From the Nashville Whig. Ir. Polk's War on the Tariff. PUBLIC ACTS " AND "PUBLIC DISCUSS

We subjoin a letter of Gov. Polk, ad ressed to the Hon. Jno. K. Kane, of Phila. containing a succinct statement of his views on the subject of the Tariff. To those who have been familiar with Gov. Polk's opinions on this subject, or who could have access to his recorded votes and speeches, the LETTER WOULD HAVE BEEN UNNECESSARY. Being called on, however he has promptly reiterated them

in his letter."-Columbia, (Ten.) Democrat, July 13. "COLUMBIA Ten., June 19th, 1844.

several letters in reference to my opinions on the subject of the Tariff, and among others yours of the 30th ultimo. My opinions on this subject have been often given to the public. THEY ARE TO BE FOUND IN MY PUBLIC ACTS. AND IN THE PUBLIC DISCUSSIONS in which I have participated."-James K. Polk to J. K.

If Mr. Polk in his letter to Mr. Kane, had left the public in doubt as to whether or not he reiterated all his opinions, as found in his ublic acts and public discussions upon the Tariff, the doubt is removed by his confiden. ial organ at Columbia, his own residence, by ernment economically administered. I am the assurance that in this letter " he has in tavor of a tariff for revenue, and opposed promptly reiterated them."

have taken it for granted that by roping in the cited greatest interest. I was opposed to the indefinite terms " fair and just Pretection "aprotective tariff of 1828 and voted against it. in the last paragraph of his letter, Mr. P. is I voted for the act of 1832-because it reduccoming over to the Protective policy. But, ed the tariff of 1828 to lower rates. That we would suggest that his words are by no made some reduction though not as much as I means susceptible of this construction, when desired to have made. I voted for the act of taken in their proper connexion. He sets out March 2d, 1833, (commonly called the comby referring Mr. Kane to his "opinions," promise act,) which reduced the rates of the to be " found in the public acts, and in the public discussions," in which he has partici- a point at which no article was after the 30th pated. These, as we shall see, are, from the June, 1842, to be subject to a higher duty commencement of his public career down to than 20 per cent."-Letter to People, page the present time, HOSTILE TO THE PROTECTIVE 21. POLICY, AND ESSENTIALLY HOSTILE TO THE EXISTING TARIFF.

terms, that he is in favor of a Tariff for revebill of 1832, to modify the Protective policy of 1828, and subsequently assented to a bill reported by the Committee of Ways and Means, of which he was a member, making further modifications, and " making also diswhile his vote in '32 was avowedly for the riff by degrees, the discriminations in the retection upon articles of home manufacture and to supply the deficit in the revenue caus. ed by such reduction,

The letter then concludes with the remark, which has in our judgement been so palpably Government to extend, as far as may be practicable to do so, by its revenue laws and all other means within its power, fair and just Fitzgerald, 'aiding and abetting,' in the act.' protection to all the great interests of the Union, embracing agriculture, manufactures, the mechanic arts, and navigation." A very John Bell, Jacob C. Isaacs, James Standifer. sweeping and universal "discrimination," to as they appeared upon the Journal, voting be sure, but one very difficult of accomplishment, as the prolonged controversy between the advocates of Free Trade and the Protective Policy clearly demonstrates.

As to Mr. Polk's object or design in using the terms "fair and just protection" we have only to deal with the whole letter, which taken ats and discussions, is too plain to deceive most credulous friend of the Protective of EVILS." THE RESERVE THE PROPERTY OF

hopt dwelling longer on this point. ed, as one "familiar with Gov. Polk's as on this subject," and having access

ct" in Congress, the first at

neries of Interrogatories propounded to him and Gov. Jones, through the papers of Memphis; together with a letter to the people of Tennessee disclosing his views on the subject state when he comes to the act of Tennessee disclosing his views on the subject of public expanditures, the public debt, the tarriff, and bank of the U. States; written in pursuance of an agreement between hi melfand Gov. Jones, entered into during the present from one of the leading Democratic presses in said unto David thou art the man." " this State :-

COLUMBIA, MAY 15, 1843.

To H. VAN PELT, Esq., Editor of Appeal: SIR :- At the earliest moment of leisure which I have had, since I received through the Memphis papers, the two series of interroga- the Committee of Ways and Means, from following year. In pursuing this object, Mr. tories propounded to me by a portion of my fellow citizens of Shelby county, I have prepared my answers, and herewith transmit them to you, that they may be published "DEAR Sin :- I have received recently through the same papers which conveyed to me the interrogatories.

I am very respectfully, your ob't serv't, JAMES K. POLK. Memphis Pamphlet, page 2.

