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COMMUNICATIONS.

FOR THE STAR.

Messrs. Bell & Lawrence:

An address to the people of the United States, bearing the signature of one Jesse Benton, has been transmitted from the State of Tennessee to sundry persons in this state, and made its appearance in the columns of the Raleigh Register, a paper which has lately become the vehicle of slander and vituperation against private as well as public characters, from the pen of the anonymous writer as well as the avowed calumniator. It has already been asked by a writer in your paper, who this Jesse Benton is? The answer given, is well known to many of the citizens of this state who have visited Tennessee, to be a correct one; but your correspondent might have gone farther, and stated that he was the assassin who shot Gen. Jackson from a side door during an affray between the Genl. and his brother Col. Benton; that, for this and his turbulent and diabolical conduct, he has been forced from society and become a bankrupt in every sense the word can be applied. But is Benton the real author of this base libel; are his talents and acquirements adequate to the production; has his information extended so far into the cabinet of the President or the arcana of the Senate of the United States as to enable him to draw conclusions and state as facts, the charges set forth against Adams, Jackson, Calhoun, Eaton and others? No, reader, he possesses no such information—his course of life and situation have been such as to have precluded him from it, independent of his total want of talent. You may rely upon it, it is the work of the master-spirit of one who is writhing under the agonies of disappointment and occlusion of office; who is seeking revenge for supposed injuries, under cover of a borrowed name; and is attempting to destroy the character of those who may have crossed his way to military or civic fame. It was evidently the design of the author of this address that it should not make its appearance, until just before the election of the Electoral College; when the friends of Jackson in Tennessee would not have time to disprove the calumnies. Certificates could be had from hundreds of the most respectable citizens in Tennessee to testify to the string of falsehoods it contains; particularly those which relate to the General's conduct during the several Creek campaigns. These same charges were bro't before Congress, & underwent an investigation, conducted by Mr. Lacock, Clay, Cobb, and others with much zeal and some bitterness, and which terminated in not only a full acquittal, but with an almost unanimous approbation of his conduct. With regard to the General's having gone to Murfreesborough and personally exerted himself to promote his election, is as void of truth as any of the charges. The fact is, the General did not go to Murfreesborough until after he was twice invited. He passed through town in the night, lodged at Genl. Coleman's, and did not return to town until 10 o'clock the next day; and on which day, at 4 o'clock, the election for Senator took place. Here was no time for his "exerting his personal influence to promote his own election." The author of the address states, "We find him at Washington bowing and cringing to all his former enemies, save only his greatest rival, Mr. Crawford; to him he preserved a haughty distance, &c. &c. He is seen with hosts of sycophants dancing attendance on his person and flattering his vanity!" If other proofs of the falsehood of these charges were wanting, hear the sentiments of two members of the House of Representatives of the United States from this state, in letters to a correspondent, dated on the 18th and 19th of February last. Speaking of the candidates for the presidency, one of them writes, "Mr. Crawford is my choice; yet I am frank to avow that Gen. Jackson is decidedly my second choice. His very dignified deportment at Washington has gained much even upon his enemies." Again he says, "Gen. Jackson has kept the even tenor of his way; so that a stronger would never have inferred from his deportment that he was a candidate for high office." Does this partake of the charge of "bowing and cringing?" Does it not give the lie direct to the charge? The other gentle-

man states, "I think Jackson cannot be made President: I should myself prefer him to Clay or Calhoun; and I do not know whether I might not make him my second choice. I can only say, his demeanour and conduct has been perfectly correct, and calculated to obtain for him many friends. He is a man of strong mind there is no doubt." Will not these declarations, coming from two of the Representatives of the state, who were eye witnesses to the General's demeanour for several months, and who are the friends and supporters of Mr. Crawford, bear me out in saying the author of the address has stated a wilful and malicious falsehood. CORRECTOR.

FOR THE STAR.

THE BENTON PLOT.

And so, Messrs. Editors, the madness of the Crawford-men has brought them to this. After toiling in vain in all the rounds of detraction against General Jackson, for want of traits in the character of their own Candidate, which could be set up in opposition to those brilliant traits of character which emblazon the fame of the other, they have now caught a glimpse of hope from the efforts of one Jesse Benton, now of Tennessee. This Benton has long been a notorious bully, one of the most turbulent men in America, whom disappointment, and his own want of popularity, have made him the inveterate, personal enemy of Jackson. His known hostility might have been thought sufficient to deter even the hardy partisans of the caucus candidate from quoting his ebullitions; but they are the very thing for them. The lowering clouds of disappointment hang around them; and they are just now in a mood to join in the curses of every demagogue that will violently assail the character of Jackson; no matter how inconsistent the ribaldry be in itself or how absurd the stories related. They seem to calculate, that "where much dirt is thrown, some will stick."

