

To the Editor of the North Carolina Sentinel.

Sir.—I think it very desirable, for the sake of truth, that you should republish Mr. VAN BUREN'S letter concerning the Abolition of Slavery; and I therefore, in common with many of your other subscribers, request you to republish the same.

As Mr. Van Buren's character for truth, has never been questioned by his most uncharitable and inveterate opponents, we wish the people to read the letter for themselves, and judge how far Gen. Dudley's assertion in relation to this subject are entitled to their confidence. If words are capable of conveying any meaning, it appears to me clear as the light of day, that Mr. Van Buren declares himself entirely OPPOSED to any interference on the part of Congress with the subject of slavery, and moreover says, that if he were President, and Congress should interfere with the subject, he would VETO any bill that had for its object the abolition of slavery in the District of Columbia or in the States. Yet Gen. Dudley, in the face of this declaration, endeavors to persuade the people that Mr. Van Buren is certainly an abolitionist! If he believes the people are such fools that their votes can be fished in this way, he is very much mistaken.

North Carolina Correspondence.

HIS EXCELLENCY MARTIN VAN BUREN. Dear Sir:—A portion of your fellow citizens in this section, feeling a deep anxiety as to your views on a topic which most vitally affects our immediate welfare and happiness, have thought proper to propound to you, an interrogatory, to which we wish an explicit answer.

Do you, or do you not believe that Congress has the constitutional power, to interfere with or abolish slavery in the District of Columbia?

The conspicuous situation in which you are placed, and the importance of a thorough knowledge of your views on this interesting topic, will, we hope, be sufficient apology for the liberty we have taken.

(Signed,)

JUNIOUS AMIS, ISAAC HALL, JOHN WALL, C. YELLOWBY, SAM'L B. SPIRRILL, JAS. W. PUZZIN.

Jackson, Feb. 23d. 1836.

MR. VAN BUREN'S REPLY.

WASHINGTON, March 6th, 1836.

Gentlemen: I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter apprising me of the deep anxiety which is felt by a portion of your fellow-citizens, as to my views upon a topic vitally affecting their immediate welfare and happiness, and of the importance of their being possessed of a thorough knowledge of them; and asking me to say, whether I do or do not believe that Congress has the constitutional power to interfere with, or abolish slavery in the District of Columbia.

I am not only willing, but desirous, gentlemen, that you should have the most thorough knowledge of my views and feelings upon the delicate and interesting subject with which your question is connected; and I shall endeavour to acquaint you with them in the fullest manner in my power.

Not having, heretofore, had the honor of being in political communication with you, I am not advised whether the sentiments relating to it, which have been avowed by myself and by my authority, within the last two years, have come to your knowledge. I deem it therefore proper, to furnish you with the substance of them, before I reply to your more specific inquiry. The avowals to which I refer, were—

1st. An opinion that Congress has no right to interfere in any manner, or to any extent, with the subject of slavery in the States;

