

COMMUNICATIONS.

(On first perusal of the communication below, we thought of accompanying it with a few remarks, by way of dissent from the course recommended to be taken by the friends of Mr. Adams, believing its author to be what he professes, a true friend to that candidate's election; but the more we reflect on it, the stronger is our suspicion that it wears a deceitful garb.... that rank caucus principles are hidden beneath all its sanctimonious professions of fairness and impartiality. We therefore give it, as we received it; and hope, now, our representative in Congress will not again charge us with being un-aided.)

FOR THE WESTERN CAROLINIAN.

Mr. Printer: As the time draws near when we are to choose those persons who are to vote for President and Vice President, the subject becomes more interesting; and among the numerous productions to which the anticipation of that event has given birth, almost every view in which the pretensions of the several candidates can be placed, has been exhibited by some one or other of their friends, or of their foes. One would think that the propriety or impropriety of supporting the caucus ticket, about which the greatest scuffle has been made, is by this time sufficiently sifted. It seems to me, however, that there is an observation or two on this subject, entitled to more weight and prominence than they have hitherto occupied.

It certainly is a very strong objection to the nomination of President by the members of Congress, that the Constitution makes the House of Representatives the final Electors of that officer. It is undoubtedly a supposable case, and the members of the caucus themselves have acted on the supposition, that their recommendation would have influence enough, at least, to bring the candidate recommended by them within the number prescribed by the constitution, out of whom they may be called upon ultimately to choose the President: and if they should succeed as far as to bring their candidate before the house of representatives, and should there have weight, influence or numbers enough on their side, to place him in the presidential chair, would it not be evident that Congress made the President?

Let the friends of the caucus take their choice of sides, in this dilemma: It can not, by any possibility, happen but that such nomination will be improper. If the ticket recommended by it succeeds, it does so at the expense of the constitution; if it fails, it then proves itself to be useless, and makes its authors ridiculous before the nation and before the world.

Another evil of this method of securing the election of one amongst a number of candidates, is, that it opens a door for dangerous corruption and bribery. It would be impertinent to insist on this point at this time, as it is to be hoped that all those who are now candidates for the presidency, are men of too much purity to barter for it. But as it is our common duty to pray that we may not be led into temptation, I think it would be prudent in us to oppose the establishment of a principle that is chargeable with opening an extensive door for corruption, and of throwing in the way of future applicants a strong temptation, by sinister means to mount the chair of state. It is really high time that we should set our faces resolutely against a practice fraught with so much mischief, before it claims to be a precedent, and to rank with those ancient usages that, under the application of "common law," defy the future assaults of time.

But although for these, and other reasons that might be assigned, I am opposed to the caucus ticket, I am not much better pleased with what is termed the people's ticket. This is an absurd attempt to amalgamate very discordant materials: it calculates so to swell and distort our apprehensions of the caucus, and our fears of the success of the candidate recommended by it, as to make us entirely forget the vast disparity there is between the remaining candidates. The friends of Mr. Clay, of Mr. Jackson, and of Mr. Adams, are required to make a common cause against the adherents of Mr. Crawford. This course, independent of the spice of persecution visible on its forehead, is, in my opinion, liable to strong objections. For my own part, being conscientiously of opinion that Mr. Crawford is greatly preferable to Mr. Jackson, I should be glad to know by what method of reasoning it is, that I am expected to reconcile it to myself to vote for a ticket, every man of which, for aught I know, will vote for Jackson, and yet violate no pledge that they have given to the public? By this means, it might, and probably would, happen that I should give my support to the man who is, in my opinion, of all that are in nomination, least qualified for this important trust.

It is unnecessary that I should insist on the danger there is, that an electoral college thus composed, would destroy the only argument in favor of the general ticket law, by scattering their votes among the candidates which are allowed them to select from, because I think there is still greater danger of their uniting in the support of a man not intended by the majority of the people, to be promoted.