It is not for the meridian of Tennessee, that the publication of Jesse Benton is calculated, where both the parties are known; but to produce an effect abroad. It appears, from the newspapers, that the pamphlet of Benton is spread over the United States, whether solely by a small faction in Tennessee, or by a plan of the Grand Caucus agents, is not yet certain. But, evident it is, that this man writes for the eye of strangers. Some short time ago, he wrote a letter proclaiming himself in opposition to General Jackson, for reasons therein alleged; which letter, he pretended, could not be published in Tennessee, because the press there was not independent, and therefore it was sent to the Richmond Enquirer. That paper, of the 8th instant, contains the following note:

"We are requested by the Editor of the Nashville Gazette to say, that Mr. Jesse Benton never offered for the Gazette any communication whatever—and, therefore, that his general complaint of the 'independence of the press in Tennessee' is incorrect."

I will now call your attention to the design and z&et of this communication of Benton; first issued in a pamphlet, and then thrown off in the columns of the Crawford papers.

Two features, so utterly incompatible with each other, that they defy common credulity; and only come up to the taste of the enraged Crawford-men, present themselves on the first glance. He represents General Jackson as a man, whose very name was the signal for union throughout Tennessee, in opposition to the most popular of all other individuals; and yet, that he is, in all his conduct, rude, violent, tyrannical, deceitful and disgusting! Now, can any man in his sober senses believe, that such a flame of enthusiasm could have been raised in favor of Jackson's election in Tennessee, if the people generally had not been extremely partial to him? And can it be supposed, that the story Benton tells about the disgust which Jackson's conduct excited amongst the members of the Legislature when Jackson was brought forward as Senator, would not have had exactly the contrary effect of giving Jackson a majority over Williams, who, Benton says, had a majority against any other candidate that could be started? Such tales are too absurd for reflecting minds. It is enough that we look at these features of the performance to decide the credibility of this Benton.

A few plain remarks will set this bombast at rest. In the first army which Jackson led against the Indians, there were a number of ambitious and disorderly spirits, like Benton, who wished rather to possess confidence than merit it. These men were countenanced and supported by General Cocke, of the East Tennessee militia, who, like another Harrison, of the North West, would willingly have supplanted Jackson, as the other did

Wm. Hester. Then we might have seen something like a parade, and such a scene of Indian warfare in the South, as was exhibited in the North West. Such another dancing to and fro in search of provisions. Such a plan and no-plan system as in the latter case cost the United States sixty-millions of dollars, and ruined all the efforts of the Government to pursue the objects of the war, until the country was almost prostrated before the enemy. But the energy and the talents of Jackson disappointed the demagogues, and they sunk into merited insignificance. The officers who accompanied him did their duty. This is their best testimonial. The country has derived all the benefits of their valor and good conduct, and those of their General.

But we have from this Mr. Benton something very smart about General Jackson's Tariff votes! Now, Gentlemen, mark this circumstance. It was a plan, laid before-hand, Benton tells us, that Jackson should curry favor with the middle states by his Tariff votes; because Tennessee was sure! and were there no other states but Tennessee and these middle states that could see how he voted? Is it possible that Jackson should be such a fool as to vote under an impression that his votes on that subject could have much weight of themselves to gain him the votes of States where he was little known or thought of as a Candidate for President, when those very votes might destroy his expectations in States who were more likely to support his cause; i. e. where his services had been more immediately useful in the South? His votes on the Tariff were unequivocal and plain. They must be known every where alike. This is the management, we know, which has been adopted by the Caucus Candidate. His Treasury reports have spoken a language which serves every purpose. He is Tariff man to the North—Anti-Tariff to the South. He is vindicated as a friend to fortifications in the National Intelligencer. He is for pursuing, they say, the plans of Madison in sustaining the defenses of the country, the Army and the Navy. To the South, he is the enemy of such funguses. This is not Jackson's character. It is intelligible, free from duplicity and intrigue; and it, therefore, meets the hostility of your Bentons, and other such like brawlers.

It would be strange, indeed, were the statement of Benton true, that Jackson had so ill-treated the volunteers of Tennessee, and their valiant officers in the first Creek war; and yet, whenever he wanted an army, to lead against the enemy, the moment the word was given, they flocked to his standard with enthusiasm. Nay, let the name of Jackson be mentioned to a Tennessee volunteer, whatever state he may be found, and his heart bursts with expressions of attachment.