2d; Against the propriety of their doing so in the District of Columbia; and

3dly. The statement of my full concurrence in the sentiments expressed by the citizens of Albany, in public meeting, the most important of which are as follows, viz: "That the Constitution of the United States carries with it an adjustment of all questions involved in the deliberations which led to its adoption, and that the compromise of interests in which it was founded, is binding in honor and good faith, independently of the force of agreement, on all who live under its protection and participate to the benefits of which it is the source." "That the relation of Master and Slave is a matter exclusively belonging to the people of each State within its own boundary, and that any attempt by the Government or people of any other State, or by the General Government, to interfere with or disturb it, would violate the spirit of that compromise which lies at the basis of the federal compact." "That we can only hope to maintain the Union of the States by abstaining from all interference with the laws, domestic policy and peculiar interests of every other State." "That all such interference, which tends to alienate one portion of our countrymen from the rest, deserves to be frowned upon with indignation by all who cherish the principles of our revolutionary fathers, and who desire to preserve the Constitution by the exercise of that spirit of amity which animated its framers." "That they deprecated the conduct of those who are attempting to coerce their brethren in other States into the abolition of slavery, by appeals to the fears of the master and to the passions of the slave; and that they could not but consider them as disturbers of the public peace, and would, by all constitutional means, exert their influence to arrest the progress of such measures." "That whilst they would maintain inviolate the liberty of speech and the freedom of the press, they considered discussions, which, from their nature, tend to inflame the public mind and put in jeopardy the lives and property of their fellow-citizens, at war with every rule of moral duty, and every suggestion of humanity, and would be constrained moreover to regard those who, with a full knowledge of their pernicious tendency, to persist in carrying them on, as disloyal to the Union." "That the people of the South would do great injustice if they allow themselves to believe, that the few who are interfering with the question of slavery, are acting in accordance with the sentiments of the North upon the subject;" and finally, "that they made these declarations to their Southern brethren in faith and ours, during a long and eventful struggle for independence; and that they did, in full remembrance of that common association, plight to them their faith to maintain in practice, as far as lies in their power, what they had thus solemnly declared."

These views, which I thus expressed and sanctioned by myself, appear to me to cover the whole ground, pleased to call my attention, and I cheerfully embrace the opportunity you have felt it your duty to afford me, to explain myself fully on that also. As upon this disturbing subject, I have considered the question you have propounded to me, with a sincere desire to arrive at the conclusion, that the subject, in respect to the District of Columbia, can be safely

placed on the same ground on which it stands in regard to the States, viz: (the want of constitutional power in Congress to interfere in the matter. I owe it, however, to candor, to say to you, that I have not been able to satisfy myself that the grant to Congress, in the Constitution, of the power of "exclusive legislation in all cases whatever" over the Federal District, does not confer on that body the same authority over the subject that would otherwise have been possessed by the States of Maryland and Virginia for that Congress might not, in virtue thereof, take such steps upon the subject in this district, as those States might themselves take within their own limits, and certainly within their rights of sovereignty.

Thus viewing the matter, I would not, from the lights now before me, feel myself safe in pronouncing that Congress does not possess the power of interfering with or abolishing slavery in the District of Columbia. But, whilst such are my present impressions upon the abstract question of the legal power of Congress—impressions which I shall at all times be not only ready, but disposed to surrender upon conviction of error—I do not hesitate to give it to you as my deliberate and well-considered opinion, that there are objections to the exercise of this power against the wishes of the slave-holding States, as imperativeness in their nature and obligations, in regulating the conduct of public men, as the most palpable want of constitutional power would be.

You have alluded in your letter to the conspicuous situation in which I have been placed before the public; and I take it for granted, that it is to that circumstance rather than to any other, that I am to ascribe the solicitude felt by yourselves and your fellow-citizens in respect to my views on this subject. I recognise, to the fullest extent, the propriety of this desire on your part; and although there is nothing in your letter making the avowal necessary, I prefer that not only you, but all the people the United States shall now understand, that if the desire of that portion of them which is favourable to my elevation to the Chief Magistracy, should be gratified, I must go into the Presidential Chair the inflexible and uncompromising opponent of any attempt on the part of Congress to abolish slavery in the District of Columbia, against the wishes of the slave-holding States; and also with the determination equally decided, to resist the slightest interference with the subject in the States where it exists. In saying this, I tender neither to them nor to you, any pledges, but declare only settled opinions and convictions of duty.

Those who doubt that they will be carried into full and fair effect, are under no obligations to trust me. An opportunity is afforded them to exercise their free choice in the matter, and they may be assured that there is no one less likely to complain of its exercise than myself.

The peculiar importance of the subject, and a desire (which you will allow me to feel) that my views of it should be correctly understood, make it proper that I should explain the grounds of the opinion above expressed. They are founded, amongst others, on the following considerations, viz: 1st. I believe, that if it had been foreseen, at the time of the adoption of the Constitution, that the seat of the Federal Government would be fixed in a slave-holding region, and that the subject of slavery would be agitated to the prejudice of those holding this species of property, the right to do so, would, with the assent of the non-slave-holding States, have been made an exception to the unrestricted legislative power given to Congress over the District to be ceded.

