

SOUTHERN CITIZEN.

WHAT DO WE LIVE FOR, BUT TO IMPROVE OURSELVES AND BE USEFUL TO ONE ANOTHER?

VOLUME IV.

ASHEBOROUGH, (N. C.) FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 18, 1840.

NUMBER 33.

PUBLISHED WEEKLY
BY
BENJAMIN SWAIM.
TERMS

Two Dollars per annum, in advance, or Three Dollars, if not paid within three months from the date of the first number received.

No subscription to be discontinued till all arrearages be paid; unless at the discretion of the Editor.

A failure to order a discontinuance before the expiration of the subscription year, is equivalent to a new engagement.

All Letters, Communications, &c. to come post paid.

Prices for Advertising.

Advertisements will be conspicuously and handsomely inserted at \$1 00 per square of 16 lines; and 25 cents for every subsequent insertion. No advertisement, however short, will be charged less than for a square.

Court Orders and judicial advertisements will be charged 25 percent higher; (we sometimes have to wait so long for the pay.)

Those who advertise by the year will be entitled to a deduction of 33 1/2 percent, provided they pay in advance.

FOR THE CITIZEN.

No. VII.

FISHER AND HIS CIRCULAR.

A Circular or Pamphlet addressed "To the Freemen of the counties of Rowan, Davis, Davidson, Randolph and Chatham," and subscribed—"Charles Fisher," has recently been put into my hands, of which I deem it proper to take some notice.

This individual has long since become so famous, or rather so infamous, for his want of political veracity, and also for his other qualities for which his Loco Foco coadjutors of the present day are so distinguished, that I really feel humbled in having to notice any thing that may now emanate from the driving pen of this political weather-cock. Nor should I stoop to notice his Circular were it not that there are so many falsehoods stated in such hypocritical guise, intended to defraud some body out of their vote for President, as he did many honest men in favor of himself at the last Congressional Election. I shall therefore claim the privilege of calling men and things by their right names, while stripping the *surplice* from the Reverend gentleman and his Circular, and showing the ridiculous attitude in which he has placed himself before the people of the 10th District.

The writer of this Pamphlet or Circular is the same Charles Fisher that figured amongst us in the summer of 1839, denouncing Congress for its "extravagant appropriations to pamper Executive pride," denouncing Van Buren, and declaring that, "if, contrary to his wishes, he should again be nominated for President, it would be to him a bitter pill." You remember how he then swelled and vapored and boasted of his pecuniary abilities; and with what vulgarity he assailed his opponent as a "poor man," and consequently unfit to represent the District in Congress; for that he must necessarily want that force and ardor of patriotic feeling which would be more likely to bind a rich man, (like himself,) to the interests of his district. And not finding sufficient room in the field of federal politics to display his talent for fault-finding, this political censor must needs give your School law and your new State House a passing sneer in public, and his most unqualified condemnation in private; interweaving them in his everlasting song of "the taxes! the taxes! THE TAXES!!!"

supposing this harmonious ditty would find a kindred chord in the lowest prejudices of the lowest of the people. And so it did. For, to show their love for the piper who had so tickled their fancy, they elected him to Congress. But, alas Charles! the fate of others ought to have admonished you that no Demagogue can long navigate by misleading the ignorant and deceiving the honest.

About two trips to Washington are as much as these rickety craft will stand. They become leaky; and in attempting to calk up one seam you open half a dozen more, through which the water rushes in torrents till you soon sink down to Davy Jones, never again to be heard or thought of. The shuffling and prevarication by which you *wormed* your way into Congress, are now fully apparent to an honest and abused people. Your economical lectures on "Credit, Speculation, Banks, over-trading,"—by which you then tried to exculpate the administration from the charges of bringing the "hard times" on the country, now stand out in bold relief, as the flimsy sophistry of a designing knave—intent on deceiving the people; or as the foolish ranting of a weak charlatan, himself deceived by the miserable experiments of a weak and wicked Administration, on the business and the currency of the country. Your denunciations of our School law we never could fully account for. Will you be so kind as to tell us whether you feared the introduction of a system of public education would cut short the reign of Demagogues in North Carolina? Or that the approval of the law by the people would only hasten the time when you or your securities would have to repay some fifty or sixty thousand dollars heretofore borrowed by you from our Literary fund? We naturally suppose that this convenient *little sum* went to aid you in your Choctaw Speculations. Now we have no sort of objection to honest enterprise and fair speculation; but when we see a man practising so contrary to the precepts he preaches to others, you will excuse us for doubting his sincerity.

Before entering directly on the gentleman's Circular, the reader is reminded that the author is the same Charles Fisher whose name appears with those of Brown, Strange, Bynum, &c. &c., affixed to a certificate in behalf of a tale told by the Honorable, William Montgomery and Michael T. Hawkins, with a fiendish intention to slander General Harrison; which said tale the people now know contained the essence of blackest falsehood.

