



THE NORTH-CAROLINA CENTINEL

A N D

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FAYETTEVILLE: PRINTED ON SATURDAY, BY J. V. LEWIS & T. CONNOLLY, in the STATE-HOUSE, where Advertisements, Essays, articles of intelligence, &c. will be thankfully received and carefully inserted.

Lumberton, Aug. 18, 1795.

Messrs. PRINTERS,

WHEN I forwarded you my first publication of the conduct of George James, I did not know that his admirable letter to Mr. Rhodes was to appear in print, for the information he says of "the good citizens of Robeson," it now becomes necessary that I should explain to the public, what they never understood from Mr. James, how he was in danger of being swindled out of 550l. mentioned about 50 times in his *nota bona*. The truth of the case is that when he arrived here 16th of April 46 days after his appointment, although my business was put upon a new arrangement, I was still disposed to render him every friendly assistance in my power, and as he had no money, to enter lands, he wanted to employ me to enter for him 500,000 acres, and for my cash and expences to give me 550l. in certificates, I at first agreed to do it, but upon further conversation, (all of which was in presence of Mr. Rhodes,) my opinion of his want of integrity was confirmed, and I determined immediately to have nothing further to do with him, I then believed what I know, that he had sold the land for an advantageous price, and kept it concealed from me, so much for his *nota bona*.

This man sent me a line after this, I will not now say what were the contents, but this I can say, that, for vulgarity of sentiments and want of decency it is inferior to none, *this was answered*, but before he received it, he appeared late on Friday at the election, to make the world believe that he would carry his threats into execution, in about ten minutes after his arrival, he sent me a note to enquire if controversy was to be settled by the news-papers, or did I intend to have him mobbed—I returned him an answer, that if it was the intention of the people to mob him, I did not know it, and would if in my power prevent it, not that I was bound to protect him, for any regard to him, it was a treatment too generous for him to expect from me, but that I would do it for the sake of my own reputation—neither would I make myself answerable for what a set of people might do, who were much exasperated against him: in a few minutes an interview took place in my counting house, when Mr. James confessed to me, he had sold the lands, before he left New-York, and that he had now to pay on the wantage one shilling per acre, that he was ruined in property, and reputation this I believed, and to confess the truth, was sorry to know that it was owing not only to his want of confidence, but his want of what is much more to be lamented. Mr. James went off before the people came out of the court house, or as I do suppose, it would not have been in my power to have saved him from being insulted and perhaps abused; to some, I denied that he was here, others I begged to put it off till the next day, until they could be prevailed upon to desist.

I do not wish the world to take my sentiment alone for my justification,

I believe I might venture to risk it on Mr. James, if I have injured him why in the name of GOD is it not made public, if it is I confess I cannot see it—it is true that this imprudent young man, might worry me a great deal in this business, and it has already given me great uneasiness—don't let the public be deceived, I never will do an act that is unworthy of an honest man, at least when I do let the world come forward and impeach me, and let me die with it hurrying round my ears, but if I am not to blame, let my friends speak it out, let my enemies if I have any, suggest their doubts, and let it be once over, that I may return to the enjoyment of my domestic life, which is the end of all my wishes—Mr. James's scurrilous publications may please the ears of many, there are numbers who no doubt will circulate it with avidity to my prejudice, it is an endless task, for me to justify myself to every body; if my friends do not desert me—if I stand fair in the estimation of the serious and well thinking part of the community—I will be content, nay, I will in spite of malice and calumny be content with myself—can this man have any credit for what he has done, an assassin may cover himself in blood, (but Mr. James is not a bloody minded man,) one man is stronger than another, and a bull is stronger than either, a dog will bay the moon, and the moon will keep her direction—and this man in my opinion has given the public his portrait, is there one single line or word in his whole ridiculous publication, that would induce any man of common sense to believe there was one trait in his character becoming an enlightened mind—where is that delicacy and decency of stile, that should attend the pen of a gentleman, or does he not rather possess those foldings of art, thro' which no native affection, is permitted to penetrate, does it not discover a heart unamiable in every feature, and what is to be expected when he is longer hacknied in the ways of men—and experience shall have improved him in all the arts of guile—if he had even parts and learning, they would be lost in the malice of his heart, the path of vice is a perplexing maze: one artifice unavoidably leads on to another, 'til as the intricacy of the labyrinth encreases, he is left entangled in his own snare, to let out in the world with no other view than a crafty intention, to interest, betokens one who is destined to creep through the inferior walks of life, he may be fortunate, he cannot be happy, he cannot taste the sweets of confidential friendship, and his evening of life will be embittered by universal contempt.

