country, are ANDREW JACKSON and J. C. CALHOUN. The virtuous of these illustrious citizens not only shed inimitable lustre around their own characters, but reflect their general warmth throughout the nation; they are both eminently entitled to the suffrages of their fellow-citizens, and both egregiously deserve to be exalted to the highest station which it is in the power of a free and enlightened people to bestow; but, as the nature of our government cannot permit them to walk hand in hand to its most sacred tribunal, it becomes necessary to support that candidate which the majority of those who are friendly to both, in different parts of the Union, may think proper to recommend; and as the vicissitudes of fortune cannot be controlled by the weak and futile essays of human foresight, however sanguine might have been the wishes of Mr. Calhoun's personal friends, the choice has eventually fallen on that distinguished statesman, invincible patriot and firm supporter of his country's rights, Gen. Andrew Jackson.

But a few weeks since, and Gen. Jackson was viewed as it were through a smoked glass. He is now presented to us in the vivid light of the most beautifully reflecting prism. Even the cynical Editors of the Richmond Enquirer, who were once so lavish of their flattering eulogiums, and have lately profusely dealt out their malignant aspersions on his devoted head, are at last constrained to acknowledge that he is

to be considered as a "prominent candidate." Yes, fellow-citizens he is a "prominent candidate," and to you, the free people of North Carolina, I appeal in his behalf. In doing this, I shall first consider the advantages which would result from his election; next the honor with which he would discharge the duties of President; and last, but not least, the hope and probability that exist of defeating the Radical Chieftain.

To all who are conversant with the common affairs of the day, it is well known that a dark and sombre cloud of portentous aspect is impending over the destinies of our country, and that more than once it has been whispered it is ready to burst and overwhelm, in its pestiferous contents, the luxuriant prospects which now greet the eye. In a word, that the Holy Allies have it in contemplation to direct their course towards our peaceful shores. In such an event, to whom should we look for protection and support? Would it not be to Andrew Jackson? Yes. Let us, then; fellow-citizens, place him in the presidential chair, that he may avert the ruthless storm, and prevent, by his divine influence, the useless death and destruction of thousands. Let us do this, and then the potentates of Europe, recalling to their minds the battle of Orleans, & the destruction of Wellington's invincibles, who just before had shaken Europe to its centre, will abandon their chimerical intentions, and fear to interrupt a government, whose direction is committed to the care of such a man. Too well are they acquainted with his decisive character, to permit their iniquitous designs to be put in execution; and to trifle with that rigid observance, which he always manifests towards his country's rights. But, on the other hand, if you neglect to bestow on Gen. Jackson this high honor, you incur the irreparable loss of many a helpless widow and tender orphan, many a promising youth and useful citizen. I am persuaded you will act according to the dictates of your own good sense; that you will promote the prosperity of your country, and pour into its bosom the soothing balm of peace.

In the next place, Gen. Jackson has always been characterized by the purest principles of the most refined and unsophisticated honor and integrity; and has proven, by his innumerable patriotic actions, that his is not the breast where grovelling ambition,

"That jaundice of the soul,
Which makes it look so gilded and so foul,"

holds its throne; but that within all is calm and serene, noble and exalted. On what better man, then, can you bestow your favors? Will you give them to one who has always been marked as an intriguer, whose dark designs have not even yet been sufficiently developed? Or will you act according to your own inclinations, and go heart and hand in support of Gen. Jackson? whose generous heart,

"Flung but the appearance of dishonor on it,
It straight takes fire, and mounts into a lance."