2dly. I cannot but regard the agitation of this subject in the District of Columbia, as a surprise upon the people of Maryland and Virginia, being very confident that if the state of things which now exists, had been at all apprehended by those States, the cession of the District would not have been made except upon the express condition that Congress should exercise no such power; and that with such a condition the cession would, in the then state of public opinion, have been readily accepted.

3dly. I do therefore believe, that the abolition of slavery in the District of Columbia, against the wishes of the slave-holding States (assuming that Congress has the power to effect it) would violate the spirit of that compromise of interest which lies at the basis of our social compact; and I am thoroughly convinced, that it could not be so done without imminent peril, if not certain destruction, to the Union of the States. Viewing the matter in this light, it is my clear and settled opinion, that the Federal Government ought to abstain from doing so, and that it is the sacred duty of those whom the people of the United States entrust with the control of its action, so to use the constitutional power with which they are invested, as to prevent it.

I think it due to the occasion, and only a simple act of justice to my fellow citizens of the North, of all political parties to add the expression of my full belief, that the opinions above expressed, accord in substance with those entertained by a larger majority of the people of the non-slave-holding States than has ever before existed in those States on a public question of equal magnitude. It is also due to them to say, that their sentiments on this subject spring out of considerations of too solemn an import, to be shaken by slight causes. With only a generous confidence on the part of the South in their brethren of the North, and a firm determination on the part of each, to visit with their severest displeasure any attempt to connect the subject with party politics, these sentiments cannot be overthrown. All future attempts on the part of the abolitionists to do so, will only serve to accumulate and concentrate public odium on themselves. That there are persons at the North who are far from concurring in the prevailing sentiment I have described, is certainly true; but their numbers when compared with the rest of the community, are very inconsiderable; and if the condition of things be not greatly aggravated by imprudence, many of them I have no doubt, will ultimately adopt sounder views of the subject; and the efforts of those who come by reason, or rendered inoperative by constitutional remedies.

To one class of those who have hitherto petitioned Congress for the abolition of slavery in the District of Columbia, I cannot forbear to refer: I allude to the society of Friends, or the people usually denominated Quakers. The uniformity of their course upon this subject, the temperate manner in which it has been manifested, and the marked excellence of their conduct and character, appear to have conciliated respect for their motives, even from those who differ with them in opinion. As far as my observation has enabled me to judge, it is due to them to say, that as there has been no indication of any change of opinion upon their part during the present excitement, so has there been no evidence of a disposition to lend themselves to the rude agitation of the public mind attempted by others. There is certainly no class of people in the country, who have a deeper interest in the preservation of the Union, and of the happy system of Government which it upholds, than they; and it has now become very apparent to all reflecting and observing minds, that the question of Slavery in the District of Columbia cannot be pressed to the result they desire, with safety to those paramount objects. Do not these considerations justify the hope, that from them, at least we may reasonably expect, for the future, a mode of dealing with the subject, which will do us no injustice to their principles, shall press instead of increasing agitation, and not endanger the great interests to which I have referred? To doubt it, would be to distrust the influence which industry, morality, intelligence and republican habits—qualities which all admit them to possess in a high degree—are calculated, in great emergencies, to exert upon the conduct of their posterity. And for the like reason, it may certainly be expected, that well-

disposed persons, of other religious denominations, who, without a full consideration of the difficulties which surround this subject, and of the dangerous consequences to which the efforts of the Abolitionists so evidently tend, have left to those efforts the influence of their names and character, will be careful hereafter to avoid the repetition of an error so unfortunate and mischievous.