But now to the Circular without further preface: and first in order—"The New Jersey case of contested Election." Here the gentleman devotes a dozen or fifteen lines to the narration of the whole of this *pretty business*, which cost the people not less than a hundred and fifty thousand dollars, and resulted in the disfranchisement of a sovereign State. He says he "will not go back to give you a history of it." We readily excuse him; for such a history would make every intelligent man blush, whose face is not bronzed and feelings seared with the most hardy disregard for all appearances of fairness and impartiality in legislative investigation. He wishes "merely to inform you that after the most thorough examination of all the votes alleged to be illegal, it has turned out that more *bad votes* were given for the Whigs than for the Republicans. It certainly requires more than an ordinary degree of disregard for the common sense and discrimination of his constituents,

to screw a representative up to the proper point for making the assertions here made by Charles Fisher. The Jesuit must here have some mental reservation as a *salvo* for his conscience; and it probably is that all the votes given for the Whigs were, in his judgment "*bad votes*." How unscrupulous this cunning and depraved Federalist can here prostitute the term "Republicans"! And apply it to five federal Loco Focos who could hang about the halls of Congress until a bullying faction could ascertain that it was the will of Mr. Calhoun that the President should order his Congress to pass the Sub-Treasury law—that they might then step into their seats and aid in completing this federal job for their masters—which they did accordingly. And thus has terminated this most extraordinary attempt of a Federal Executive faction, by foulest deception practiced through its subservient committee-men, on those having *prima facie* evidence of right as the people's representatives,—by the abuse and perversion of the *previous question*, to disfranchise a sovereign State, insult its Governor, and cram down the people's throats an odious federal measure which they had long, long rejected with disdain. "May the disgrace which has fallen on a partisan President and his cringing minions in the 26th Congress, and the defeat which awaits them and his abettors long remain a warning to the enemies of State-Sovereignty and Republican Legislation?"

What the gentleman says under the next head—"The Finances of the Country"—I shall not now notice further than to remark that he has here done nothing more than to transpose Thomas Bent's humbug on this subject, and intersperse it with a few quibbles and prevarications of his own. This whole financiering business will be attended to separately in due time. Next comes—

"Hard Times and Low Prices."

What is here said is drawn from the same principal source as the other, with an occasional absurdity from Mr. Buchanan who is an older pupil of Mr. Benton's, and stands in a higher class than Mr. Fisher. The tyro has however in his youthful ardor to give his preceptors ample proof of zeal in the study of Loco-foco sciences, rather over-leaped the mark, and ventured on one assertion which we must allow is his own. (to wit.) "The truth is, the Administration has had no more hand in making money scarce and prices low, than you or I." Here he must be again playing the Jesuit. For it must be obvious from his political movements that he is a true believer in the creed of the "illustrious Predecessor," (to wit,) that his cabinet must be an unit. And also in that of him who "follows in the footsteps"—(to wit,) that he and his Congress must be an unit; himself a "component part," and its Dictator; while ostensibly he makes Congress a kind of *scape-goat* to bear off the sins of the administration. We all remember how he managed this matter previous to his Election.—He then most feelingly commiserated the *dear people* in the "Hard times and Low prices." And attributed it all to vicious legislation by Congress. "The crisis," he said, "loudly called for a reformation of that body." "Your Representatives must cease to make such extravagant appropriations to pamper the luxury and cupidity of your President and the countless host of officers whom he creates." Since the young Gentleman has attended a course of lectures from the oldest agrarian professors at Washington, he returns home with his notions better rectified on this subject. And as the Federal Whigs will not tell

you "what makes money scarce and prices low," he will make it so plain that all who are "not blind or worse than blind," must see the fatal cause; "and none can be so perverse as to deny it." He then leaps over the financial history of the country from the removal of the Deposites, the attack of the Executive on the U. S. Bank, and the commencement of the Pet-Bank system. At this one jump he gains the conclusion that the *sole* cause why money is scarce, is to be found in the BANKING SYSTEM.—And he forthwith puts Rosinante on his mottle, adorns his helmet, couches his lance, and prepares for the onset against these windmills with which the policy of Mr. Van Buren and his predecessor has so amply stocked the country.—These long-armed giants that swarmed in every Loco Foco State, are the legitimate progeny of an illicit federal embrace of the State Banks. But our Hero seems willing to end the contest with wind altogether; and proceeds to puff out the following charges against the Banks—"Every State is full of them! They are almost too powerful for the Government itself! There are nine hundred and fifty in the United States! They can control the Currency! They lend money!" (What a crime!) "They make money out of paper! They can make much or little! They had in circulation, (that is lent out) in 1837, \$149,185,810—in three years they called in, (that is collected) more than forty-nine millions of dollars!" How wrong to collect debts! But these grievances must be submitted to by those who borrow, whether from Banks or from Literary funds. The Gentleman might here have saved a deal of mental labor if, instead of devoting three or four large paragraphs to that kind of shallow sophistry which never fails, sooner or later, to defeat its own object,—he had in a few lines told the truth, or paraded the facts by stating that when the Administration commenced the war on the Bank of the United States, his intemperate praises bestowed on State Banks, and his offer to make them the Deposites of the public money, which had lawlessly removed from its legal *deposits*, be stimulated those Banks to over-action. For they were directly told to "expand their issues, and thus increase the facilities for trade."—Hence, by the folly or fraud of the Executive the Banking system became deranged, and its healthy action destroyed. But I have written enough for one number of the Citizen. Yet I am not done with the Gentleman and his Circular.—I shall in due time pay my respects to his Chapter on the Presidential Election, and some other little matters couched in this Federal Epistle. CLITUS.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE UNION.