But what is to be considered paramount to any thing with which you have as yet been presented, is the attempt which has been made by a motley group of office-seekers at Washington, to palm upon you that man, to whom, of all others, you are the most inimical. It is the object of the leaders of this disgraceful cabal to foist Mr. Crawford into office; being, at the same time, actuated by the selfish consideration, that they themselves will consequently succeed to some eminent station which it will be then in his power to bestow, and reap from favor those advantages, which their own intrinsic merits could not legally justify them in possessing. This was the diabolical purpose, and these the sinister impressions which influenced those who had the barefaced effrontery to assemble in Caucus, and endeavor to barter away the honor and dignity of our country, before unsullied by the intrigues of faction, or the demoniacal designs of aristocracy. But, fellow-citizens, their wishes have not yet been realized, and there are still many "hooks on which to hang our doubts," that they never will be. Gen. Jackson has come forth, and bids fair to dissipate and put to flight the Radicals and their idol, as the returning sun does the interior luminaries of the heavens.

The question now is, will you come forward, assert your right, assume again the privileges which have been wrested from you, and act as free, independent, and enlightened people?—Citizens of North Carolina! I believe you will. You, whose forefathers underwent the most perilous and inconceivable disadvantages in purchasing, with their blood, the dear bought prize of liberty, will not, I feel assured, suffer yourselves to be duped and bamboozled by the "capricious squalls" of a few ambitious aspirants, and pay

Men in all the world's new fashion plan,
That have a mint of phrases in their brain."

Fellow-citizens, your dearest prerogatives have been contracted, and it becomes you to extend and bring them into action. In doing this, it also becomes you to look with a scrutinizing eye to the source of your injuries; and, when the day of trial shall arrive, exhibit to the world that you are not to be wheedled and cajoled into that snare which, no doubt, is intended to entrap you. Pennsylvania has lately declared unanimously for Jackson; we know that Tennessee and South Carolina look to him with the same regard; and there is no doubt but that these three states will secure his election. But, to place the contest beyond the probability of a doubt, let North Carolina too co-operate with her sister states, and promote their laudable intentions. Then the Radical candidate will be completely hors de combat—a mere "firelock without a flint." He will, in despair, hawl down his colors, a shout of triumph will be reiterated through the land, and we shall exult to a proud pre-eminence the man who is at present, "first in war, first in peace," and, like his great prototype, will ere long be "first in the hearts of his countrymen." ROSCIUS.

FOR THE STAR.

Messrs. Bell & Lawrence.—In reply to the question of your correspondent, "Peter," in the last Star, I beg leave to state one or two facts; and, in turn, propose a query to him. The solution of which will furnish the answer he wishes.

In 1800, a caucus was held in Philadelphia, composed of forty-six democratic members of Congress, who nominated Mr. Jefferson for President, and Mr. Burr for Vice President. Many of the electoral colleges voted for these gentlemen, in conformity with the recommendation. The Constitution did not then admit of voting separately for President and Vice President; but declared "the person having the greatest number of votes, shall be the President, if such number be a majority of the whole number of electors appointed. And if there be more than one who have such a majority, and have an equal number of votes, then the House of Representatives shall immediately choose, by ballot, one of these for President."

This case literally happened—Mr. Jefferson and Mr. Burr had each "a majority of the whole number of electors," and each having the same number, which necessarily brought the election before the House of Representatives.

It is a fact well known to every person, who is, in the smallest degree, acquainted with the history of those times, that there was not a single vote given to Mr. Burr, either with a hope or expectation of his being President; and yet, how did the House of Representatives act on that occasion? The public will was stifled; the public feeling greatly excited; and it was not until they had balloted more than thirty times that Mr. Jefferson was elected.

Without making a single comment on this transaction, I will ask "Peter" if he believes there was one individual in that band of patriots, in the House of Representatives, who supported Mr. Burr for President, who would have dared to have recommended him in a caucus to the people, for that high office? If there was not, then "Peter" can readily discover the difference between a "Caucus recommendation" and a "Congressional appointment." NED.

HARRISBURG CONVENTION.

Address of the Committee of the Harrisburg Convention, to the Citizens of the United States, recommending to their support the distinguished Citizens whom the Convention selected as candidates for President and Vice President.

