

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 50 in paid in advance, and no paper discontinued, but at the option of the Editors, unless all arrears are paid. Advertisements, not exceeding fifteen lines, inserted three times for one dollar, and twenty-five cents for each continuation.—All letters to the editors must be post paid.

FOR THE STAR.

Messrs. Bell & Lawrence: A few days ago, I saw copied into the Register, from the Washington Gazette, the cruise of the Old Republican. I send you some extracts from my Log Book, which, should you think worthy of publication, I should be glad to see in print.

Extract from the Log Book of the ship Telegraph, Captain Hunter, Feb. 15th 1824, at sea, Cape Henry bearing W. S. W. distant 31 miles.

These twenty-four hours commences with cloudy weather and variable winds. At 7 A. M. sounded in twenty fathoms water, got our cables on deck, and bent them; half past seven, spoke the ship Mars, Captain Calhoun, loaded with munitions of war, bound to the Pacific on a cruise of 4 or 8 years; informed us of the vote of the Legislature of New-York, and the dismissal of De Witt Clinton as commissioner of the big ditch of that state. At 8, saw a large sail standing for the capes; in a few minutes was within gun shot. She displayed the American ensign, put down her helm, laid her maintopail to the mast, and gave us a shot, which struck the topsail sheet bits and injured our mainstay. She then hailed us, and inquired to what nation the vessel and cargo belonged. Being satisfied on this point, the commander came on board; expressed much regret for the injury he had done us: sent for the carpenter to mend the bits: said he commanded the Orleans 74; that his name was Hickory; that he had held a commission under the American government since the year '76; that he had a full complement of men on board, many of whom had sailed with him for 48 years; that they were willing and ready to stand by him until there was not a shot in the locker; that he was sent to protect the American coast, and, as long as he could shew a rag of canvas, he was determined to do it. Being now calm, I went on board his ship with him. His rigging and hull appeared in good order for one that had been to sea so long. His Lieutenant, whom I found to be a very agreeable person, was called Coffee. With him and the crew, Commodore Hickory appeared to be on the best footing; the sailors were strongly attached to their commander, and Lieutenant Coffee said he believed the sentiment was reciprocal; that they had sailed with him, and fought with him against the enemies of our country; that early in the morning of the 8th January, 1815, while cruising in the Gulf of Mexico, about one and a half leagues from the shore, the Commodore descried the English fleet. As the fog cleared away, he made out that it was commanded by rear admiral Packenham. Perceiving that an attack was designed, he took the Orleans in stays, and stood off the land. He then called his crew aft; told them, that in half an hour they would be engaged with the enemies of their country; that the liberties, and perhaps the lives of millions depended upon the issue of that battle; and now, you that are not willing to fight for your country, skulk away below like a set of cowardly rascals, and you of true hearts and round bottoms come this way and drink a health to the success and freedom of our country.

This short harangue, said the Lieutenant, had the desired effect: not one was seen going below; but every one declared, to a man, they would stand by him to the last. Ben Block said his "feelings were hurt, that the Commodore should suspect any one of not being willing to do his duty." Sam Ratling said, "if it was necessary that, to save his country, some must die, he wished to be of that number." The blood of an impressed brother and murdered father, said Jack Bowling, this day calls upon me to avenge their wrongs, and, but once lay me along side that proud Briton, if I fail to discharge my duty, bury me in the sea of eternal forgetfulness. Indeed, continued Lieutenant Coffee, such effect had Commodore Hickory's unsophisticated speech, (for he always spoke the voice of nature,) the love they bore him, the unredressed wrongs of an insulted country, upon their passions, that they seemed impatient for the contest. The shores were covered with people, to witness that day a conflict that was to determine whether the only country that possessed liberty, was worthy of enjoying it. The result was such, that not only Americans, but the lovers of freedom in all climes rejoiced at it. He is now advised by all hands to bear away for port President, and to this unanimous request he has as yet made no objection; so that the Orleans is now bound to that port.

