

THE STAR,

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COMMUNICATIONS.

FOR THE STAR.

Messrs. Bell & Lawrence:

In the Raleigh Register of the 10th ultimo, I see the address of W. Ruffin to the freemen of North Carolina; in which he calls upon them to awake from their slumbers; to rise from their reveries; to shake off the shackles which are about to be riveted upon them, &c. &c. Now, why all this wind and bustle for nothing? Why so much vociferation? Are the freemen of North Carolina asleep, that they should be thus loudly called upon as the worshippers of Baal called upon their dumb idol upon a former occasion? Is Mr. Ruffin the ever wakeful eye that is vigilantly to watch over the liberties of our fellow citizens? Vain presumption! The good people of North Carolina need not want not the clamours of Mr. R. to instruct them how to vote for President and Vice President of the United States. And, if they did, it would be the blind leading the blind; we should all fall into the ditch. They are perfectly awake to their own interest, and will watch, without slumbering, against the delusions of the enemy. If Mr. R. would exercise a little modesty and patience, and withhold his advice until we ask it, it would be much more reasonable and acceptable. But he seems to think that nobody knows any thing except himself, and that, unless we are guided by his *Guinea lingo*, we shall drop into the vortex of everlasting ruin. All this vanity would be perfectly pardonable in an inexperienced young man; but in one three score and two, it is scarcely pardonable, unless we apply to him the old adage, "once a man and twice a child."

He seems to complain that Col. Polk and Dr. Burges will not deign to notice some one of his communications, and makes his appeal to the people to decide the controversy between them; and solicits a judgment of acquittal at our hands, without offering a tittle of evidence of innocency. To the altercation, however, between him and Col. Polk and Dr. Burges, I have no reply to make—they are fully competent to answer for themselves; but to that part of his communication which is of a public, political nature, and belongs to the people, I will make a brief reply, (if it will afford him any satisfaction to be noticed by an humble farmer, who claims very little notice himself from any body.) And if I err in presuming to offer any remarks to the public upon a subject of such public notoriety and general interest, it is the first time; and I am deluded into the error by the example of Mr. R. himself, and hope that a satisfactory apology will be found in the fair model which I imitate.

He tells us that Col. Polk and Dr. Burges place Gen. Jackson's highest claims to the Presidency on his *Revolutionary services*; at which he takes great exceptions. I know not what Col. Polk and Dr. Burges may have said upon this subject, (no doubt they are fully able to justify themselves in the course they have taken,) but I am disposed to place the General's claims, not upon a single act of his life, (however signal,) but upon a long course of actions, honorable to himself and beneficial to his country—I place it upon his *intrinsic merit*. To a mind quick, clear and strong, he unites genuine republican principles, with great candour and simplicity, without affectation—without intrigue. He commenced his useful life at 14 years of age in the Revolutionary war, and has continued his course thro' a succession of years, prompted by patriotism and guarded by intelligence, which places him above suspicion. He is as Caesar would have his wife to be, not only virtuous, but unsuspected. And whilst he was struggling in the last war, fighting Indians and British and eating acorns, his traducers were by their fire-sides, eating their beef and drinking their wine, perfectly insensible to his sufferings; and even now cherish not a single spark of gratitude for his public services. Tell it not in Raleigh, publish it not in the streets of New Orleans, for there is a man in North Carolina who cherishes enmity to the second

Washington! Cover with the mantle of charity such base ingratitude.

He sings loudly of a caucus, which he says was held between Col. Polk, Dr. Burges and Mr. Crudup. And what has that to do with the merits of Gen. Jackson? If Col. P. Dr. B. and Mr. Crudup have had the pleasure to meet, and have social conversation since the Presidential contest commenced, no doubt that, among other topics, was touched upon. But is private or social conversation a caucus? If it be, all the citizens of the community may be charged with caucusing; for the presidency is, as it should be, a subject of general conversation among all classes. I know not what sort of definition Mr. R. would give the term caucus; but I have been in the habit of associating with it regularly appointed meetings of men clothed with the dignity of office, entering into and publishing resolutions to influence the people. A meeting of a few individuals, or a great number of individuals, from the ranks of the people, even avowedly to consult about the general good, cannot be a caucus. If this be correct, I should like to know how Mr. R. would make out any mere conversation to be a caucus. I have seen no publication of the meeting he alludes to; or of any resolution recommending to the people either Gen. Jackson, Mr. Adams, or Mr. Crawford. The fact is, Mr. R. himself is a warm friend and supporter of caucuses; and, seeing the dreadful dilemma into which the caucus at Raleigh and Washington have thrown their friends and chief, Mr. Crawford, he makes a vigorous effort to extricate himself and them by recrimination. He is reduced to the pitiful shift of making private or social conversation a caucus.