The convention of delegates, chosen by the democratic party of Pennsylvania, to form an electoral ticket, for the offices of President and Vice President, have now performed that duty. We have been appointed by this convention a committee to express their sentiments on the approaching presidential election. It is a subject of momentous magnitude, and demands the serious attention of the American people. The decision may involve the union and continued ascendancy of the democratic party, and may vitally affect our foreign and domestic relations.

A nomination of candidates for these important offices has been made by a small portion of the republican members of congress; and the party has been called upon to unite in their support. We do not design to attack the characters of the individuals nominated at Washington, nor impugn the motives which induced many highly respectable gentlemen to enter into a caucus composed of a small minority of the republican members of congress; we will only

briefly, but frankly, declare our reasons for dissenting from the nomination.

A congressional caucus could never be defensible but as the echo of the great republican party of the union. It has hitherto consisted of a large majority of the democratic members of congress, composed of the friends of all the candidates, entering into caucus, and surrendering their personal predilections on the altar of republican ascendancy. But the late unprecedented assemblage was holden in direct hostility with every usage and principle of the democratic party. It had no party object in view; it was not a meeting to concentrate the party in support of the most deserving of the candidates, but a meeting of the friends of a single individual, held in utter disregard and defiance of the known wishes of the democratic party in congress and throughout the union. A very large majority of the democratic members of congress, influenced by either the known wishes of their constituents, by their own disapprobation of congressional caucuses, or of their expediency under existing circumstances, had refused to attend, and the minority should not have attempted to force them into a nomination; or when they had assembled and discovered the paucity of their numbers, it was their duty to have adjourned. It could not be supposed that the friends of all the other candidates would yield their pretensions; that the majority could submit to the nomination of a minority. Such a meeting of the friends of an individual might distract and divide, but could never harmonize and unite the democratic party. Hitherto, in a contest between the federal and democratic parties, Pennsylvania may have submitted to a general caucus of the democratic members. But she deems it not only her right, but her duty, to oppose a nomination by a minority, without a single usage or precedent to rest upon; violating the fundamental principles of democracy, and leading to the certain dissolution of the republican party.

The friends of the late nomination at Washington would wish to rest their acts upon the express assent of the democratic party, and triumphantly point to the proceedings of state legislatures, even that of Pennsylvania, as a recognition of their authority. The legitimate functions of legislative bodies are the enactment of laws. As citizens, they have a right to entertain and to express their sentiments upon any political subject; but it is to their constituents, to the democratic party, that representatives in congress should look for their authority to nominate executive officers. The people are the only source of the elective sovereignty, and no intermediate and unauthorized agencies should be permitted to control or direct their wishes. But even a legislative expression had not been obtained from a single state in favor of a partial caucus. And we think that when the sentiments of our sister states are expressed upon the late proceeding at Washington, its friends will find that they have as entirely mistaken their wishes, as they have done those of Pennsylvania.

Having, we hope, demonstrated that it is not only the right, but the duty of the republican party, to oppose the nomination of a partial caucus, we will now submit our reasons for the decided preference entertained by the democracy of Pennsylvania for ANDREW JACKSON as President, and JOHN C. CALHOUN as Vice President of the United States.

The present is a most interesting period in the history of our republic. A contest must shortly take place that may severely test the durability of our free institutions; one that may shake the union to its centre. At least four candidates are still contending for the presidency. The friends of each are ardent, zealous and active, and as the crisis approaches, the public mind is inflamed. The union is no longer actuated by one soul, and bound together by one entirely of interest. Local and sectional prejudices are enlisted, and the hostile parties are arraying their forces with increasing animosity. It becomes then a subject of startling magnitude, who among the candidates has the strongest hold upon the affections of the people; whose success would give most universal satisfaction, and tend to harmonize and unite these discordant interests. It seems to be admitted that if the President was elected immediately by the people, General Jackson would be the successful candidate. What alarming consequences would follow, should any combination be permitted to control the public will? An army of legislators, combined in withhold from the people the elective franchise, would be more formidable than the sword or bayonet.

The people would rise with revenge [See 4th page.]