In every view of the subject, therefore, it does appear to me, that, although there certainly is, in the present condition of the country in relation to it, sufficient to excite the most serious attention, there is nothing in the state of public opinion in the United States to justify that panic in the public mind which invariably disqualifies those who partake it, from dealing wisely or successfully with the circumstances by which it is produced. From abroad we have I think, some right to expect less interference than heretofore. We shall, I am confident, for some time at least, have no foreign agents to enlighten us on the subject. Recent results here, and the discussions with which they have been attended, cannot fail to attract the attention of the reading and reflecting portion of the Foreign Public. By these means they will be made to understand our real condition in this respect, and they will know that the unchangeable law of that condition is, that the slave question must be left to the control of the slave-holding States themselves, without molestation or interference from any quarter; that foreign interference of every description can only be injurious to the slave, without benefit to any interest, and will not be endured by any section of our country; and that any interference, coming from even the non-slave-holding portions of our own Territory, is calculated to endanger the perpetuity and if sanctioned by the General Government, would inevitably occasion the dissolution of our happy Union. Seeing the subject in this, its true aspect, and conscious as they must be that the downfall of this Republic would be the severest blow that the cause of liberty and self-government could receive, and from which its recovery would be hopeless, the wise and the good amongst them—those who are really guided by the principles of justice and humanity—will pause and acknowledge, that they have misapprehended the true bearings of this question. In stead of accusing our countrymen who hold property in slaves, with disregarding the general principles of liberty and the dictates of a pure religion, they will recognize in this class of our citizens, as sincere friends to the happiness of mankind as any others, and will become sensible that this species of property the result of causes over which they had no control, is an inheritance which they only know how to dispose of. Instead of charging the people of the non-slave-holding States, as has often been done, with hypocrisy in professing an ardent love of freedom, they will find that the free citizens of the North are only acting upon the principles of fidelity, to their most solemn engagements; that if they were to attempt the accomplishment of what is desired of them by those who regard slavery as inconsistent with the equal rights on which our institutions are founded, they will involve themselves in the odium, either of seeking to evade a compact which was the means and the pledge of our national existence, or of availing themselves of their present power and unexamined prosperity, to dissolve a connection with their Southern brethren, formed at a period of mutual adversity, for a cause which was then not only known to exist, but the continuance of which was expressly recognized in the bond of their Union.

I have thus, gentlemen, been compelled to extend my remarks considerably further than I intended, when I commenced to answer your inquiry. As, however the subject was delicate and important, I feel that I have not trespassed further upon your time in its examination than was proper to enable you to comprehend the views I entertain of it, or than, was respectful to the considerations which justified your call for those views. And I feel assured, whatever may be the difference of opinion, if any, which exists between myself and other portions of my fellow citizens, that the issue of this matter, as of all preceding questions which have agitated the public mind, will have been thought pregnant with danger, will in their hands, be such as to strengthen the bonds of their Union, and to increase those fraternal and patriotic affections, which our past National history has so often and so honorably illustrated.

I am, very respectfully, your obedient servant,
M. VAN BUREN.
Messrs. Junius Amis, Isaac Hall, John Wall, C. Yellowby, Samuel B. Spirril, and James W. Puizinn,
Jackson, N. C.



[BY AUTHORITY.]

LAWS OF THE UNITED STATES PASSED AT THE FIRST SESSION OF THE TWENTY-FOURTH CONGRESS.

[Public No. 90.]

AN ACT providing for the salaries of certain officers therein named, and for other purposes.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That the translator of foreign languages and the librarian in the Department of State, shall receive a salary of sixteen hundred dollars.

That the disbursing agent in said Department be allowed a salary of fourteen hundred and fifty dollars.

That the Secretary of the Treasury be, and he is hereby, authorized to employ two additional clerks, to enable him to carry into effect the provisions of the second section of the act of the third of March, eighteen hundred and thirty-five, one at a salary of eleven hundred and fifty dollars, and the other at a salary of one thousand dollars.

That the assistant messenger in said Department be allowed the sum of six hundred and fifty dollars.

That the assistant messenger in the First Comptroller's office be allowed the annual compensation of five hundred dollars.