A sail making its appearance, all hands were mustered and ready for action; for the Commodore said he never spoke a vessel, without being prepared for an engagement. The strange sail showing American colours, the Commodore said he recognized her to be a friend. I then took my leave, while the Orleans spread a cloud of canvas, and was soon out of sight. I now ran down for the strange sail at 10 A. M. spoke her: she proved to be the Tariff 74, commanded by Commodore Alligator. Her main head was strange—half horse half snapping turtle: was permitted to go on board, after declaring I had no cotton bagging. The Commodore told me he was last from the Mediterranean Archipelago, where he had been to fight for the Greeks; that he conceived it his duty to fight the battles of all countries, especially where the cause of liberty was at stake. For that reason he had cruised many years along the Spanish main, and was now on his way home, where he intended to stay, if he could lay his vessel up in port President. His crew were of opinion she would never reach there; that she spoke

ed her okum at every turn; that the caulkers, instead of mixing tar with the okum, had filled it with Clay, that they were fired out with pumping; and, moreover, they could not sail any longer with a Commander who would not allow them to buy things out of the ship. This crew were all athletic men—some 6 feet 9 inches high; they wore striped homespun breeches and frock shirts—terrible men for gouging; many had one eye in their heads, and the other in their pockets. They said they were all horses and touched with the steamboat blood. One said "he was the Mississippi," another, "the iron works." The Commodore said he had the sharpest marling spike, the best spy glass, and the handsomest serving mallet in the fleet of the United States, and that he would back his judgment with a hundred guineas. I felt no desire to rob him of that honor. He said we must take a drink—could not part with dry lips. After complying with his request, went on board my own vessel—saw he had come to an anchor, and was furling his sails—11 A. M. saw a sail standing S. W.—soon saw she was a first rate ship of war. As she approached, my crew said they smelled fish oil, and they believed she was a whaler, or from the banks of Newfoundland. Soon could discover she had a Minerva for an image head, with its feet on a square, resting on a terrestrial globe; in one hand she held a trident, in the other a book. As soon as she came within hailing distance, inquired what ship it was, and the commander's name. He said she was the Columbus 74; his name was Bunker; that he had been for many years in the northern seas, conveying, aiding and assisting vessels in the Ketchikan, Baltic, Gulf of Finland and the Texal; that he was last from the Labrador Coast, via Cape Cod. He had a large number of men on board, principally Yankees, with corn crushers, wooden clocks and bowls, birch brooms, wooden nutmegs and onions; which they said sold "damnation well" among the southern nabobs. But the commander's mind was superior to any thing of this kind; he told me he was bound to port President, and if he ever reached there, he would be President of the nation, and not of a party of farmers as well as fishermen. I found him to be a man of sterling sense and universal information: was much pleased with his conversation; he was a practical navigator and a consummate seaman; his years but young; but his experience old; his head unimpaired, but his judgment ripe; and, in a word, far behind his worth came all the praises that I bestow, for consideration like an angel came and whipped the offending Adam out of him. Taking up a book that lay upon the deck, I accidentally opened these words, which I marked down with a pencil, and entered on my log book when I went on board my own vessel:

"In envy that my cousin Adams Should be the Father of so bless'd a son; A son, who is the theme of honor's tongue; Amongst a grove, the very straightest plant; Who is sweet fortune's minion, and her pride; Whilst I, by looking on the praise of him, See riot and dishonor stain the brow Of my young William."

Cunningham's Letters to his son.

