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COMMUNICATIONS.

To the Editors of the Star.

GENTLEMEN,—The "North Carolinian," in the Register of the 14th, has assumed the fact that he has proved, that General Jackson is either ignorant of the laws and principles of civil liberty, or is regardless of them; and that he has the disposition, and has repeatedly avowed the principles, of a military despot!—Truly this is a wholesale conclusion, and if it were correct, the writer might have spared himself the trouble of writing his apparently closing essay to prove what he had already proved.

Does this "North Carolinian" suppose that the people of this state are so ignorant as to receive such outrageous pervasions and constructions as he has given to the facts he has quoted, and so insensible as even to receive, without disgust and contempt, such principles as he has set up for the standard of his judgment? Can he, in sober mood, believe that the people admit, that because he has attempted to infer a proof of incapacity in the General's resignations as Senator and Judge, that this is not only conclusive proof of the General's being a man of inferior talents, and even understanding, at that time, but also at this? Can he have so contemptible an opinion of the good sense of our citizens, as to think they gulp down all his absurd views of the measure of gratitude due to a man who has rendered the most eminent services to his country, and, by his prompt and energetic measures, saved to her so much expense and so much national character, and thus contributed so pre-eminently to her future peace and security? Can it be possible that the "North Carolinian," with all his love of British institutions, and all his sneering contempt for democracy, can have lived so many years amongst us, although with foreign feelings, and still think to find us so callous to every honorable sentiment, as to admit his invidious constructions of the General's language, actions and merits; and make himself believe, that he can not only write them into forgetfulness, but even shape them into crimes of the most aggravated kind? If such are his sentiments, they only mark strongly the sincerity of his old and continued veneration for kingly governments, and his hostility to democracy.

But still, after having furnished proof of so much, the "North Carolinian" must, like another mechanical pleader at the Bar in a bad cause, make one other appeal to facts, in order to lay all controversy prostrate! He, therefore, brings strongly before his auditors four particulars in the General's conduct, three of which are marked with every trait (according to the "North Carolinian") "which can define a tyrant." I will examine his premises and his conclusions.

The first particular adverted to is Jackson's conduct in the first Creek war. Here the "North Carolinian" finds no food for his palate, and yet he might have found here proof of the boldness and decision of the General, in putting down opposition: for it was in that war that the *Radical General Coker* came in collision with Jackson, who scared him home, when he undertook to disorganize the army.

The second particular is Jackson's conduct at New-Orleans. It requires a man who is destitute of American feelings to insult the understandings of the people with such a picture as he has here drawn. I shall omit, for the sake of brevity, quoting his words; for I take it for granted, that the reader has in his power to compare the essay of the "North Carolinian" while he reads this reply. It is false that Jackson proclaimed martial law as soon as he arrived at New-Orleans. Before that event he had received advice of the treasonable views of some of the inhabitants, and even that designs were entertained in the Legislature of treating with the enemy. He found that, without great precaution and an entire stoppage of all the means of concert between the malcontents and the enemy, and all communication through the press, whereby his weakness in men, and more particularly in arms, could be ascertained, he might be assailed under circumstances which would bid defiance to all his exertions; and perceived, from the opposition some factions persons were disposed

to make to his measures, that the country and his army would be placed in the most critical situation.

It is indeed surprising to those who know the fact, that this detractor from the merits of General Jackson, should have been the constant ardent admirer of William Pitt and his successors, who, for twenty years together, placed the whole population of England, Ireland, and Scotland under martial law.