For the emolument of clerks and messengers for the office of the Commissioner of Pension, in addition to those authorized by law, twelve thousand two hundred dollars.

That the annual compensation of the messenger in the office of the Commissioner of Indian Affairs, be seven hundred dollars.

That the Commissioners of the Navy Board be authorized to employ a clerk in addition to those authorized by law, at the sum of nine hundred dollars.

That the Surveyor General of Ohio, Indiana, and Michigan, be authorized to employ two clerks at a sum not exceeding twenty-three hundred dollars, and that he be allowed the further sum of four thousand dollars for additional clerk hire.

That the Surveyor General of Illinois and Missouri be authorized to employ clerks at a sum not exceeding three thousand eight hundred and twenty dollars.

That the Surveyor General of Arkansas be allowed the sum of two thousand eight hundred dollars, for clerk hire in his office.

That the Surveyor of Louisiana be allowed the sum of twenty-five hundred dollars for clerk hire in his office.

That the Surveyor General of Mississippi be allowed the sum of five thousand dollars for clerk hire in his office.

That the Surveyor General of Alabama be allowed the sum of two thousand dollars for clerk hire in his office.

That the Surveyor General of Florida be allowed the sum of three thousand five hundred dollars for clerks in his office.

That the Secretary of War be, and he is hereby authorized to employ, for the discharge of the various duties of the Department, the following clerks and messengers; one clerk at sixteen hundred dollars, and one clerk at fourteen hundred dollars; to be employed in the business of reservations and grants under Indian treaties: Provided, That the said clerks shall not be employed for a longer term than four years. Three clerks for the Pension office, at one thousand dollars each, to be continued only during the present year.

Six clerks and one messenger, in the Quartermaster General's office, whose compensation shall be as follows; one clerk at sixteen hundred dollars, one clerk at twelve hundred dollars, four clerks at one thousand dollars each, and one messenger at five hundred dollars; one clerk for the Ordnance Office, at twelve hundred dollars, and four clerks at one thousand dollars each. One clerk for the Adjutant General's Office, at twelve hundred dollars, and three clerks at one thousand dollars each. One clerk in the Engineer Office at twelve hundred dollars, and one clerk at one thousand dollars. One clerk in the Commanding General's Office at one thousand dollars. Six clerks and one messenger in the Emigrating Indian Bureau attached to the Subsistence Department, whose compensation shall be as follows: one clerk at sixteen hundred dollars, one clerk at fourteen hundred dollars, one clerk at twelve hundred dollars, three clerks at one thousand dollars each, and one messenger at five hundred dollars: Provided, That the authority claimed under the acts approved March twenty-eighth, eighteen hundred and twelve, and May twenty-second eighteen hundred and twelve, or by any other act for the employment of non-commissioned officers, or the appointment of extra clerks in any of the offices of the War Department be, and the same are hereby repealed: Provided, however, That where express appropriations are made by law, for the employment of clerks, such employment shall not be deemed to be extra, within the meaning of the above act.

For one clerk in the Topographical Bureau, one thousand dollars.

That the Superintendent of Indian Affairs at St. Louis be authorized to employ two clerks in his office, and no more one of which shall receive a compensation of one thousand, and the other of eight hundred dollars.

That the Superintendent of Indian Affairs south of the Missouri river, be authorized to employ one clerk in his office who shall receive a compensation of one thousand dollars.

Section 2. And be it further enacted, That salaries provided for in this act, and payable for the year eighteen hundred and thirty-six, shall be paid out of any money in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated.

JAMES K. POLK, Speaker of the House of Representatives.

M. VAN BUREN, Vice President of the United States and President of the Senate.

Andrew Jackson, 9th May, 1836.

[RESOLUTION—No. 3.]

RESOLUTION to suspend the sale of a part of the public lands acquired by the treaty of Dancing Rabbit creek.