At 12 went on board the Telegraph to take an observation: found we were in the Lat. 37 deg. 5 min. N. Long. 76 W. Cape Henry bearing S. 84 deg. 22 min. W. distance 19 miles; discovered a vessel coming from the South. My crew said she was an East India Junk; had a large hull, yards and masts small; 16 oars on a side. Went on board: it was the Radical 74, Admiral Caucus. She had a crew of 64 men, who alternately pulled at the oars. There appeared a degree of fallen majesty among this crew; deep meditation sat upon their faces, whilst inward admonition told them all was not well. The Admiral said he was not legally commissioned by any power; but that he had been forced to accept the appointment which he bore by the sixty four who were in the vessel; that he was bound for Port President, and he anticipated this appointment would be confirmed by the people of the United States, if his crew could persuade, or force them to do it; but, if the people were to decide, unimpeded by his crew, his chance would be desperate. He said he was last from East Florida; that he had many Seminoles, Cherokees, Choctaws and Creek Indians, on board, which were to marry the Ladies at Washington City. He appeared about sixty years of age; said he was at sea in the memorable year of '98; had sailed under all colours, and it was his undeviating rule, to be the "Vicar of Bray" in all situations; that, should he ever get into Port President, not one of his crew but should partake of his bounty. "Dunder and Blixen, who fired such loud gun, 'all hand de hoy, to the pumps or we sink!" "I say one time, who shoot so loud gun"—said Lieut. Martin Van Buren. Mr. Floyd, the carpenter, was immediately slung over the side to stop the leak occasioned by a shot from the Spanish Gondola, Edwards, who by this time was making his way for Mexico. The crew said the Radical was in a sinking condition. "Why, then, I have but dreamed on sovereignty!" exclaimed the admiral. "I have lived long enough; my way of life is fallen, and that which should accompany me, as honor, love, obedience and friends, I cannot have." "Dunder and boderation," cries the Lieut. "what are you whimpering about? The carpenter will soon stop the hole, and should we not come athwart Commodore Hickory, we will get safely in. Mr. Floyd returned, said that the whole was stopped. The admiral's countenance brightened up; call'd all hands aft to splice the main brace—"The Can went briskly round—3 cheers

Admiral keeping time to—"All Virginia never tire.

The Indians below, hearing the noise, believed they had safely arrived in port, rushed upon deck, and, forming a ring round the Admiral, sang—

O, Caucus! O, Caucus! to glory arise, &c.

Time "we shall soon be married."

In their rejoicing, the management of the ship was entirely neglected, and going with the tide, drifted on the Thimble Shoal. It was then determined to throw the guns overboard; which I found to be very light, being all made of wood, which my crew called "scare crows." The admiral said, as his ship had been in a prohibited trade, he would sink his papers: tying them up in a bag marked "suppressed," threw them over-board, and

they sunk.—It was thought, when I left her, she never would be got off, as she went on at high water.

10 P. M. brought my vessel to anchor in Hampton roads.

February 16th—10 A. M. was informed by a passenger in the steam boat, that he spoke Commodore Hickory at the mouth of the Potomac, under a press of sail, with fair wind and tide, which would carry him into Port safety; and moreover, that the great standing committee of that Port, called the Far People, had condemned the Radical as unseaworthy, and ordered her to be burnt,—that, tearing up the caulking, found papers which fully demonstrated that she had been in an illicit trade.

FOR THE STAR.

Messrs. Editors.—It is with extreme reluctance that I presume to touch on the important, but almost exhausted, subject of the Presidential election. It has been handled and harped upon so much, without regard to each party's feelings, that the bare mention of it will almost produce a nausea with some. When I take, calmly, a retrospective view of all governments, both monarchical and those wishing or aiming to be Republican, I am naturally and almost irresistibly, by some secret impulse, constrained to exult in my being a denizen of the free, enlightened, and independent States of United America; where I can bask in the sunshine of liberty, and, with heartfelt satisfaction, participate not only in the election of our ordinary Magistrates, but in the election of the man that presides over the destinies of the nation, if not basely cheated out of that pleasing privilege (which is peculiar to our nation) by a surreptitious caucus nomination—by a pitiable minority of our members of Congress.

The people of Montgomery abhor the idea of having a man forced upon them by intrigue, even if he were amply calculated to fill the office with dignity to himself and honor to the nation—so long as they, without violating the constitution, enjoy the privilege of selecting a man, whose talents, morality, and integrity, meet the views of a majority of the nation; and they will, if it can be done without sacrificing their feelings, form themselves into a solid phalanx, and oppose, with becoming dignity, in a calm and deliberate manner, any thing like a caucus dictation.