To his illiberal remarks upon the "People's Ticket," I have a few observations to make in reply, and I have done. He tells us that this Ticket was formed by a petty caucus, composed of some members of the last Legislature, and some private citizens; and also some ex-members of Congress, who either wished for themselves, or their friends, some lucrative appointment from the President—that it was chiefly made up before the rise of the Legislature, and that the meetings held in some of the counties since upon that subject was nothing more than a device to delude the people—and that it is a political fraud attempted to be practiced upon the community. All this he tells us he can prove, with as much gravity as though he really believed it. And what are his proofs? They are all reduced to this one; that it "was gotten up in opposition to the regularly nominated Caucus Ticket, in favor of William H. Crawford. Ah! there's the rub. It is in opposition to Mr. Crawford. If it had been in his favor, it would, no doubt, have been a regularly nominated instead of a petty or mongrel caucus. Is not this very conclusive evidence to establish the serious charges of "a device to delude the people, and of a political fraud attempted to be practiced upon the community?" Strange that a man of Mr. Ruffin's age should suffer his imagination to summon before him the hideous form of "raw head and bloody bones," without the least shadow of evidence of any such existence. He tells us further, that the Electors upon the People's Ticket are unpledged—that it is perfectly uncertain who will get their vote. Mr. R. may be fully assured of one thing; that either Gen. Jackson or Mr. Adams is presently preferred by the people of North Carolina to Mr. Crawford; and that either the General or Mr. A. whichever the people prefer, shall have the vote of the Electors. He need not disturb his peace a single moment with the fear that Mr. Crawford will get it.

PLAIN SAILING.

FOR THE STAR.

To the Freemen of North Carolina.

A writer in the Raleigh Register of the 24th September, who signs himself "A VOTER," has addressed a serious admonition to you, under the pretence of duty; and has assured you that he is a native of North Carolina, "boasting" of nothing but the honesty of his intentions. He then goes on to decry the "People's Ticket," and make calculations of the effects of your voting for it, without distinctly pointing out what object he has in view in so doing; whether it is simply in his good will, and under his sense of "duty," to let you into a secret about this "People's Ticket," or to conjure up some scarecrow to frighten you foolish Carolinians from voting. Let you should be deceived; and thereby afford a better chance for his man to get the vote of North Carolina. I don't think it very necessary for me, under a sense of duty, to reply to this writer; but I have a few things to offer, which may not be unworthy of your attention. In the first place, it is firmly believed that this pretended native of North Carolina, is a Virginian by birth, education

and political conviction; that, so far from having no motives but such as result from honest intentions, he has all the motives of an official agent of the caucus in this state, and divers others, which I shall not at present name; and that his only hope of success for his candidate resting on the supposition that you may be induced to believe there is some secret agency, by which your honest views may be frustrated, he has made this effort to raise your suspicion.

I cannot think it necessary to enter into much detail to show how the "People's Ticket" originated, or what was the cause of it. I will, therefore, be brief upon this point. It is well known that the Crawford party took advantage of their having a number of leaders in the Legislatures and in Congress to give a public expression of their determination to support their favorite for the Presidency. Although they were not elected for that purpose, and although they pretended to speak only their individual sentiments; yet, when they met in caucus, they excluded all private citizens, and published their sentiments as those of the members of the Legislature and members of Congress; thus giving all the influence of their public character to this expression. This conduct being adverse to the feelings of a large portion of the people, who neither liked the nomination or the mode, many individuals began to express their disapprobation. Then propositions were made in different parts of the state for counteracting the caucus proceedings. Individuals proposed to serve as Electors in two or three instances. Meetings were held, votes taken upon the preference due to different candidates, and Electors named in different sections, in opposition to the Ticket framed at Raleigh by the caucus, composed of Members of Assembly. An understanding seemed thus to be obtained, that the people would prefer the Electors who had been thus brought forward, in opposition to the Crawford caucus Ticket, and, by way of distinction, it obtained the name of the "People's Ticket." Now there is no secret in all this; and it is beyond the power of this "Voter" to disprove these facts.