If I should be asked what remedy I propose? I would reply, with all due respect for the opinions of others, let the friends of each of the candidates make out a separate ticket;—and especially, let the friends of Mr. Adams lose no time in doing so. I shall, no doubt, be told that the caucus ticket will succeed, so far at least as to give the vote of this state to Crawford; and that it is a matter of policy for all those that are opposed to his elevation, to unite in order to defeat the energetic efforts that are making to elevate the Radical candidate. But, although I should sincerely deprecate such a result, yet, as it would be perfectly fair and proper that he should have the vote of this state, if the number of those who prefer him are more numerous than are the friends of any one of the others, I cannot therefore, believe that it is necessary that the friends of Mr. Adams, in particular, should be thrown into a kind of hodge-podge with the supporters of Gen. Jackson and Mr. Clay, thereby giving the vote of the state to some one of them, who would, if he had been voted for singly, have been beaten by the treasury candidate.

Although I am sincerely desirous that Mr. Adams should be elevated to the presidency, from an honest belief that his talents and acquirements are necessarily required by the circumstances of the times, and the foreign relations of the United States at this period, yet I have no desire that any man should be tricked into his support, who believes, the while, that he is supporting Gen. Jackson, or Mr. Clay. I shall be more readily believed, when I assert, that I am equally unwilling that the votes intended for him should, in effect, go to support either of the others.

It has been asked, if the electors are to have no discretion? I answer, none! A case has been supposed, that electors, chosen with a view of supporting some one of the candidates, might, when assembled, find that the man they had chosen was dead, or had declined. But extreme cases prove nothing. Doubtless, in such a case, the electors would have a discretion, and must select from the remaining candidates, such man as they approved, or as they supposed would best suit their constituents—not excepting Mr. Crawford. For if the electors are to have any discretion of choice, I see no reason why, after swallowing two absurdities, they should be prohibited from taking in the only one that remains.

After thus viewing every side of this important subject, allow me to repeat my earnest hope, that the friends of Mr. Adams, in every part of the state, will set about immediately to ascertain whether the person designated in their immediate neighborhood as one of the people's electors, will support Mr. Adams, if elected; and if so, let the fact be announced in the public prints; and where it turns out otherwise, let them immediately announce the name of some person in their electoral district who will pledge himself to support him.

A FARMER.

FOR THE WESTERN CAROLINIAN.

LITERARY.....WESTERN COLLEGE.

Mr. White: In your paper of the 4th inst. there is a call from the proper officer, upon the Board of Trustees of the Western College, to meet at Lincolnton on the 1st Wednesday of June; which call, it is hoped, will be duly regarded—because,

1st. There is good ground to believe that the meeting will not be an abortive one, but will be respectable in point of numbers.

2d. Because measures of an important kind are contemplated at the ensuing meeting.

3d. Because the measure of founding a College is important to our section of country, and identified with the best interest of both civil and religious society.—So (unanimously) said our great meeting at Lincolnton, August, 1821: which convention was composed of the greatest weight of talent, of influence and character, that was ever convened in the western part of North-Carolina.

4th. Because the measure is one of a practicable kind,—So (unanimously) said the same luminous convention.

5th. Because our pledge is before the public, that every due exertion shall be made to prosecute and complete this great object.

Resolutions embracing these three last particulars, viz: the necessity, the practicability, and that we would daily prosecute the measure, in order to its accomplishment, being duly considered by said convention, were unanimously adopted. A veteran, wearing the scars of honor, in asserting the independence of his country, made the motion, that the record be made, "unanimously adopted"—which was done accordingly.

