

THE STAR,

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COMMUNICATIONS.

To the Editors of the Raleigh Stars

GENTLEMEN.—In the last Milton paper, some writer, who has taken pains to conceal his name, has had the kindness to reply to my letter published in your paper of the sixth instant; and, in a round assertion, contradicted every thing I said, and called me a fool, without shewing that I have misstated one circumstance. As to the charge of my being a fool, I have no objections; for I make no pretensions to wisdom; but, at the same time, I think this writer, who tells us so much about fables, has nothing to boast of. If he intends to say that the facts which I stated, about the Grand Jury, are a "tissue of misrepresentations," I can inform him and the world, that I can produce a certificate from some of the Grand Jury, proving, word for word, my assertions; or, if he intends to deny the statement which I made, that, in this county, there are a certain set of bigotted politicians who are afraid that the world should know that Gen. Jackson has friends in Caswell county, and that Benj. Cory, Esq. is the tool of that party, I will shew that such is the case; and that I deserve not the slander and abuse contained in that libel, published in the last Milton Gazette.

Some short time after the first communication, signed "One of the People," appeared in the Milton Gazette, I wrote the following piece, in answer to it

"TO ONE OF THE PEOPLE."

Obligations of duty impose upon me the necessity of replying to your communication in the Gazette of the 22d, in which you have attempted to cast the butt of ridicule and contempt on the Grenadier Captain, and his company. Had not vanity & arrogant presumption been the predominant traits in your character, the dictates of prudence and sound discretion would have admonished you to silence; but, disregarding these holy admonitions, you have boldly stepped forth, brandishing your potent quill with a spirit worthy of the brightest days of chivalry. 'Tis therefore with fear and trembling I approach you, most noble knight of the round countenance, and insist, as the terms of our combat, that in the event of my overthrow, christian burial shall be allowed me. Freedom of speech, and an unrestrained expression of opinion, concerning public men and public measures, are privileges guaranteed to us by the very spirit and essence of our governments. They are rights interwoven with the fibres of liberty itself. Take away this precious boon, and you destroy the beauty and harmony of our system, and strike a death blow at the root of our independence. The free people of this county have been, at length, aroused to a proper estimate of these immunities, and have determined to shew to the world that they have yet soul enough left to beget a thought, and spirit to say, they are freemen. They have viewed, with no little surprise and astonishment, the duplicity and intrigue, carried on by a party in this county, organized for the express purpose of giving tone to its politics, and reserving to themselves exclusively the honors of office. Inordinately grasping at power, they behold them arbitrarily exercising an authority over public sentiment, which, if not checked in its embryo, is destined, sooner or later, to paralyze our energies, and render us mere ministering servants to the mighty powers that be. We have arrived, truly, at an alarming crisis, if, in the innocent exercise of our opinions, we should be insulted by the dictatorial interrogation, how dare you to think for yourselves? Although we have not these very words in your communication, yet its tone and spirit give abundant evidence of a disposition, on your part, to use such language. Not content with questioning the right of opinion, you have endeavored to cast a shade of mystery and misrepresentation over an innocent transaction, which was got up for no private views or party purposes, but for the sole object of publishing to the world that they have a choice, and will publicly express that choice, without fear of offending or hope of reward. Know then, sir, and be it known to the party of which you are a feeble representative, that the company of Grenadiers were not seduced by the false glare of eloquence, the spirit of military glory, or the more potent spirit of whiskey, as you would wish to insinuate; but a solemn appeal was made to their candid, unprejudiced minds, with a full knowledge, on their part, that it would be communicated to the world as an evidence of their sentiments. For this mighty offence, you have presumed to arraign them before the bar of public opinion—yourself both witness and prosecutor. Beware how you trample on the feelings of an offended people; for although slow to anger, yet, when their indignation has been roused, when the wind shall come, and the storm in its fury fall, all the visionary schemes of your party will be swept away, and yourself left a melancholy monument of misguided zeal and enthusiastic ambition.