Be it resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That so much of the public lands, acquired by the treaty concluded with the Choctaw nation of Indians, at Dancing Rabbit creek, on the twenty-eighth day of September, eighteen hundred and thirty, as has been conditionally, or otherwise located by the locating agent of the United States to persons claiming reservations under the fourteenth article of said treaty, be withheld from public sale until the first day of December next: Provided, that nothing herein contained, shall be taken or construed as indicating any intention on the part of Congress to confirm said claims.

Approved, May 9th, 1836.

FOR SALE. 500 LBS. good live Geese Feathers by the subscribers. BOOTH & PORTER. April 26th, 1836.

FLOUR, COFFEE, &c. 20 BBLs. Howard Street Flour, 10 half bbls. do. do. do. 15 bags St. Domingo Coffee, 1 hhd. P. R. Sugar, 10 bbls. Cider Brandy, 5 bbls. Monongahela Whiskey.

Just received from Baltimore and for sale low, by April 6th. D. M. VAN BOKKELEN.

NOTICE TO MARINERS. Collector's Office, DISTRICT OF OREGON, April 20th, 1836.

THE Long Shoal Light Boat, having undergone repairs, has again been placed at her station, and will show a light as usual. S. BROWN, Superintendent of Lights.

THE HIGHEST CASH PRICES WILL be given for Negroes from the age of 18 to 25 years, by JAMES FULSHIRE. Newbern, March 9, 1836.

HAY AND HERRINGS. 25 BUNDLES prime Northern Hay, 80 bbls. " triumph'd Roanoke Herrings.

For sale low by D. M. VAN BOKKELEN. Newbern, May 23, 1836.

Just Received. PER Schr. Friendship from Baltimore, and for sale low.

60 bbls. and half bbls. superfine Flour, 5 " Pilot Bread (small biscuit), 5 " Butter and Water Crackers, 15 " Rye Whiskey, 10 " Gin, 10 " Cider Brandy, 30 " N. E. Rum, 5 hds. Muscavado Sugars, 10 bbls. do. do. 1 hhd. prime P. R. Molasses, a superior article for family use. 20 bags " St. Domingo, Lagaira, and old Java Coffee, Plaster Paris, dried Peaches and Plums, Corned Beef. By D. M. VAN BOKKELEN. Newbern, May 10th, 1836.

Bacon Hams. 500 PRIME Bacon Hams, cured with Saltpetre, for family use, or sale by J. C. & M. STEVENSON.

NOTICE TO DEBTORS. THOSE who are indebted to the subscriber, by note or account, are earnestly requested to make immediate payment. As former notices of this kind have been too generally unavailing, he assures those who disregard this, that his claims against them shall be put in a train of collection forthwith. JOHN TEMPLETON.

Newbern, 1st April, 1836. J. T. offers for sale a first rate PIANO FORTÉ, made by Grove & Wohlien, and just imported.

FOR SALE ON CONSIGNMENT, 6 REFRIGERATORS, or ICE preservers, an excellent article for family use. J. BURGWIN. May 2d, 1836. Decoreux's Buildings.

E. R. HUBBERD, SURGEON DENTIST, RESPECTFULLY informs the Ladies and Gentlemen of Newbern and its vicinity, that he has returned to Newbern for the purpose of attending to the various branches of Dental Surgery. He has taken Rooms at Mr. Cutler's Hotel, where he may be found at any time when called for.—Ladies will be waited on at their dwellings, if required. Feb. 22d. 1836.

WANTED, AN Apprentice to the Tailoring business. A boy of 12 or 14 years of age would be preferred. Apply to ARNER A PARKER.

NEWBERN PRICES CURRENT (Corrected Weekly.)

Table listing various commodities and their prices, including beeswax, butter, candles, coffee, cordage, cotton, flour, iron, leather, lumber, oil, paint, provisions, salt, soap, spirits, sugar, tallow, and tea.

REMOVAL. S. C. WRIGHT & Co. have removed to the Store lately occupied by Mr. Oliver W. Lund, corner of Pollock and Middle-Streets. March 30th, 1836.