But the marked attachment of Tennessee to the cause of Jackson in the present contest, notwithstanding the bitterness of a few such creatures as Benton, and of a few others of the emigrants from particular sections of other States, gives the lie to the slanders which are propagated against him. I conversed with a Crawford-man, the other day, from Tennessee. He remarked, there are only two candidates there in opposition to Jackson, and they stand no chance. A Crawford-man wrote from Georgia, a few days ago—it is believed here that the parties are about three for Crawford, and two for Jackson, in five. And he even went further, observing that the party opposed to Crawford was rising. These informants are both Crawford-men. The faction would tell us, that the slanders of Clarke have injured Crawford in Georgia. Be it so; they may be assured the slanders of Benton will not injure Jackson in Tennessee; and if the slanders of Clarke are not good testimony, it is a most outrageous insult upon the intelligence of the people of North Carolina, that the Caucus gentry should bore them with the slanders of Benton; especially as the former have some appearance of truth, while the latter are marked with folly and absurdity. It is worthy of special attention, that Crawford has a strong opposition from the People of his own State: Jackson has nearly the unanimous support of his!!

The tissue of falsehoods repeated in the latter part of Benton's pamphlet, have been years ago told from the same source, and satisfactorily refuted. The newspapers published the stories of the land speculations. The whole affair was examined into, shown to have been entirely unconnected with General Jackson, and, without his knowledge, and Benton would have no chance of making an impression except where they have not been known. From his own account, the great grievance in the case of the Chickasaw reservations is,

that one set of speculators were too sharp for another set. All this pamphlet, however, is a shameless attempt to detract from the high character of General Jackson, by adventurous mad-man, alike unprincipled and contemptible. A FREE MAN.

JESSE BENTON.

From the Columbian Chronicle.

Extract of a Letter from a gentleman in Tennessee, to a friend in this city, dated September 20, 1834, on the subject of Jesse Benton's Libels on the

HERO OF NEW-ORLEANS.

In a letter I wrote you some short time since, I informed you of a pamphlet that was said to be in the press, and would soon be out. This book is attributed to the famous Jesse Benton, and accordingly made its appearance on Friday last, which, it is probable, you have seen. What course General Jackson's friends will take with regard to this publication, is not yet determined; or whether it will be proper to notice, in any shape, so pitiful a production. Some of his friends are of opinion that if permitted to pass unnoticed, it will drop still-born from the Press; others are inclined to believe that it may become necessary to make some reply to it, as it is believed the Crawford presses will republish it and endeavor to give it weight and character by alleging it is from the pen of a brother of the Hon. Thomas H. Benton, Senator from Missouri! &c.

Should this be attempted, it is thought that it may be proper, so far as to notice it at least, as to inform the people of the United States who and what Jesse Benton is. That is, to let them know he is the same man who attempted to assassinate General Jackson, in September, 1813, and has no object in making this vile, slanderous and wicked publication than the gratification of private revenge. In fact, that he is considered here, to be a maniac, and has, on more occasions than one, attempted the lives of his own brothers.

I do not believe, however, the friends of the General could be induced to take any notice of this despicable performance, under any circumstances, if they believed, for a moment, that it was really the work of Jesse Benton; but they feel convinced that he is only the instrument—the tool—the catspaw of certain Crawford Gentry, who have determined to leave no stone unturned to injure and blacken the character of General Jackson, but who, sinking from personal responsibility, are too dastardly to come out themselves.

What course this pamphlet—this tissue of untruths—may take, or what effect it may be made to have on the ignorant and the credulous, it is impossible for me, at this time, to conjecture; but as the Gen'l's character, and public conduct, have often been scrutinized by able pens than that which Jesse or his aids wield, I cannot believe it will have any, at least injurious effect. Indeed I am rather of opinion that benefit will be the result of such vile electioneering stuff, at the heel of so important an election as that of President of the United States.

As I am personally acquainted with many of the facts alluded to in his book, and know that the circumstances connected with them, as related by this said Jesse Benton, are entirely destitute of truth, I will proceed to point out a few of such untruths, which may, perhaps, be satisfactory to you, and which will, at the same time, enable you to determine, in your own mind, the degree of credit they are entitled to.

In page 16, Mr. Benton, or his mouth-piece, in speaking of the Senatorial election last fall, says, "when members had been threatened, persuaded, and managed in every way possible, that the friends of Williams yet held the majority, and without further exertion he would yet prevail. In this state of things a messenger was despatched for Jackson and himself to appear on the ground, his presence being deemed indispensable. He came and personally exerted himself to promote his election!"