"A GRENADIER."

Mr. Cory.—You will oblige a friend, by publishing the above communication. Should I give offence to any one, you see at liberty

to give up my name to the author. Correct errors, &c.

Yours, &c. THOMAS W. GRAVES. Caswell C. H. July 28th, 1824.

On the week following, the foregoing communication was returned to me, accompanied with the following letter:

Sunday Morning, August 1, 1824. Dear Sir,—I return your communication, as its tone and improper allusions render it inadmissible. If you will change its language to that which is decorous and less personal in its allusion, I will very cheerfully publish it. I cannot, however, consent to permit you, in a pretended defence of yourself, to abuse others—and those too who had no agency in the publication, to which yours is a reply. Respectfully yours, &c. BEN. CORY.

Capt. THOMAS W. GRAVES, Caswell C. H.

After reading his letter, I was at a loss to divine his motive for not publishing my reply. I thought it contained no allusions that were too pointed or personal, and, if it did, I knew it was not intended, and that it could not be a reason with the Editor for refusing to publish it.—I had ever thought that Mr. Cory was under the influence of a set of Radicals, and that half the articles under his Editorial head were from the pen of the "mighty powers that be," who made use of him as an instrument to trumpet the fame of Mr. Crawford, and if they instructed him not to publish my reply, it was not to be done. Under these impressions, I felt no good feeling towards him and his superiors, and, accordingly, addressed him the following letter:

Caswell Court House, 5th August, 1824. Sir,—I had thought that a press, in a free country like ours, was the guardian of the people, and that you, as a conductor of a public journal, would at least have indulged me the liberty of replying, in your paper, to a false, a wanton, and an unprovoked attack upon me. As I feel myself interested in this business, I request of you, sir, to give me the name of the author of a late communication in your paper, signed "One of the People." Yours, &c. THOMAS W. GRAVES.

BENJAMIN CORY, Milton, N. C.

By the return mail, I received a letter from Mr. Cory, in reply; which I do not deem improper to lay before the public. Should Mr. Cory think me wrong in thus publishing a private correspondence, he will, nevertheless, remember that the motives which urged me to it, will palliate the error. The letter reads thus:

Milton, N. C. August 7, 1824. Sir,—I have not yet seen the author of "One of the People." As such do not feel authorized to give up the name of the writer. The object of the piece was not to attack you, but to shew that the company did not intend seriously to be considered as the supporters of Gen. Jackson. If you will conch your reply in decorous language, free from improper personal allusions, and of what I consider a serious charge against the freemen of Caswell, I would very cheerfully give it a place in my paper—otherwise I cannot.

Respectfully yours, &c. BENJ. CORY, Caswell Court House.

This letter came to me by the mail, and, in the course of the week following, I requested Major Haralson, who was going to Milton, to stop the paper that was sent to me by Mr. Cory, and direct him to consider me no longer a subscriber. Thus far, I think, I have shown that, in this county, there is a party, friendly to William H. Crawford, who are determined, at all hazards, to check every feeling friendly to any other person but that individual; that any person, thinking well of either of the other candidates for the Presidency, are barred the privilege of publishing their ideas, in his favor, or even repelling an attack that is made upon him, for his respect to any other, save the harmless Crawford.

I am now done with Ben Cory and his party. Yours, &c. THOMAS W. GRAVES. Caswell Court House, N. C. August 17, 1824.

FOR THE STAR.

To the Freemen of North Carolina.