I shall not presume to descant on the qualifications, merits or demerits of the present most conspicuous candidates, as it is foreign to my purpose; neither shall I, in selecting a man to fill the highest office in the gift of the people, be governed by sectional and local prejudices; nor do I think that any of the high minded and intelligent people of Montgomery will act otherwise. I shall, solely, have in view the good of the United States at large, which ought, in every case, to be paramount to every other consideration, on any political question. I want a man upon whom nature has poured her gifts with a liberal hand, whose experience is extensive, who is calm in his deliberations, firm in his judgment, well versed in the arcana of the Cabinet, and particularly acquainted with our foreign and domestic concerns. That these qualifications, joined with inflexible integrity, all concentrate on John Quincy Adams, I presume no intelligent person will doubt. If so, I cannot see the impropriety of rewarding him with what his merits and services justly entitle him to.

But if some plan cannot be devised to unite his friends in North Carolina, in such manner as to enable them to vote agreeably to their wishes, why do we boast of a Republican Government? We had as well yield our consent to an irk allowed caucus usurpation, as to passively suffer ourselves to be cheated out of our privileges; and I hazard nothing in saying, that, if such a plan be not brought about, three fourths of Montgomery county will have no share nor lot in the election under existing circumstances; and I fear we are not all blessed with a spirit of concession, sufficient to enable us to acquiesce without murmuring. As the gentlemen, who have permitted their names to be placed on the People's Ticket, so far as I can learn, have pledged themselves to vote for the most popular anti-caucus candidate, I think there ought to be some judicious method devised, to ascertain that candidate in a correct and satisfactory manner. Until a more correct and pleasing plan can be instituted, I will take the liberty, with great deference, to propose the following: viz. When the poles are opened to receive suffrages, that there shall be two separate and distinct boxes; one for the Electors, and the other for the Presidential candidates, and that every man shall vote accordingly. Otherwise, let every voter write on his Electoral Ticket (before handed in) the name of the Presidential candidate that stands highest in his estimation. By either of which plans I think every man will have the privilege of voting satisfactorily. If there is not a similar arrangement made, we may assist in e-

lecting a man, that, of all others, is the most objectionable to the friends of Mr. Adams.

Should any gentleman think the above hints are intended to assist the caucus or radical candidate, by dividing the people, I shall, by way of conclusion, tell him that the supposition is entirely unfounded.

AMICUS POPULO.

Legislature of North-Carolina.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

December, 1823.

DEBATE ON MR. FISHER'S

ANTI-CAUCUS RESOLUTIONS.

[CONTINUED.]

Mr. J. A. HILL.—Mr. Speaker, the gentleman from Beaufort, Mr. Blackledge, complained of his inability to follow the gentleman from Rowan, in the devious path of his argument. His own course, sir, has been sufficiently eccentric. He has wandered from the subject, properly before the house, and sought to revive an empty but odious distinction, which should have slept forever in the tomb of the Capulets. When called upon for a manly expression of his sentiments on a great constitutional question, he raises the stale cry of "party," and avoiding a fair and open field of debate, secures himself behind the rampart of party prejudices. There I shall leave him, sir, to cherish in his own breast, if he has failed to excite them in the bosoms of others, the corroding animosities of party.

The gentleman from Caswell, Mr. Brown, has urged, in behalf of a Caucus, that the members of Congress, from their situation and superior intelligence, would be more likely to make a wise selection from among the numerous candidates for the Presidency, than the people, scattered as they are over such an extent of territory and residing so remote from the seat of government. In a Republic, where the virtue and the intelligence of the people ought to be considered the only legitimate basis of their sovereignty, this is a most singular argument. It is, in effect, to assert, that the Constitution has secured to the people a privilege which they are too ignorant to exercise, and, consequently, of which they ought to be deprived. I see on the table before me, the last message of our venerable Chief Magistrate: he holds opinions on this subject widely differing from that expressed by the gentleman from Caswell, "We are all, &c."