SIR: Being informed that the Hon. HENRY CLAY, of Kentucky, in his public speech at Nashville, yesterday, alleged that I had appointed the Hon. Edward Livingston Secretary of State when he was a defaulter, and knowing him to be one, I feel that I am justified in declaring the charge to be false. It is known to all the country that the nominations made by the President to the Senate are referred to appropriate committees of that body, whose duty it is to inquire into the character of the nominees, and that if there is any evidence of default, or any disqualifying circumstance existing against them, a rejection of the nomination follows.—Mr. Livingston was a member of the Senate, from the State of Louisiana, when he was nominated by me. Can Mr. Clay say that he opposed the confirmation of his nomination because he was a defaulter? If so, the journal of the Senate will answer. But his confirmation by the Senate is conclusive proof that no such objection, if made, was sustained, and I am satisfied that such a charge against him could not have been substantiated.

I am also informed that Mr. Clay charged me with appointing Samuel Swartwout collector of the port of New York, knowing that he had been an associate of Aaron Burr. To this charge it is proper to say that I knew of Mr. Swartwout's connexion with Aaron Burr precisely as I did that of Mr. Clay himself, who, if the history of the times did not do him great injustice, was far from avoiding an association with Burr

when he was at the town of Lexington, in Kentucky. Yet Mr. Clay was appointed Secretary of State, and I may say confidently with recommendations for character and fitness not more favorable than those produced to me by the citizens of New York in behalf of Mr. Swartwout. Mr. Clay too, at the time of his own appointment to that high office, it will be recollected, was directly charged throughout the Union with having bargained for it, and by none was this charge more earnestly made than by his present associates in Tennessee, Mcarris, Bell and Foster.

Under such circumstances, how contemptible does this demagogue appear when he descends from his high place in the Senate, and roams over the country retailing slanders against the living and the dead.

ANDREW JACKSON.

Hermitage, August 18, 1840.

TO THE PUBLIC.

Your surprise, I am quite sure, will be as great as mine was, on the perusal of a note, signed ANDREW JACKSON, addressed to the editor of the Nashville Union, and bearing date of the 18th instant.

The circumstances of my present visit to Nashville are well known here.—I declined repeated invitations to attend the Convention held on the 17th inst., and finally yielded to an unusual appeal, with which I was honored, and which it would be difficult for any one to resist.

I was called upon to address the Convention. In what terms of respect, and for his military services, of praise, I spoke of the distinguished individual who is the occasion of this note, all who heard me can testify. Among the subjects which I discussed was that of the degeneracy in public virtue, and especially the delinquency and infidelity in public officers, of which within the last few years we have had such a notable proof. In assigning causes for this deplorable state of things, I stated, as among them, the subversion of the rule laid down by Mr. Jefferson, of honesty, capacity, and fidelity to the Constitution, and the substitution for it of one founded on devotion and subserviency not to the country, but to the chief of a party; that persons appointed to office too often considered themselves as being only put into possession of their legitimate share of the spoils of victory, instead of feeling bound by the obligations of a sacred trust confided for the benefit of the People. In respect to defaulters, I referred to the case of Mr. Livingston, of whose attainments as a jurist, not more consistent with truth than my feelings, I spoke in the highest terms.—He was one of the earliest and one of the greatest defaulters. His case occurred under Mr. Jefferson's administration. The records both of the Executive and Judicial Departments established his default. He remained a defaulter about a quarter of a century, if not more. How he finally liquidated the balance against him, and when, I do not certainly know, but I believe it was by property; and under the first term of General Jackson. But whenever and however it was, a tardy payment or composition of the debt could not, and did not, expunge the fact of his original default.

In arguing from cause to effect, I contended that the appointment of Mr. Livingston was a pernicious precedent; that it was a virtual proclamation to all who were or might be defaulters, that their infidelity in a public trust constituted no insuperable barrier to a promotion to one of the highest offices in the Government. I did not attribute to Gen. Jackson a knowledge of the default. I went even so far as to say that he might not have reflected upon the consequences of the appointment of an individual so situated. I must now say that, until Gen. Jackson otherwise asserts, I am constrained to believe that he could not have been ignorant of a fact so conspicuous in the annals of our country as that of the default of Edward Livingston, Esq., as Attorney of the United States in the District of New York, during the administration of Mr. Jefferson, to the amount of about \$100,000.

It was in the train of the same thought and argument that I addressed the appointment of Mr. Swartwout to the office