From the great number of persons friendly to General Jackson, it is known that most of the Electors prefer him amongst the candidates now before the people of the Union. But this "Voter" would make you believe, that, because the Electors are not pledged to a caucus committee, (such as that of which is believed to be a member,) they cannot be trusted. Where does he find any thing like this in the Constitution of the United States? There the Electors are pointed out as the persons to elect the President, and the people are to appoint men, in whose political views and personal integrity they have confidence as Electors. The Electors on the "People's Ticket" are well known to prefer General Jackson amongst all the candidates; and they are well known to prefer any of the candidates to Mr. Crawford. Under some circumstances, the vote of the state might be thrown away, if the Electors had no discretion on the day of the Election. At present, however, there is one plain indication to govern the Electors. The National Intelligencer, the leading Crawford paper, admits that the contest is between JACKSON and CRAWFORD. The Editors of that paper well know that Crawford can get but few Electoral votes; and they know also that, in the House of Representatives, Clay and Crawford are the strongest candidates. Clay is not likely to get into the House as one of the three to be voted for there; and they hope, if Jackson is not elected by the people, Crawford may stand some chance. Their object now, and the object of the caucus party generally, is to prevent Jackson being elected by the people.

All the calculation of this "Voter" is utterly absurd. In the first place, it is absurd to place Crawford before all the other candidates as to his votes in this state; and in the next place, it is absurd to place all the friends of the different candidates as separately attached to only one of them in relation to the other. Jackson is apparently the strongest candidate; and the friends of two of the other candidates prefer him to Crawford. In this state of things Crawford stands upon his caucus legs; while the people are well aware, that if there is no very important change in regard to the indications of public sentiment, the Electors on the "People's Ticket" will vote for Jackson. And if, contrary to all probability, one of the other candidates shall appear to be the only candidate who can succeed, then the Electors on that ticket will have the confidence of the people to give him their vote.

I now come to the facts which are every day disclosing from different states in the Union. We see Jackson, unaided by congressional intrigue and personal

management, firmly seated in the affections of the people where he is best known; and received with applause throughout the Union, beyond any other candidate. Crawford, held up by all the clamour of caucus combinations, and a management of eight years' duration, falling behind in the race from his first start; forsaken by most of the states; having a dead majority against him in the Legislature of New York, which was considered his strongest dependence; Virginia holding but a feeble majority for him; and even the vote of Georgia decidedly for Jackson, if the mere circumstance of Crawford being a citizen of that state cannot bear him out there. Adams falls far behind Jackson; and Clay is lowering in the north-west, his first dependence. In the north-western states, Jackson is fast rising; and every probability indicates that Clay's friends will give up to him. Thus there is a strong probability that General Jackson will be elected by the people; and all the dreadful alarm raised by the caucus gentry about the danger of suffering the election to get into the House of Representatives be rendered unavailing. Indeed, it is evident, that no possible chance remains for Crawford but an election by Congress; and that, too, in defiance of the voice of the people of the states whose votes are calculated upon for him.

It is true that great management has been carried on for a long time to fix the votes of members of Congress. Many men are there in expectation of offices, if Crawford is elected. Even the state of Delaware is counted on for Crawford, in which scarcely a private individual raises his voice for him; but it is understood an office awaits her member for his vote.

Much has been written about General Jackson's military character, and the danger of choosing him on that account. Where, fellow citizens, is that danger to arise from? Is there ever likely to be an army in this country, sufficiently large to take our liberties from the militia of the country? Did Jackson ever command a regular army, who might flock to his standard, if he were to become an usurper? No. The soldiers whom Jackson commanded were his neighbours; the farmers of the country, like yourselves; who, when they had conquered, returned to their ploughs; who have no more interest than you have to destroy liberty! But what is this Congressional caucus? Here is usurpation! Amongst themselves, at Washington, the members of Congress hatch up schemes to make a particular man President. Then here is A. and B. and C. they will be appointed to this, and that, and the other office; and I, and you, and the next man; we shall all have power to help ourselves and our friends to some good thing. And when this Congress nomination becomes regularly fixed, then the scheme can be carried on from one term to another; and thus the people never more have any thing to do with President-making, except to give their silent votes. Here is usurpation in reality for you, fellow citizens!

If Jackson is elected independent of Congress influence, he will come into office for FOUR YEARS; and then your privilege of voting will return to you again. The man who shall dare to forestal it will be deemed by the People a pilferer at least; nay, a Traitor!

There is another thing well worthy of your consideration: If the people vote for the men free from shackles, but opposed to Caucus usurpation, the Members of Congress will see that it is not worth while to undertake the management of the Presidential election, by bribing the small States to resist an amendment to the Federal Constitution. Look at the last session of Congress. What a stir was raised at the beginning about amending the Constitution, so that the people in every district in the United States might elect its own elector; and how all this stir passed over without ever discussing the subject. The fact is, if the People elected their electors in single districts, and they (the electors) could all meet together IN ONE BODY, Congress would have nothing more to do with the election of President; and this Caucusing amongst them; this bargaining and intriguing; this understanding between the candidate and the managers, would all be at an end.