But let us examine what this martial law is, and see the force of this writer's preposterous application in this case. It is the law of force, prevailing over all civil institutions, statutes and usages, during some pressing emergency; where the existence of the sovereignty under which these civil institutions, &c. exist, is put in jeopardy. In despotism, martial law is often proclaimed when there is only a danger of opposition from the people against their tyrant; but in this country, there can be no plea, for there is no law for proclaiming it, except when the emergency is such as that the possession of the country is in contest; which involves in it the very existence of the institutions and rights dependant upon that possession, and places those institutions and those rights completely in the power of the military forces which are to decide the contest. Hence, when an enemy invades our country, our army advances, to meet him, and that without regard to any other object than his defeat. Entrenchments are thrown up and encampments formed, to the destruction of crops, improvements and even habitations. All the common rights of travelling are forbidden. Houses are occupied or destroyed; and the shot and shells are thrown without regard to any body's property. In the same manner, every precaution is taken to prevent the enemy from gaining intelligence, carrying on treasonable correspondence, and to suppress all opposition by word or deed to the preparations necessary for the operations of the army.

This martial law took place at New-Orleans, when 9,000 British regulars, which could easily have been aided by 5,000 marines and seamen from their fleet, appeared to assail the city; where Jackson had not a force sufficient to resist the entrance of 3,000 British soldiers, if the machinations of the traitors had received no restraint but that of the civil law. Ignorant or unprincipled must that man be, who can assert that Orleans was saved by mere military force, independent of the measures taken by Jackson to keep the enemy ignorant of his real situation. The very time which was lost by the enemy in reconnoitering, would have been occupied in riot in New-Orleans, had there been no martial law.

During the Revolutionary war, it would puzzle this "North Carolinian" to shew General Washington ever to have been placed in a besieged city; but it is fully recorded and well known, that every circumstance of martial law was executed where the emergency required General Washington to exercise such authority. The American commanders during the revolution took all steps which had been usual with the British armies in former wars; and nothing could be more extensive or energetic. And our history shews what little ceremony they frequently made with the Tories.

Can this "North Carolinian" give us an instance during the late war were a siege took place, of any town where there was an extensive population, and where there was any suspicion of treachery, except at New-Orleans? I suppose not. But let him look at all our seaports; and he will there find that the military force took complete cognizance of the egress and regress of the citizens whenever the enemy appeared in their waters; occupied what grounds they pleased, and pursued a course in many respects incompatible with the civil law.

But Jackson's merit in the defence of New-Orleans is, by this tyrannical writer, to be lessened down to a mere prevention of an occupation for a few days, by a very civil set of gentlemen, whom this "North Carolinian" had long regarded with glowing attachment. He had long beheld their career in France and Spain with high satisfaction; and no wonder, therefore, he should think it rather a blessing than otherwise that the people of New-Orleans should be visited by such guests. And as to the length of time, he seems to think it was a matter perfectly known before hand that peace had been made at Ghent, and that in a few days it would be officially announced! Had that been the case, the battle never would have been fought.

The true state of the case, however, presents a very different picture. Already had British magnanimity been tested on the northern frontiers and at the capture at Washington. Already had the scalping knife and tomahawk been wielded under their auspices in the most wanton scenes of cold-blooded

murder. Already had our citizens learned the destruction of their costly edifices, in a manner unknown amongst civilized nations! New-Orleans was to have been the head quarters of a system of future Indian warfare and depredation beyond any example of the previous part of the war. From thence was to proceed the mandates and the means for organizing all the southern and western Indians, whereby the whole of those frontiers were to be enveloped in frightful desolation and blood-shed! The cheek of an American Patriot will crimson with indignation at the effrontery of this vindicator of British moderation in the wars of America—this detractor from American patriotism.

But the "North-Carolinian" is determined, on this point, to fill up the measure of his daring. He charges the General with most of all having disregarded the rule of the laws by continuing martial law after the battle, and after the British Commander had informed him that peace was made; and, at this time, with having exercised his powers to prevent an incendiary writer from dissolving his forces, and a *Scottish* Judge from protecting him in doing so. And is any man so ignorant of military conduct, does he suppose, as not to know, that an enemy often imposes upon his adversary to effect what he cannot do by direct assault? If Jackson had disbanded a part of his forces, or relaxed in his precautions, at this suggestion, and the suggestion should have proved only a feint, what would have been the extent of the abuse of the cowardly Radicals, who have lost no opportunity of vilifying the most energetic and useful of our heroes and sages?