Since writing the above, Mr. James's last and most scurrilous, and I may add, the most shameful, and ungentlemanlike thing of the kind that I ever saw, has presented itself in your paper, I am no match for Mr. James in that way—your caution of malicious invectives to me was unnecessary, and I only wish to have the conduct of Mr. James, and myself placed in a fair point

of view—we will therefore for the sake of argument, suppose that the public has no more knowledge of my character, than they have of his, and that they only have to take the assertions of each, as they appear, he will say one thing and I another, and the evidence on both sides are equal, as it is nothing more than the bare assertion of each of the contending parties, and they alike to the public, unknown. Then let it be remembered as an invariable truth, that there is no man, however abandoned he may be, or loose to morals, that will do an unwarrantable act, or be guilty of a crime, without some motive, now I defy the world to point out a motive in me, to tell Mr. James, that I had one million of acres of land entered that I could not pay for, when it is to be considered that the contract was made that day, that the law altered the bounty to the state, from 30 to 50 shillings per hundred—if I had told Mr. James so, would we not have taken the land at 30 shillings, and saved 1000l. or could it be entered the day the law past, and I was at Raleigh, Mr. James should have reflected a little before he made that assertion, it will not bear scrutinizing—he also adds, that it was not contemplated that he should return in three weeks, or in three months, or until the land was surveyed, that will not bear a better examination than the former assertion. When it is remembered that the contract was reduced to writing, which I apprehend could mean nothing more than to express the intention of the parties, the public will therefore—that three weeks was allowed for Mr. James to come forward and that the land was to be had under the 50 shilling law, besides this I have a letter in my possession from him dated at Petersburg 7th April, apologizing for his not coming at the time he promised, adding that he knew I must be anxious to see him, that the prospect was not flattering, but he hoped to make something by it—I have no doubt of his hopes, nor am I at any loss to guess at his motives, as no man acts without motives, he had sold the land, and concealed it from me, and never intended that I should be benefited by it—now let us apply Mr. James's polite phraseology of the word "swindling," and see who was most likely to be swindled, with respect to the quantity of land to be entered in each county. I did not rely on my own judgment, Mr. Rhodes was consulted as a person of undoubted information, and as a proof of his not being deceived, he has entered for himself, since that time the quantity pointed out to Mr. James in some of those counties. I did not want Mr. James's 550l. Let any man, able to make the calculation see how far I should been benefited by advancing my money in exchange for his certificates, an offer made, from the most disinterested motives at the same time advising him to do the business himself, as I had neither time nor inclination to do it—I say nothing more than what I am able to prove from sufficient testimony, documents, and probability, that is equal to

the most positive evidence, some of my friends have advised me to bring an action against Mr. James, I have no disposition on my own part, I trust he has not been able to do me an injury: I owe no money but what I am able to pay upon the first application, I have no disposition to use my credit in the way of my business, I am perfectly satisfied with my situation, in point of property, I want none of Mr. James's, nor no other man's money without an equivalent—nothing is more disagreeable to me than news paper writing. I am sorry indeed to take up so much of yours that might be better employed.—I hope I shall be excused, and the necessity will justify the event.

I am told that there is another publication of Mr. James's in the papers, I don't know what it is, it must be like the first, and I trust is fully answered in this, without seeing it, and I now believe that I shall take my leave of the subject forever, and the public decide as they may think proper.

JOHN WILLIS.

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Extract from an ordinance to amend an ordinance, for carrying into effect a certain act of the general assembly.

BE it ordained, by the Trustees, that the several commissioners of confiscated property shall pay over into the hands of the Treasurer, from time to time all such monies as may come into their possession, as soon as conveniently may be, and in any event when the sum so received shall amount to five hundred pounds or any larger sum such money shall be paid within one month after the receipt thereof, and when such monies shall not amount to five hundred pounds then within three months after such monies shall be received, deducting their Commissions, and all bonds by them received as Commissioners aforesaid, shall be regularly lodged with the Treasurer within three months after they are taken and received by the Commissioners.

Be it further ordained, that the said Commissioners shall once in six months, that is to say, at the annual and semi-annual meeting of the Board, make full report and statement of their proceedings and accounts, and shall also make report to the Board at the end of three months after such annual or semi-annual meeting, of all bonds and monies so received by them during that period, or since their last report.

I certify the foregoing to be a copy of the Ordinance, passed the 14th day of July 1795.

J. GLASGOW, Sec. pro tem.

ACERTAIN JOHN FURN, horse thief, was committed to goal in Fayetteville the 20th inst. who was taken on the south side of great Pedee, near Mares Bluff—and had in possession, a large bay Mare, about six years old, branded on the near shoulder G. The owner may have her, by proving the property, and paying charges to

WILLIAM COOK.

July 28. if