The people, Mr. Speaker, are, in truth, sovereign; they have, however, chosen to delegate a part of their sovereign power, to be exercised under limitations, by their appointed agents, reserving to themselves certain privileges to be exercised in their collective capacity: among the most important of these privileges is the right of choosing by their free unbiassed suffrages, the Electors of President and Vice President. To guard this important right, to secure the people in its free exercise, is the professed object of the resolutions on your table. There is not, I would willingly believe, in this House, one who would not be prepared to resist, to the utmost of his ability, any attempt to disfranchise this nation, any direct attempt to deprive the people of any one of their Constitutional rights. Is it not equally our duty to guard against any improper interference with or encroachment upon these rights? But how, it is asked by the advocates of Caucus, does the nomination of a President encroach upon the province of the people? They are not bound to respect it. It carries with it no binding force. True, sir, the members of Congress, deliberating in Caucus, are acting without the scope of their agency, and, consequently, what they do is not binding on their constituents. But when, sir, has a nomination so made, failed to determine the event of an election? The truth is, that though it has, in law, no force, it has yet in fact, all the authority of a law. Besides, sir, we should reflect that we legislate, not merely for the present, but for the future. We should be careful to transmit to those who come after us, unimpaired, the rights we have received from those who have gone before us. We all know how readily customs grow into precedents and acquire authority. Thus, sir, what is now permitted to the Members of Congress, they may hereafter arrogate as a right, and the modest voice of recommendation be exchanged for the proud tone of dictation.

My chief objection to the practice of Caucusing, is, that I think it opposed to the spirit of the Constitution. By that instrument, the Members of Congress are disqualified from serving as Electors. The object of the disqualification is plain. In the event of a failure on the part of the Electoral College to make a selection, it becomes the duty of the House of Representatives to choose the President from the three candidates having the highest number of votes; did not the disqualification exist, the indecency might occur of a man's deciding a controversy he had pre-judged. If the Electoral College fail to make a choice, it becomes the constitutional duty of the Member of Congress, to vote for that man, whom he deems in his conscience best qualified for that office. Is he equal to this duty, whose judgement is warped by prejudice and whose passions are excited by previous controversy? Does the Caucus Member of Congress discharge faithfully, the high trust reposed in him? Does he vote according to the dictates of his judgement and the voice of his conscience? No, but disregarding the one, and hushing the other, he votes as a majority of his friends in Caucus dictate; he cannot exercise even a common discretion; he has already resigned the right of self-action; he has surrendered himself a passive instrument in the hands of others. A vote is put into his hands; he stands pledged to render it, no matter whether it be averse to the wishes of his constituents, or contrary to his own feelings and inclinations.

It has been further urged, sir, in support of a Caucus, that from the number of candidates, and the divided state of the public mind, there is great probability of the election finally falling into the House of Repre-

sentatives, unless the opinions of the people are concentrated by means of a Caucus recommendation. If, Mr. Speaker, the nomination by the Members of Congress is to have the effect so confidently anticipated from it, will it not be the Members of Congress who, in effect, make the President? And is not this, sir, exactly that, which gentlemen wish to avoid? This method of avoiding threatened danger, by rushing madly upon it, is truly one of singular novelty and ingenuity. For my own part, Mr. Speaker, I should regret to see the election fall into the House of Representatives; I would have that body from an exposure to temptation and a consequent liability to corruption; but it is the mode pointed out by the Constitution, and I had rather that the most inefficient man in the nation should be elevated to the Presidency than that one jot or tittle of the Constitution should be violated. The mischief of a weak or partial administration of our affairs might be repaired by the wisdom of succeeding rulers, but where, sir, would you find an antidote to the poison of a vicious precedent? In the one instance, the injury sustained by the country would be partial and might be repaired; in the other, the wound inflicted on the Constitution would be hopeless and irremediable.