As ancient story goes, the Pope gave England to a Spaniard, on the condition that he could get it; but the Radical prints of the present day, more generous, but more fallible than the Pope, have given the State of North Carolina to Mr. Secretary Crawford, whether he can get it or not, and nothing remains to complete the transfer but the ceremony of delivery; not, indeed, by turf or twig, but by ballot; and so confident have been the assurances, and so great the imposition on this subject, by the Radical prints at home, that they seem to have obtained some credence abroad, and given such impetus to the party, that they may attempt the barrier of other states. Seneca, that sage philosopher, judiciously remarks, that ambition aspires from great things to greater; and propounds matters even impossible, when it has once arrived at things beyond expectation. What

limit the Caucus Ideal has set to his ambition—whether a majority of the States, or the whole United States, is more than I can tell. It may be, indeed, that his popularity, like that of Millades, the deliverer of Athens, is so great, that his country's good requires that he should be put to death. If so, it behoves his followers to be a little more cautious; and not to press his claim to an unreasonable length. But, to be serious—let us examine for a moment, and see how far the Radical assertion comports with probabilities. We have twelve papers published in our State; of these, three only have declared for Mr. Crawford, and asserted the fact which I am now controverting; while eight, of equal credit, (for I make no invidious distinctions,) assert as confidently that the People's Ticket will prevail by an overwhelming majority. Here then are eight witnesses against three—this would satisfy any intelligent jury as to a controverted fact; but this, it may be said, is a mere hypothesis—the parties speaking only the opinions they have formed of a future event. True; but is not the probability of the future event, from this datum, as eight to three, in favor of the People's Ticket? But the opinion expressed in the anti-radical prints is fortified by the stubborn fact that the votes taken for President, at occasional meetings of the people and at some of the late elections in many parts of the State, (and some of them in counties where members of Congress have intrigued for their prototype,) exhibit a proportion of about 10,000 to 600, against the Treasury candidate. I will not undertake to say that this criterion shows any thing like an accurate proportion of the strength of parties. But I would ask, (and it may be that I ask in the language of triumph,) is it possible, with this result before us, that any man of candor, even a Radical, (and there are some candid and honorable men of that faction,) will give it as his opinion that Mr. Crawford will obtain a majority of the votes of North-Carolina? I think not. The Rads, however, too modest to deny, and too cautious to admit the fact, meet it by protestation, not confessing or denying, and say they "dislike the practice" "of prematurely collecting the opinion of the people," as an "improper officiousness."

Very modest waiver of the issue! When public manifestations of preference for Mr. Crawford were given in this State, (which was the case while the tide set in from Washington City, receiving the gales of Virginia in its course,) no fastidious scruples were entertained for "prematurely collecting the opinion of the people." But since the tide is running out, and carrying with it the scum which intrigue and delusion had deposited on our soil, and the people begin to see and judge for themselves, the case is entirely different. It was unfictitious for a caucus of Congress-men to issue their manifesto for the election of Mr. Crawford; but, for the people of North Carolina, the honest farmers, when they meet together, to declare their opinions, is more than Radical delicacy can tolerate—it must be "discouraged" (say they) by all orderly citizens, i. e. by caucus men. And is this the foretaste of Radical innovation? What shall the freemen of North-Carolina be told, that unauthorised agents shall think and act for them on political measures of the first magnitude; but that to act thus for themselves, is a thing they would be task-masters "dislike," and must be "discountenanced?" This, to say the least, is a high-flying attempt to muzzle the people! Take care, my fellow-men—if this dynasty gets into power, beware of the gag-law! that hideous offspring of the reign of terror—that reign which Mr. Crawford was so anxious to support with his blood and treasure.

The following specimen of the caucus creed you have already seen; but it cannot be too often presented to your view, as a beacon to warn you against the pernicious doctrines of that system: "the people are often their own worst enemies. The delegation of power to them is both just and proper; but what the nature of that power should be, and under what restrictions it is alone safe to grant it, is yet to be decided. There are extremes in this respect, between which it is necessary to steer."

Our constitution says, "that all political power is vested in and derived from the people only." But what are constitutions in the hands of men who avow the above sentiments? O, thou spirit of '76—shades of departed heroes—ghost of Washington! frown upon these factious spirits, and they shall cower and skulk and shrink into their original nothing.