To these remarks I will add a short and conclusive answer to all the "North Carolinian's" illustrations of the disposition shown by Jackson to act the military despot. When certain news reached him of peace, he promptly restored the reign of the laws at New-Orleans. Not satisfied with seeing all impediments taken out of the way of the future dispensation of his authority, as though disappointed at the defeat of intestine treason and a foreign foe, the Judge immediately began the exercise of his official functions with a summons to the General to answer for his former conduct! The latter obeyed the summons. Without a useful purpose in view—without the least possibility that such a step could furnish any restraint, under similar circumstances to our military chiefs, who knew their duty and loved their country, this infatuated Judge fined the General one thousand dollars for contempt, which was immediately paid. If military despotism had been the most distant object of Jackson's soul, would he thus have submitted, with a numerous army at his order, and the great mass of the grateful population pouring imprecations on the head of a petty judicial tyrant? But the necessity which alone could justify martial law had passed away; and where is the slanderer who can raise his voice in defamation of the republican character and principles of Jackson, where those principles can be brought into fair operation? Nay, it is amongst the mongrel charges of this tyrannical "North-Carolinian," that Jackson has dared to express and recommend free discussion amongst every class of men in the Republic!

I proceed now to the third particular of the conduct of General Jackson, on which this "North Carolinian" has presumed to express his malignant and false condemnation. If the force, which he states to have been "overwhelming," had been such, then it reflects great disgrace upon the Georgians that they should have made so poor a figure, with at least equal means, if they had pleased to exert it before Jackson's arrival, by reinforcing General Gaines with a small detachment only, to disperse these miserable fugitives, as they are here represented to be. But this is all fudge. Jackson's name had some effect in making the Indians retire before him; but another motive was apparent to all at the time. It was in Florida the Indians expected to find protection from pursuit, while they carried on the war on any and every part of the extensive southern frontier, which neither Jackson, or any other man, could have protected with double his force. Here arises the cause for the entry of Florida.

The "North-Carolinian" would impose the belief that General Jackson entered Florida without orders, because Congress have the only power of declaring war. Here another fact is assumed; which is, that such entry was an act of war. The true fact is, that the Spaniards were bound by treaty to keep the Indians in their territory peaceable, which they not being able to do, we had a right, according to the laws of nations, to protect ourselves. If the Executive exceeded their powers in the orders given to the General, that is a matter between the President and Congress: for

two things are clearly demonstrable in this case.—1st that we had a right to preserve our own peace by entering Florida, in the absence of a Spanish force or authority sufficient for the purpose; and, 2dly, as comes within the knowledge of those who have read the documents on the subject, that the General was authorized by the Executive to enter Florida, and "to pursue such measures, and inflict such punishment, as" would "bring the war to a speedy conclusion." With regard to the conduct of the Governor of Georgia, had he done no more than send troops to protect the frontiers of the State, within his jurisdiction, he would have done his duty; but, instead of this, he sent out a militia force beyond his jurisdiction, who entered a friendly town of the Creeks, and there committed numerous, wanton and indiscriminate murders.

The last particular which this writer comments upon, is the conduct of the General while Governor of Florida. His remarks on this head, he begins by stating a known *falschoot*; i. e. that the Spanish Governor staid for the purpose of delivering over the province to the General: for, when the General arrived, with the troops to take possession, this Governor refused to give it up for some time; and after remaining for some time longer, after his functions ceased, attempted to carry away the records of the province, by which great injury would have occurred to individuals, and to the United States, a loss of more than a million of dollars, by the introduction of fraudulent claims. The General, in whom was vested the power, by the law of Congress, prevented these injuries by his firmness.

I forbear more remarks upon the assumed conclusions and presumptuous remarks of this illiberal and malignant writer, with respect to the particulars above; and also upon the pitiful story of the Senator's ears!