I make no appeal to your passions, and offer no pretence of superior Patriotism; but when the election is over, and my name subject to be revealed to every inquirer, it will be found that I am neither caucus-man, committee-man, secret agent or candidate; but an independent voter and

A FREE MAN.

FOR THE STAR.

Messrs. Editors,—I will not insult

the understandings of your readers, by going into a detailed answer to the slanders which are heaped upon the character of Gen. Jackson by a writer in the Register of the 24th, under the signature of "One of the people."—If General Jackson had never been placed in circumstances of great difficulty, wherein his conduct was the means of producing the most important benefits to the nation, such writers as the "North Carolinian" and "One of the people" would have had no play for their wits in finding accusations against him; and we might have represented him as an immaculate statesman, as the caucus-men do their candidate, because, as we had nothing to praise him for, so they would have little room for slander. The most brilliant actions can always be called crimes by those who are offended by them, or who are inaccessible to their value. Hence the Americans were declared Rebels by the British during our Revolutionary War. This never would have been the case, had we never fought for liberty. Jackson is branded by the man-spirited caucus writers with every crime, because he saved New-Orleans; secured our bleeding frontiers from the murdering hand of the Indian; and, placed at every post of extraordinary trial & peril, surmounted every danger and met every difficulty with corresponding firmness and intelligence. It is easy for malignant writers to extract passages from any work, and destroy the whole substance by tortured constructions. Let the candid and patriotic, who wish to know the truth, read the life of Jackson itself, a work which defies contradiction; and his friends will offer no excuses, no palliations of his conduct. Therein will be found the traits of a noble, patriotic and powerful mind; capable of supporting the highest authority of the nation, and of inspiring the confidence of the friends of their country.

The siege of New-Orleans is marked with every trait of a great and patriotic soul; and here must be the hand that would torture it to the disadvantage of its Hero.

The conduct of Governor Rabun has been reiterated to render disgrace upon Jackson. The conduct of Rabun was unjustifiable and fraught with mischief. Suppose, to meet this writer's illustration, the Governor of North Carolina were to call out the militia to quell an insurrection near the Dismal Swamp, and the insurgents were to retire into Virginia; our Governor could not order the troops of North Carolina to follow them there without orders from the President. So, when Governor Rabun sent the Georgia militia into the Indian country, beyond the limits of the ceded territory, he committed an act of war within a foreign jurisdiction.

I should think it labor in vain to pursue such pitiful reasoning as the *Unit* of the people has introduced in his communication; and dismiss both him and his piece with the contempt which such writings are calculated to beget in the breasts of a discerning public.

SOUND POLICY.

We have been requested by a gentleman of this state to publish the following letter, received by him, in answer to certain enquiries he had made of the writer in a previous letter:

3d August, 1824.

Dear Sir,—I received your letter of the 25th July by the last week's mail, but not in time to reply by the return of the same. I will now do so with pleasure, in far as I am able.

When the attempt was made in Congress to renew the charter of the old U. States' Bank, Mr. Gallatin was then Secretary of the Treasury. He was not only in favor of the measure, but recommended the same to Congress in a public report, which may be seen by reference to the documents of that period. Mr. Crawford was at that time in the Senate, and composed one of the Committee to whom the subject was ordered. He was a zealous advocate for the measure; and, when it was debated before the Senate, he delivered an able speech in favor of it. This was the first speech of his, that attracted much notice; and it is the one, to which his partisans even yet refer, to prove that he is a man of abilities. I have been told by a Gentleman then in Congress, that much of the credit of this speech was given to Mr. Gallatin; that some, in fact, called it *Gallatin's Speech*. The probability is, that Mr. G. having the success of the question warily at heart, freely complained of his friend, M. C.—a, and, no doubt, furnished him with all the arguments he knew in its favor. The renewal was opposed by nearly all the Republicans then in Congress, and, as you know, failed of success. The grounds upon which it was opposed were,—1st, Its unconstitutionality. 2d, That the stock was principally held by foreigners and by the high-toned federalists of the Northern and Eastern Cities. That, to renew it, would in fact be creating an institution of dangerous tendencies, for the benefit of foreigners and our political enemies; and, thereby be placing in their hands a power which, under circumstances that might occur, would be so used as to embarrass the Government,—that Government having but little influence in that institution.

[See 4th Page.]

*In allusion to some vulgar pieces published in the Register, said to have been written by Mr. Ruffin.