Was the measure necessary then? Is it not as necessary now? Have we already a public seat of learning in our state? Had we not the same then? Is there any state in the Union possessing the population of North-Carolina, that has not more than one public seat of learning? Look at old England, with her population of ten millions of inhabitants, and her two uni-

versities, comprising near forty colleges—look at Scotland with her one million and a half of inhabitants, and her four universities and colleges, &c. &c. Thus we find that our sister states, and the European countries that have arisen high in point of learning, and science, and religion, are our pattern in the object that we are now pursuing. Was the measure practicable then? And is it not practicable yet? The writer grants that markets are not as good now as then, but nevertheless he is fully of the opinion that the measure is altogether practicable. Funds to the amount of one hundred thousand dollars would be sufficient. A population of about two hundred thousand ought to be considered as interested in the institution. The above sum, would be but fifty cents a head. But admit that the three-fourths of the people would do nothing. Then said sum would be but two dollars a head. We may fail for want of will, but not for want of ability.

What shall we say of our solemn pledge? Can it be deserted by that august convention, and particularly by the Board of Trustees, without involving consequences of a serious kind? Can the object evaporate into smoke, and the spirit of an anxious and generous public, not be broken down by disappointment, and evaporate with it? Can the object fall to the ground and our honor not fall with it? Shall it be said that a puerile spirit marks the West? That we meet in deliberation, that we propose lofty things, that we promise and pledge, but all evaporate into smoke?

The writer hopes that the ensuing meeting of the Board of Trustees will be duly attended, and that measures of an efficient kind will be adopted.

A TRUSTEE.

May 14, 1824.

[The National Gazette has given some interesting information concerning the condition and character of the Cherokees in 1822, from the official report to the Department of War; from which we extract the following:]

The lands which remain to the Cherokees in the State of Georgia, amount to 6,156,800 acres, generally of good soil, and in a fire healthy climate. Their number was upwards of 12,000. They possessed 5 or 600 negro slaves, and property in horses, cattle, sheep, ploughs, mills &c., estimated at about \$600,000. In 1809, when a census was taken of them, they had 65 villages and towns. A part of them, about 3000, migrated in 1818 to the Arkansas territory. They had been preceded by others, and altogether the number in that territory in 1819, was computed at 6000. The character of the Cherokees, says Dr. Morse, for courage, fidelity, hospitality, and cleanliness, stands high. They are generally of a very good appearance, and civil in their whole demeanour. The language of the United States Commissioners to them, in 1823, was—"People who have never seen you, know but little of your progress in the arts of civilized life, and of the regular and becoming manner in which your affairs are conducted. Your improvements reflect the greatest credit upon yourselves. Your conduct as a nation has been peaceable and harmless."

The Cherokees possess well cultivated farms, substantial houses and good roads. In the middle and lower part of the nation, there is scarcely a family that does not understand the use of the card and the spinning wheel. Weaving and knitting are common among the females.—Most families cultivate from 10, 20, 30 to 40 acres, without the assistance of negroes. Some manufacture clothing from the cotton raised in their own fields. It is said that one half of them are mixed blood, from alliances or intercourse with the Georgians as well as others. Several of their chiefs, and those particularly, whose names are subscribed to the correspondence with the commissioners of the United States, are men of strong and acute understandings, quite competent to argue their own case as it has been argued. In the report to the Secretary of War (1822), of Dr. Morse, he says of the Cherokees that they are in circumstances favourable to be educated where they are; to be raised to the rank and privileges of citizens, and merged in the mass of the nation. In the beginning of August, 1821, the number of pupils belonging to the Cherokee school of Brainerd, was 104; 62 boys and 42 girls; who, besides being instructed in various branches of a common English education, were taught generally the rural and domestic arts.

The establishment of Brainerd was begun in 1817. In 1822, 29 boys and 18 girls, Christians, who could read and write, and accustomed to useful labours, had been sent home from the school. The nation is governed by a Grand Council, distributed into committees, that assemble to legislate once a year. There are District and Circuit Judges appointed for the purpose of settling all controversies. The distribution of the legislative, judicial and executive powers of government, is made with skill and judgment.