The strong, concluding appeal which this writer makes, is *feeling enough!* For, although the grounds of objection taken by him to the General are the mere *sham of excuse*, it can be readily believed that the firm defender of his country's rights, the staunch supporter of Republican principles, and the advocate of a system of true American policy, which shall render us at once independent of foreign nations, and particularly of the *land of cakes*, and secure our independence and peace, is not a man to suit the views of the "North-Carolinian." Amongst the Radicals, he has only to decry every measure of national policy, to slander every man of pre-eminence usefulness, and advocate the shuffling politician whose services heretofore attracted little blame and no *voluntary praise*; and he (the *sham* "North-Carolinian") may rise to eminence as their preceptor and guide!

WALLACE.

P. S. It is submitted to the Editors of the Register, whether, instead of collecting a rough expression from each of a few papers scattered over the Continent, in order to introduce their *sublime* simile of the vipers and the sun; it would not have been made doubly applicable, if they had confined themselves to the writers in only three or four neighboring Radical prints; placing the "North-Carolinian" in the midst of the "Theatre," & substituting the name of "Crawford," with that of Jackson!

be preferred to Mr. Crawford by every consistent Christian. We doubt not that it will be found also that Mr. A. holds political opinions more in accordance with our free constitution than does his respectable rival, Mr. Crawford. GUSTUS.

From the New York American.

Blowing hot and blowing cold—The following extract from the National Intelligencer when it was against Mr. Crawford and a caucus in 1816, is well contrasted by the National Journal with a recent article from the same paper, with the same Editors now that it is for caucus and Crawford.

From the National Intelligencer

of April 26, 1816.

We consult our own inclinations and probably the interests of the great republican family, by avoiding an examination into the circumstances, a combination of which had nearly produced a nomination in direct opposition to the public will. But some idle assertions have been made on this subject, which deserve an attention they were not originally entitled to, since they have been eagerly propagated as facts in parts of the country where they were not, as they were here, contradicted by every man's own knowledge!

On the part of Mr. Crawford's friends, no exertions were spared. As no labour was too great, so no means were too humble to aid their object: witness the use made of the columns of an ephemeral print in this city, to soil the character and lacerate the feelings of their opponents!

If caucusing, as it is called, be necessary among parties, to secure unity of action, it would be expedient to devise some more equitable method than the present. Some method that shall more truly reflect the sense of the people from different parts of the country, without interfering with the official duties of the members of Congress, and without being subject to the influence of considerations which ought to have no bearing on the question. Some method that shall present all the Republicans in the United States, &c. &c.

Should the day unfortunately ever arrive, when a nomination shall be made adverse to the public sentiment, the evil of this system will be felt. On this subject we fully acquiesce in the views of Gov. Barbour, expressed in the Senate the other day. "God forbid (said Mr. Barbour) that the power of electing a President of the United States should be lodged in any other hands than those of the people themselves. The whole Congress united, dictating a nomination, would weigh no more than a feather in the balance against the public will. Any dictation in opposition to the public sentiment would be considered as an outrage on the rights of the people, and justly scouted by them."

United States, thus influenced, instead of being an advancement of the most worthy, would be an atrocious act of a new sort, in which all who are most worthy would be excluded, to the preference of the one who was least entitled to the public confidence. To oppose a candidate, otherwise approved, because highly recommended by many others who are themselves approved, appears to us, in short, to be to reverse the principles of our republican institutions, and to place our selections for office on the worst possible basis that could be contrived for them.

From the National Intelligencer.

TO THE EDITORS.

Gentlemen: I was pleased to observe, some time ago, your declaration of willingness to admit into your paper, arguments or intelligence in support of each or any of the Presidential candidates; and, encouraged by it, I request the favor of you to insert in to-morrow's Intelligencer, the enclosed articles of public intelligence from Ohio and Alabama; the first a communication from the

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