Not one word of this statement is true, except that which relates to his having been sent for, and that he did visit Murfreesboro'. It is not true that his friends ever despaired of his election. That General Jackson exerted himself, as stated by Jesse Benton, to promote his own election, is a most infamous and malicious falsehood. I was at Murfreesboro' at the time, and had been there during the whole of the canvassing for that election, and know that he took no part in it whatever. He did not reach Murfreesboro' until between 8 and 9 o'clock the night immediately preceding the election; and was never, I know, out of his lodgings until after the election was over. I feel confident that he did not speak to a single member about the election, unless the subject was introduced by themselves. In

fact, I know of but two members who spoke to him, Col. Jetton and Douglass.

In page 25, Mr. Benton speaks of "the execution of six military men under circumstances calculated to excite the utmost horror among a civilized and humane people."

The circumstances of this case, as related, are entirely destitute of truth. He states that these men, after serving three months, went home; but on being told they had done wrong, returned of their own accord, to the army, and were arrested and executed for desertion. This, as I have understood them, from a person, who was in the army, & present at their execution, are these:—He says, the men deserted, and attempted to return home; but were taken by Col. Perkins's regiment, who were stationed in the rear of the main army, for the purpose of holding the Indians in check; they were sent to General Winchester, who commanded at Mobile. A Court-Martial was shortly afterwards detailed by order of Gen. Winchester for their trial—they were tried, found guilty and executed. Gen. Jackson had nothing to do with this business; for he, at that time, was engaged in defending Orleans—distant 250 miles, at least, from the place of their execution. It is evident that Benton knew nothing of the circumstances of which he was speaking, from the circumstance of his stating that Gen. Flournoy commanded, who was, at that time, either in Georgia or South-Carolina, a distance of about 300 miles. Mr. William Armstrong, of this place, brother of Col. Robert Armstrong, whom you have seen, was in the army at Mobile, at the time, and says that the circumstances attending the execution of these unfortunate men were altogether different from the representation given by Mr. Benton; and also, that Gen. Jackson had nothing to do with it. From the known humanity of General Winchester, I am convinced that their cases must have been of a very aggravated nature; and that he must have believed the situation of the country made such examples indispensable. At that time a powerful armament was hovering on our coast, and one of the most powerful and efficient armies, ever landed in America, was actually besieging Orleans. In addition to these alarming circumstances, the troops were continually deserting, which Gen. Winchester saw must be put a stop to, or it would be impossible longer to defend the country, or protect its inhabitants.

As it regards the regular soldiers that were shot, in the vicinity of this place, they were tried by a court martial, in Nashville, and found guilty of desertion, which, they well know, by the rules & articles of war, was punishable with death. It was proven on the trial that they, or some of them, had deserted as often as two or three times, and had been pardoned. The story about the General's having fallen out with Judge M'Nairy, because he rescued one of them by writ of habeas corpus, is the child of Mr. Benton's own vile imagination—it is not true.

In page 24, he says, "two of the Volunteer Colonels, who had brought themselves under Jackson's displeasure, by refusing to serve under Coffee, were arrested, and one of them sacrificed to the vanity and pride of the General and his nephew Coffee."

Mr. Benton did not write this book with a view of giving a candid and fair exposition of facts; but on the contrary was only desirous of perverting the truth and distorting facts. If he had stated the circumstances with which these cases were surrounded, he well knew they would have carried with them their own refutation. The Colonels here alluded to were Perkins and Stump, owing to whose cowardice and shameful conduct, at Enotocopo creek, the General's whole army had nigh well been sacrificed. In passing a dangerous defile at this creek, where, from every appearance, he expected to be attacked by a large body of Indians, he placed Perkins and Stump, with their commands, in the rear of the line, at their own particular request, to protect the centre, and the wounded, while crossing the creek. They were directed to occupy the heights above, until the van and centre should cross the creek. It was in the rear the General expected to be attacked, while his army was in the act of fording the creek; and in this he was not mistaken. The attack commenced just as the centre had crossed, and Perkins and Stump, with their commands, broke and run without firing a single gun—rushing upon the centre and van, and throwing every thing into confusion. Nothing saved the General and his army but the firm, cool, and deliberate bravery of the Artillery company commanded by Colonel Armstrong, and a few of General Jackson's field officers, who rallied the men and led them to the charge. I have often heard General Jackson say that his situ-