When it suits the Caucusites to calculate or probabilities, they find no difficulty in proving, (at least to their own satisfaction,) even by a few obsequious facts given to their favorite, that he will be elected. The whole state of Massachusetts has been claimed for him; be-

cause he was toasted in Boston; and this toasting system (a legitimate offspring, I presume, of the caucus system) seems to furnish proof to the calculating Rads of our own state, stronger than the honest and unbiased declarations of 10,000 of our free and independent citizens. And who are the men that most loudly vociferate the new-light doctrines? Are they of Carolina growth? If I mistake not, we are indebted to a neighboring state and to a foreign kingdom for their officiousness—if we dare call it by so hard a name. It will be found that many of them are Virginians—disciples of the Richmond Enquirer, that once respectable, but now intemperate vehicle of abuse; that they still cherish their old state pride, and manifest a spirit of dictation towards our state; and if North Carolina is not a colony of the "ancient dominion," it is not by their agency that we have maintained our independence.

And now, my fellow-citizens, let us endeavor to deserve the high destiny which a gracious providence has given us as a state—let us acknowledge and affectionately embrace Virginia as a worthy sister; but let her sons hew their own wood and draw their own water—let us not acknowledge them as task-masters—we have made brick without straw long enough—let us for the future think and act for ourselves; and if we have any asps in our bosoms, let us do them no harm, but turn them loose, and they will fly away, or, at least, become innocuous. The Radical party is called a faction, and truly so—it is a faction in the proper sense of the word; but it is surely a very powerful and alarming faction.—It is powerful on account of the numbers, talents and weight of character engaged in it—and especially by the patronage of the Treasury Department, which has a direct influence on its thousands, and an indirect, but certain, influence over its quadrupled thousands. It is alarming, because it is directly opposed to an administration (with a Fabricious at the head) which has been pacific, virtuous, wise, and prosperous—and because it threatens a radical change of policy, measures and men—with no probable prospect of any beneficial result to the country; but is, in my humble opinion, big with portentous evil. Many of these innovators are men of great talents and worth; and some of them (I fane would say many) are actuated by the purest motives—while others, many others, whose designs have been manifested by overt acts, I can but regard as the enemies of rational republicanism. But the great mass of this faction is composed of well meaning, but deluded men, who are looking to their leader for the promised change, and with it the fancied good. But, alas! the phantom will illude their grasp. Their opposition to the government is founded in lust—lust of power and wealth, which, like all the worse passions of the heart, will increase in malignancy in proportion to the disappointments it meets with, and will hurry its votaries, I fear, into insurrections, worse, if possible, than that of whiskey memory, in which the hon. Geneva embarked. This is the moment for every sober minded man of that party to stop and pause—it is much easier to check our appetites in the beginning, than to stop them in their course. Let them inquire whether they are going, and wherefore should they risk their present happiness. The contest is already warm, and must wax hotter and hotter, until all the faggots of the faction are consumed. It is not merely a struggle between the ins and outs, in the abstract—it is literally a tug of war for principle in the administration of the government; and a war of official extermination. The Radicals ask no quarters, and it is very certain they will give none. It is, therefore, important, that all place-men, friendly to the administration, should guard their precincts, and watch the insidious foe; while, with equal vigilance and zeal, it becometh all expectants of office to strive for the mastery. But there is another class of men, from whom we shall probably hear the greatest noise—it is composed of all those who have been bountifully fed from the flesh-pots of Washington, and who are not content with their present fare, but desire that quails may be poured out of the Treasury upon them. Listen to their sycophantic notes with jealousy—make great allowance for their fictions; and deduct at least three fourths from their statements, if you would arrive at the truth; for they have much at stake—with them, it is Crawford or nothing. They know, indeed, something of the magnanimity of our late administrations, and they could trust to that which will probably succeed, for the continuance in office of a faithful servant, whose only offence is an honest difference of opinion from the powers that be, in matters of policy not involving the vital interests of the nation; and a decent and manly expression of that opinion; but they know perfectly