It is such a body of fellow creatures that the government of Georgia threatens with extinction, unless they consent to abandon their ancient patrimony, to settle beyond the Mississippi, in the neigh-

borhood of tribes of savages with whom they must be soon engaged in exterminating wars, and where such of them as are not advanced in civilization, will be sure to relapse into barbarism—to become merely hunters and warriors.

Mr. BARTLETT, of N. H., during the Tariff debate, moved to impose a duty on stills. If his object was to raise a revenue, his proposed Ways and Means were very injudicious; for he ought to know that our western brethren would raise another rebellion if a tax should be put on Whiskey. A tax of that sort ought never to be imposed, unless adequate provisions be made in the bill, that it shall be collected without rebellion or tar and feathers; for it costs an enormous sum of money to march an army into that country to quell revolt. It cost President WASHINGTON \$3,000,000 to put down GALLATIN'S rebellion. Whenever we want a snug little war all within ourselves, we have nothing to do but to tax Whiskey—for that will raise a rebellion as quick as cantharides will raise a blister. A Whiskey tax raises the people—but it will never raise money.—Salem Gazette.

CONVENTION.

As the time is approaching, when the freemen of North-Carolina will be called upon to vote on the propriety of calling a convention, to amend our state constitution, we shall henceforward devote a portion of our columns to the discussion of that subject. We this week give place to a letter from the venerable Thomas Jefferson, which speaks so pointedly on the merits of the question, that we take a pleasure in recommending it to the attentive perusal of our readers.

We are favored with the following letter addressed to a gentleman in this City. The importance of the subject, and the character of its author, will entitle it to the most profound attention.—Enquirer.

NORTHCAROLINA, APRIL 19, 1824.

Dear Sir: I received in due time your favor of the 12th, requesting my opinion on the proposition to call a convention for amending the constitution of the state. That this should not be perfect cannot be a subject of wonder, when it is considered that ours was not only the first of the American states but the first nation in the world, at least within the records of history, which peaceably, by its wise men, formed, on free deliberations, a constitution of government for itself, and deposited it in writing among their archives, ready and open to the appeal of every citizen. The other states, who successively formed constitutions for themselves also, had the benefit of our outline, and have made on it doubtless successive improvements. One, in the very outset, and which has been adopted in every subsequent constitution, was to lay its foundation in the authority of the nation. To our convention no special authority has been delegated by the people to form a permanent constitution, over which their successors in legislation should have no power of alteration. They had been elected for the ordinary purposes of legislation only, and at a time when the establishment of a new government had not been proposed or contemplated. Although, therefore, they gave to this act the title of a constitution, yet it could not be more than an act of the legislation, subject, as their other acts were, to alteration by their successors. It has been said indeed that the acquiescence of the people has supplied the want of original power. But it is a dangerous lesson to say to them, "whenever your functionaries exercise unlawful authority over you, if you do not go into actual resistance, it will be deemed acquiescence, and confirmation." Besides, no authority has decided whether the resistance must be instantaneous? When the right to resist ceases? or whether it has yet ceased? Of the twenty four states now organized, twenty three have disapproved our doctrine and example, and have deemed the formal authority of their people a necessary foundation for a constitution.

Another defect which has been corrected by most of the other states is, that the basis of our constitution is in opposition to the principle of equal political rights, refusing to all but freeholders any participation in the natural right of self government. It is believed, for example, that a very great majority of the militia on whom the burthen of military duty was imposed in the late war, were men unrepresented in the legislature which imposed this burthen upon them. However nature may, by mental or physical disqualifications, have marked infants and the weaker sex for the protection, rather than the direction of government, yet among the men who either pay, or fight for their country, no line of right can be drawn. The exclusion of a majority of our freemen is merely arbitrary, and an usurpation of the minority over the majority. For it is believed that the non-freeholders compose the majority of our free, adult male citizens.

And even among our citizens who participate in the representative privilege, the equality of political rights is entirely prostrated by our constitution. Upon what principle of right or reason can any one justify the giving to every citizen of Warwick as much weight in the government as to 22 equal citizens in Loudon?