" Upon the subject of the Tartff, I have but little to add to what I have heretofore often declared to the public. All who have observ. ed my course know that I have AT ALL TIMES BEEN OPPOSED TO THE "PROTECTIVE POLICY." I am for lav. ing such moderate duties on imports as will raise revenue enough when added to the income from the sale of lands and other incidental sources, to defray the expenses of Govto a tariff for protection. I was a member of Some of our cotemporaries, we discover, Congress during the period that this subject exbrought the rates of the act of 1832 down to

. In further explanation of the motive with which this "act" (the vote of 1832,) was per-He then goes on to remark in general formed, we quote from a supplementary Let. ter to the people of Tennessee, dated at Win. nue, and voted, while in Congress, for the chester, May 29, 1843, and published in the Nashville Union of June 6. We use a file of an increased revenue would be derived from the Union now before us :--

"The act of 1832 was an act to reduce the higher rate of the act of 1828, and other acts then in force. It was a small reduction criminations in the imposition of the duties conceded by the tariff majority at that time to proposed." In all this, there is nothing to Congress to the complaints of the southern justify the construction put upon the letter that and planting states. My competitor in his Mr. Polk is something of a Tariff man, for letter admits that the duties by the act of 1832, 'were somewhat lower than in the orepurpose of breaking down the Protective Ta. vious acts.' They were by no means so low as the anti-tariff delegations in Congress ported bill of '32, to which he refers, were for desired them to be-still they were lower taxing TEA and COFFEE, articles of tor- than the duties imposed by the existing laws. eign growth, with a view to reduce the pro. My competitor states in his letter, that, "the tariff of 1833, if not a Democratic measure, was to all intents and purposes a favorite Jack. son measure, approved by President Jackson. and voted for by the entire Jackson delegation in the House of Representatives from misconstrued, that "it is the duty of the Tennessee; my opponent was of the number. and his Democratic celleagues John Blair. Cave Johnson, William Hall, and William

The public will judge of my competitor's motive in failing to give the names also of with John Blair, Cave Johnson, Wm. Hall. William Fuzgerald, and myself for the act of 1832. We all at that time professed to be opposed to the high protective tariff policy. We were in a minority in Congress upon the tariff question, and were compelled to take such reduction as the tariff majority was wilher and in connexion with his public ling to concede. Upon this principle we voted for the act of 1832. We took it as A CHOICE

Again in the same letter : "The act of July 14th, 1832, was the first step of reduction which the anti-tariff delegate tions in Congress; were enabled to obtain corded votes and speeches," to By the act of the 2d of March 1833, (the compromise act) they were enabled to obtain still further reductions, and as already stated

I voted for both these acts."

And again, in the same letter :-

canvass. Printed at the Appeal Office, Memphis, 1843." And to show that it is strictly take off and reduce those duties?—and he an authentic document from which we copy, we give the authority by which it was broad to meet the authority by w we give the authority by which it was issued tion used in all his speeches—'As Nathan ed in the Whig party proper, and the co

was then, as before remarked, a member of be the Whig candidate for the Pres

growth, and not coming in competition in any them in strong and unequivocal language, Clay was the reputed father and head, and to wise, with domestic manufactures, is palpa. and as utterly at war with his own doctrines, bly anti-protective. It was proposed and the former doctrines of Judge White and his "American system" was given. It was an voted for as such by Mr. Polk, as the report friends and the "favorite doctrines" of Ten. essential branch of the falsely called "Ameof the committee of which he was a member, nessee. In this way, Mr. Clay's "American rican system," because it was the great aband Journals of Congress show. We quote system" was made a leading theme by Mr. from the record:

Journal, page 105, Dec. 26, 1832 .- " Mr. Verplank from the Committee of Ways and Means, reported bill No. 641, to reduce and tract from his " address to the people of Ten. states, levied by a high protective tariff. High otherwise alter the duties on imports; which nessee," published in pamphlet form at the unnecessary, and OPPRESSIVE TAXES bill was read a first and second time and re- time, and also inserted in the Nashville levied by a HIGH PROTECTIVE TARIFF ferred to the whole House on the state of the Union of the 10th of April, from which we -lavish and wasteful expenditures of the

from the Committee on Ways and Means, which he then took of Mr. Clay's efforts to lie lands, that emigration to the west might be made a report intended to accompany the bill No. 641, reported from the Committee of Ways and Means yesterday, to reduce and otherwise alter the daties on imports, &c.