that they cannot make their calculations on any supposed weakness in the administration; they are aware of the unmerited abuse they have heaped upon our venerable President and his enlightened cabinet, (Crawford always excepted,) and that to continue them in office, would be to manifest fear of them, and to court their favor; therefore, I say, such men are not to be depended on—they will appear to you in all the shapes of a Proteus and all the hues of a camelion; and, if you are not on your guard, you may be caught in their toils—shun them fellow-citizens—by all means shun them.

I am not friendly to long essays; I like neither to write them, nor read them; but there is one other topic on which I beg leave briefly to touch before I conclude: it is of no less importance than the resignation of the Sec'y of the Treasury. I maintain that he ought to resign, from several considerations. In the first place, common justice to his country requires it; 2dly, a proper respect for his own character seems to suggest it; and, 3dly, he ought to resign voluntarily, because the President cannot, under existing circumstances, expel him. Justice demands his resignation, not because of his absence from his office for more than twelve months, (for his inability to discharge the functions of his office arose from an afflictive dispensation of providence, and he ought to be the judge whether it be proper for this cause to resign,) but because he is worse than useless in the Cabinet. Were he but a blank, the administration could get along without hindrance—suffering only for the want of that stock of information which is expected from the head of his Department; but his opposition to the measures of Government, and his known hostility to every member of the cabinet, must create such distrust and discord, as to impede and distract, in some measure at least, their deliberations, and jeopardize (as far as one member can do) the best interests of the country. A decent respect for his own character should induce him to resign—he is either a patriot, or he is not. If he is not, all will agree that he has no business in the Cabinet—if he is a patriot, it ought to occur to him, that by retaining the office he is doing his country no good, but really doing it some harm by keeping out another, whose qualifications might contribute to the public good; and he should bear in mind, that, with all his blandishments, there are not wanting among us those who are ready to ascribe to him the impure and selfish motive of retaining the office as an instrument to aid his election. The President cannot expel him, while his name is held up for the chief Magistracy, without incurring the odium of a persecutor; and this is the very thing he and his party desire. They have already intimated that he is a persecuted man; and should the President, by any measure of his, aid their views, and be instrumental in his elevation, (as I am sure he will not,) it would be the most unfortunate act of his laborious and useful life. So that *quicumque via data*, Mr. Crawford ought to resign. ABUL FAZEL.

FOR THE STAR. Messrs. Bell & Lawrence.—It is

remarked, that in all countries where Agriculture is the chief business of the people, are found the greatest simplicity of manners, more purity of morals, and the best display of the social virtues.

By an attachment to the soil, the natural result of its culture, they become the best citizens, the best soldiers, and the firmest patriots. The mere merchant, mechanic, and professional gentleman, may be a good citizen, and cherish the ties which are natural to the country which gave him birth, and gives him bread; but, as he cultivates no land, he cannot feel that attachment to the soil peculiar to those who reap the fruits of their own labour. As he can quit his country when in danger with more facility, he will not be likely to cherish that deep solicitude for its welfare which the farmer feels, who considers his all at stake. Our statutes seem to recognize this fact. To be eligible to any important office in the commonwealth, a frehold is the first requisite. Quere—Is North Carolina the birth place of a writer, in the Raleigh Register, over the signature of "A North-Carolinian," and does he possess a frehold in the state; and, if not, can he feel and cherish that deep interest and solicitude for the welfare of the country, which otherwise he would, were he the owner and tiller of the soil? Will he enter the ranks with the land holders of the country, and breast danger when the enemy shall appear? No, he has no ties to bind him to the soil. Patriotism is not one of the virtues in his vocabulary; and he will tell you, that he is but a passenger—fight your own battles—I am off. Are the yeomen of North-Carolina to [See 4th Page.]