But we are told, Mr. Speaker, by the advocates of a Caucus, that this practice which we so much reprobate, is approved by the example of men, distinguished for their patriotism and republican principles. I confess, sir, I am not of that number who are easily influenced by the magic of a name; I will not blindly adhere to customs merely because there is warrant for it, or without enquiring into their origin and tendency. As to this particular custom, sir, it is one which, in my opinion, is "more honored in the breach than the observance." It is a custom which had its origin in party intrigue, which is persevered in to the prejudice of popular rights, and which threatens to grow into a precedent dangerous to liberty itself.

Mr. BYNUM said, he rose with peculiar diffidence, to submit to the consideration of the House, those reasons which would influence him to vote in favor of the indefinite postponement of the resolutions on the table. On this occasion he should have preferred giving a silent vote. But silence in him, at this time, might be construed into a dereliction of duty. Having not been much in the habit of addressing public bodies, he was apprehensive of experiencing some difficulty in communicating his sentiments to the House on so important a subject; but courage, said he, should regard only the cause it advocates; being conscious of the correctness of that, it should despise the perils and dangers that attend its pursuit. No gentleman on this floor, said Mr. B. more truly regretted the introduction of this distracting question than he did; but as it had been brought before the House, he was disposed to contribute his mite in disposing of it in the briefest manner possible, which he conceived would be effected by postponing it indefinitely.

In reply to the remarks of the honorable gentleman from Rowan, which he believed were mostly taken from the Preamble and Resolutions then on the table; who commences by telling us, that a meeting of the members of Congress, to consult together on the question of the Presidential Election, which meeting he has seen proper to term a Caucus, is contrary to the letter and spirit of our Constitution. But, Mr. Speaker, said he, I defy that gentleman or any other on this floor, to lay his finger on any clause in that instrument, which prohibits the holding of such a meeting.

The gentleman has also told the House, that the Washington Caucus, in effect, chooses the President by the nomination they make. But is this the fact? Is it obligatory on the people to ratify or sanction a recommendation of a meeting of their members of Congress? As well might we say, it is obligatory on us to adopt the advice of a friend, or to marry the woman who is recommended to us by our parents. That gentleman further observed, that the Constitution of the United States prohibits members of Congress from being Electors, and therefore, it might be inferred, that it was not intended that they should, in any way, interfere in the collection of a President. But, what appears to me a contradiction in terms, in the next breath he informs us that any previous expression of their opinions might have an improper influence on their final vote, which belongs to them agreeably to the provisions of the Constitution. So that it seems in one place they have something to do with the election, and in another they have not. In support of his opinions, the gentleman makes a long quotation from Mr. Niles's Register, which he seems to consider as perfectly orthodox. But who is Mr. Niles? He is the Editor of a paper, whose sentiments readily accommodate themselves to his own interest, and whose opinions vary with the times. The gentleman goes on to state that Caucuses give rise to intrigue and bribery. But I would enquire, said Mr. B. of that gentleman, if it would not be easier to bribe three men, than one hundred, and thirty? And if no election is made by the people, the question may be decided by a majority of twenty-four votes—that is, a vote for each state in the Union.

It was observed, by my friend from Stokes, continued Mr. B. that my motion for the indefinite postponement of the resolutions, was an infringement of parliamentary decorum. Sir, I came not here, to attend to the rules of foreign parliaments, or to be bound down by the etiquette of courtly ceremonies, but to guard the interest and protect the rights of the people, whose servant I am. He has told us too, that Caucuses are no new things. I perfectly agree with that gentleman, Caucuses of the very kind that he now so loudly condemns, have been constantly resorted to for twenty-four years in all cases where several candidates have offered for any important office; nor have we ever heard of any mischief arising from them; but, on the contrary, much good, by preventing a division of strength in those who have the same end in view. But, Mr. Speaker, regardless of every other consideration, when I reflect upon the present happy and prosperous situation of our country, and compare it with the distracted and disturbed condition of the different powers abroad, I