And similar inequalities among the other counties? If these fundamental principles are of no importance in actual governments, then no principles are important, and it is as well to reply on the disposition, good or ill, of an administration, as on the provisions of a constitution.

I shall not enter into details of smaller defects; although others there doubtless are, the reformation of some of which might greatly lessen the expenses of government, improve its organization, and add to the wisdom of its administration in all its parts. But these things I leave to others, not permitting myself to take sides in the political questions of the day.—I willingly acquiesce in the institutions of my country, perfect or imperfect, and think it a duty to leave their modifications to those who are to live under them, and are to participate of the good or evil they may produce. The present generation have the same right to self government which the past one has exercised for itself; and, in the full vigor of body and mind, are more able to judge for themselves than those who are sinking under the wane of both. If the sense of our citizens on the question of a convention can be fairly and fully taken, its result will, I am sure, be wise and salutary; and far from arrogating the office of advice, no one will more passively acquiesce in it than myself. Retiring, therefore, to the tranquillity called for by increasing years and debility, I wish not to intermeddle in this question: and to my prayers for the general good, I have only to add assurance to yourself of my great esteem and respect.

TH. JEFFERSON.

Extract of a letter, from a gentleman in Hertford county, to his friend in Raleigh, dated the 27th April.

"I should be warranted in saying, that nine-tenths of this county are in favor of Gen. Jackson, and Gates the same. Below, I understand, they are much divided between Jackson, Crawford and Adams."

CHARLESTON, MAY 12, 1824.

The ship *Canova*, Capt. WHITNEY, arrived yesterday in 35 days from Havre, brings Commercial accounts to the 16th ult.

"Havre, April 5.—My respects were of the 31st ult.—since when, there has been no change in our market. Cottons may still be had at my last quotations—Uplands, 25½ 3 28; Sea Islands, 43 a 56."

THE GREEKS.—The amount of subscription to the Greek fund, in the United States, is said to exceed thirty-six thousand dollars!

BETTER LATE, THAN NEVER.

The New York American of the 8th inst. informs us that a rumour has reached them by the steam-boat from Albany, that Gov. Yates meditates a call of the Legislature, for the purpose of recommending the passing of the electoral law!—The ground assigned for this alteration of views is, that the governor in declining to recommend its passage before, was on the presumption and belief, that Congress would have taken some decisive steps for effecting such an amendment to the constitution of the U. S. as would render the mode of choosing electors uniform throughout the Union. The senate of the U. States having declined to act on the subject, and the people of N. York having plainly signified their wish to have a voice in the approaching choice of the chief magistrate of the country, the governor, yielding, as it is said, to this reasonable desire, has determined on the step above referred to.

[The above is only a rumor: but there still appears some foundation for it; inasmuch as poor Gov. Yates has been abandoned by the very persons who induced him to act so jesuitical a part in regard to the Electoral law.]

NEW-YORK, MAY 8.

From Portugal.—Capt. Budd, of the ship *Mary Ann*, arrived at Antigua on the 17th ult. in 44 days from Lisbon, confirms the report that the assassination of the Prime Minister of Portugal was attributed to the king's second son, and that the country was in a state of commotion. The officers and troops had positively refused serving under Marshal Beresford, who had in consequence been deprived of his command. The people evinced the most marked feelings of hostility towards the United States, in consequence of the language adopted by the President in his message to Congress.

The Bogota (South America) Gazette, of March 14th, gives us the address of Col. HAMILTON, the Chief Commissioner of the British Commission to the Government of Colombia. In this address we find the following passage:

"It is said, sir, that France wishes to assist Spain in reconquering these countries. Let not the people of Colombia entertain the least apprehension of such an invasion, because, in Great-Britain, you will find a constant and firm friend."

Mr. George Holmes, of the firm of Holmes and Wright, of Elizabeth City, N. C., fell suddenly in the street in the town on the 24th instant, and immediately expired.