following extract:

reason why foreign luxuries should not pay trate, and are of too recent occurence to treasury by the tariff, the late bank of the their share of the public burthens, propose to have escaped the public mind. They were United States had a direct interest-because, raise the duties on silks nearer to the average in all respects broadly federal. The latitudi- being by the terms of her charter the deposirate of duties imposed by the bill than they narian doctrines, with all the consolidating tory of the public money, the larger the colnow are under the act 1832. They also pro. tendencies of the Hamiltonian school, as lection, deposite and expenditures of the Gov. reiterated, his favorite philipic age about TWENTY PER CENT on the value elder Adams, were resuscitated and revived. The Bank was identified in interest with the upon TEAS, and also upon COFFEE, It was publicly proclaimed that the whole. large capitalists of the country, and was closewhich were made wholly free of duty by the act some restraints of the public will on the ac. ly allied to the "American System." The of last summer. This has been added from tion of the servants of the people were to be whole money power of the country was or, published in the Nashville Union, but as a motive of financial prudence, lest the revenue from the customs, should, from any modifications of the bill, or other cause, fall stituents." It was declared by that chief of the great mass of the people. In such a ry for the present. short of the estimate, or lest the proceeds of the public lands should be in part diverted to some other channel; in either of which cases deprived of the power to advance the public Government, corupting the sources of Legis- the Treasury Department, it appears that a this source of about ONE MILLION OF DOLLARS, calculated on the rather short importation of Tea in the last year. Should this sum not be needed for the public service. it may be repealed without affecting the other a century, the doctrines of the " prostrate and doctrines of this administration and all its exported in 1842 was \$4.118,899. This to parts of the system." [House Report, No. federal party" were openly sought to be rein- leading measures, (as my votes and speec bes ble shows a gratifying increase of the 14, 2d Session, 22d Congress.]

cussed, and amended in Committee of the whole, it was reported back to the House with sundry amendments, among the rest one to strike out the duty on COFFEE, and another to strike out the duty on TEAS. We copy from the Journal:

"The question was then put, that the House do concur in the amendment of the committee of the whole, which proposes to strike out the following item of the first sec-" Thirty-first-On COFFEE, from and

after the 3d September, 1833, a duty at and raised; and to raise the prices, ENORMOUS unliquidated. There is good reason to fear after the rate of one cent the pound weight." And passed in the affirmative, yeas 117, nays 57. The yeas and nays being demanded by one-fifth of the members present,

Those who voted in the affirmative arc. &c. [Here follow the names of the 117 members who voted for striking out the duty on TICLES. Every man who bought a piece of cies of an administration brought into exist. Presidency, the author of the by

Those who voted in the negative are, &c. [Here follow the names of the 57 members who voted against striking out the duty on COVERTLY TAXED, in the increased COFFEE, among the rest we find the name of J. K. POLK.1

The question was then put that the House do concur in the amend nent of the committee of the whole House, which proposed to strike out the following item in the first sec-

ter the 3d of March, 1834, a duty at and af. man and give it to another, without right on General Jackson's administration belong to ter the rates following, that is to say, on Imperial, Guspowder, Gomee, Hyson, and value of the productive industry of one sec. briefly sketched or alluded to in an addre Young Hyson, six cents per pound weight on tion of the Union and transfer it to another-

effort of Mr. Polk in his public discussions, that a The next "public act" of Mr. Polk upon the tariff question to which we shall refer, is non, and also Judge White, Mr. Bell, and Mr. NORTHERN CAL HIS VOTE FOR TAXING TEA AND Foster, and other leading "White men," it expedient to exact from COFFEE, at the session of 1832-33. He with Mr. Clay, who it was then supposed would which the bill to tax ten and coffee emanated. Polk took frequent occasions to discuss the thority, to construct works of internal The policy of taxing articles of such "Federal principles," as he was pleased to prime necessity as tea and coffee of foreign term them, of Mr. Clay, and to condemn Polk, and "a PROTECTIVE TARIFF" treated as the main branch of that system.

We shall see in the following authentic exquote, in what estimation he then held the ta- surplus money, by a gigantle system of inter-Journal 110, Dec. 28. " Mr. Verplank riff policy. We shall also discover the view nal improvement, and high prices of the pubsave the tariff from utter annihilation in the checked-the laboring poor retained in the compromise of 1833:

"I commenced my service in Congress at ence on their richer neighbors in whose emthe beginning of the administration of John playment they were, constituted Mr. Clay's ple of Tennessee against Henry Clay and the From the foregoing report we make the Q. Adams. The principles and policy of far famed and miscalled "American system." that administration were fully developed in In the collection, deposite and expenditure "The Committee perceiving no sufficient the first annual message of that chief Magis. of the vast sums of money brought into the disregarded, and that the "Representative ganized, and pursuing its own interests, was have abundant evidence on the subject for was not to be palsied by the will of his con- at war with the labor and productive industry Magistrate to be ineffably stupid to suppose system Federalism saw the means of extendthat the Representatives of the people were ing the power and patronage of the General Hunt's Merchant's Magazine, furnished from weal, thereby substituting the unrestrained lation, and accomplishing under another leas amount of specie imported into the Uni discretion of Congress and of the federal Government for the specific grants of power conferred by a constitution of limitations and restrictions. For the first time in a quarter of the Government, set out. Against the policy ports of any year since 1842. The stated. Federal principles exhibited them. in Congress will show) I was firmly and per- clous metals in the country, which tend The bill having been referred to and dis- selves under new lisguises in all the leading measures of that administration. It was during that administration that the PROTECT. EST POINT OF AGGRAVATION in the passage of the tariff law; that " bill of abominations," in 1828. It was attempted to build up a great system of manufactures and internal improvement by taxing the whole people, and especially of the planting states, for the benefit of the Northern capitalists. To make the under the effect of a high protective tariff, and prices of all manufactured articles must be improvements, with a heavy public debt still articles imported from abroad. To purchase reserved to the people and the states, wou the support of different sections of the country have been usurped by the federal Government HEMP, cotton bagging, and even salt, were to consolidation. Indignantly conde price of the articles, for the benefit of the

MANUFACTURER, the IRON-MASTER, the salt maker or the SUGAR PLANTER. the ship of m NEVER WAS A MORE UNJUST TAX tack." On the IMPOSED. It was not for the necessary tion, all the od poorer. In another aspect this existem was disastrous to every thing republican or just in the administration of the government. Whilst

which the popular but false name of the sorbent, the sponge which was to suck in and consume the excessive, unequal, unjust, and oppresive exactions upon the people, and especially upon the people of the pla

der and under another party name, all the States in the year 1543 was \$23,732.6 great and dangerous purposes with which Of this smooth \$17,254,470 in silver. T

manufacturing districts, in a state of depend-

severingly opposed. The public judgment passed upon Mr. Ad. Phil. Forum. am's administration, and it went down. No TIVE POLICY REACHED ITS HIGH. portion of the Union contributed with more unanimity than Tennessee to put it down .-Had that administration continued in power, and its policy prevailed, there is good reason to believe that the country, instead of being in its present prosperous and happy condit would have been at this moment witherin investment of their money profitable, the a profligate and extravagant system of inetrns DUTIES were imposed on corresponding that the constitutional and legitimate power, this inquisitive system, IRON, SUGAR, and that government itself been fast tending included in the HIGHLY TARIFFED AR- the doctrines, principles and Federal tenden-WOOLEN or cotton cloth, every man who ence originally by a sharmeless disregard of to re-charter the bonk of the United bought an axe or a hoe, a plough or a pound of the popular will, the people rose in the majesnails, a peck of salt or a pound of sugar, was ty of their strength, and by an overwhelming majority of their suffrages, brought General

Gen. Jackson, like Mr. Jefferson, broug k to the "Republican t in of his administra. doctrines and principles, endencies of the adminis support of government that it was imposed: and ultra Federal tendencies of the administration which preceded it, were suddenly are support, to the abolitionists of the appearing one rested and reversed. The great resolts of the following passage of his letter

friends of American Industry, who will so be called upon to decide between the nother the foregoing extract and the distir And we may add, in passing, that so anxion was Mr. Polk to poison the minds of the pec American system, on this occasion, that he caused from twenty to thirty thousand copies of the document from which the fore quoted, to be distributed from his own pro at Columbia. Not only so, but in seventy eighty speeches from the canvass, he reiterated, as he in after for the protection of the manufacturing We could give extract upon extract, from reports of his speeches by his own frle under his own hand, we deem this un

EFFECTS OF THE TARIFF. - Front & to Alexander Hamilton, in the earlier stages of is greater by about \$6,000,000 thun the in further to give stability to our correccy.

> THAT BLACK WHIG TARIFF OF 1842. Last Friday a Whig Merchant in this play bought one shearing of a flock of Sheep fro a Loco Foco, for which he said \$175. Las year the same merchant paid the same ma for the shearing from the same sheep only \$125. What a wicked Black Tariff that i ruining the Farmers. Laborers and Mecha ics! One fact like this outweighs all dicious Tariff arguments that can be ed .- Ogdensburg S ntinel.

Mr. Polk, when in Congress, was the ider tical man who introduced the bill to establish the " pet banks," What consistent banks haters our Locofocos are. They must sup ing port for the Presidency the author of minable pet bank bill and for

Letter from Henry Ciny. Believing that Mr. CLAY had been derstood, or grossly misrepre