

NORTH CAROLINA SPECTATOR

AND WESTERN ADVERTISER.

VOLUME II.

RUTHERFORDTON, SATURDAY EVENING, MARCH 19, 1831.

NUMBER 5.

PUBLISHED EVERY SATURDAY EVENING BY
ROSWELL ELMER, Jr.

Terms of subscription. Two dollars and fifty cents, per annum, if paid in advance; or three dollars, if paid within the year:—but if delayed after the close of the year, twenty-five cents will be added.

No paper will be discontinued until particularly ordered and all arrears paid, or at the discretion of the publisher.

Advertisements inserted on the usual terms.—All persons advertising will please note the number of times they wish to have them inserted, or they will be continued and taxed accordingly.

POLITICAL.

CORRESPONDENCE

Between General ANDREW JACKSON and JOHN C. CALHOUN, President and Vice President of the United States, on the subject of the course of the latter, in the deliberations of the Cabinet of Mr. Monroe, on the occurrences of the Seminole War.

(Continued from page 14.)

General Jackson to Mr. Calhoun.

MAY 30, 1830.

SIR—Your communication of the 29th inst. was handed me this morning, just as I was going to Church, and of course was not read until I returned.

I regret to find that you have entirely mistaken my note of the 13th inst. There is no part of it which calls in question, either your conduct or your motives, in the case alluded to. Motives are to be inferred from actions, and judged of, by God. It had been intimated to me many years ago, that it was you, and not Mr. Crawford, who had been secretly endeavoring to destroy my reputation. These insinuations, I indignantly repelled, upon the ground that you, in all your letters to me, professed to be my personal friend, and approved entirely my conduct in relation to the Seminole campaign. I had too exalted an opinion of your honor and frankness, to believe for one moment, that you could be capable of such deception. Under the influence of these friendly feelings, (which I always entertained for you) when I was presented with a copy of Mr. Crawford's letter, with that frankness which ever has, and I hope ever will, characterize my conduct, I considered it due to you, and the friendly relations which had always existed between us, to lay it forth with before you and ask if the statements contained in that letter could be true?—I repeat, I had a right to believe that you were my sincere friend, and, until now, never expected to have occasion to say of you, in the language of Caesar, *Et tu Brute?* The evidence which has brought me to this conclusion, is abundantly contained in your letter now before me. In your and Mr. Crawford's dispute, I have no interest whatever; but it may become necessary for me hereafter, when I shall have more leisure, and the documents at hand, to place the subject in its proper light—to notice the historical facts and references in your communication, which will give a very different view of this subject.

It is due to myself however, to state that the knowledge of the Executive documents and orders in my possession, will show conclusively, that I had authority for all I did, and that your explanation of my powers, as declared to Gov. Bibb, shows your own understanding of them. Your letter to me of the 29th, handed to-day, and now before me, is the first intimation to me that you ever entertained any other opinion or view of them. Your conduct, words, actions and letters, I have ever thought show this: Understanding you now, no further communication with you on this subject is necessary. I have the honor to be, very respectfully, your most obedient servant,

ANDREW JACKSON.

To the Hon. John C. Calhoun.

Mr. Calhoun to General Jackson.

Steam Boat Potomac, 1st June, 1830.

SIR—Though you intimate, in your letter of yesterday, that no further communication with me is necessary on the subject to which it refers, I feel myself compelled to notice some of your remarks, lest my silence should be construed into an acquiescence in their truth or justness.—I shall be as brief as possible.

You say that I have entirely mistaken your letter of the 13th May, in supposing that it questioned either my motives or conduct. I am not aware that I have imputed to you an impeachment of my motives—but I certainly did understand that you had questioned the sincerity and frankness of my conduct; and I must add that your present letter, notwithstanding the most demonstrative proof which I had offered to the contrary, shows clearly that I understood you correctly; and of course, was not, as you suppose, mistaken.

I have no doubt, that there are those who, actuated by enmity to me, and not

friendship to you, have, in the most artful manner, for years intimated that I have been secretly endeavoring to injure you, however absurd the idea; but I must express my surprise that you should have permitted insinuations, as base as they are false, to operate on you, when every word and act of mine gave to them the lie direct. I feel conscious that I have honorably and fully performed towards you every duty that friendship imposed, and that any imputation to the contrary is wholly unmerited.

You mistake in supposing that I have any dispute with Mr. Crawford. That he bears me ill-will is certain; but whatever feeling of unkindness I ever had towards him has long since passed away; so much so, that, instead of returning his attacks on me, the line of conduct which I had prescribed to myself was, to bear patiently and silently all that he might do or say, leaving it to time and truth to vindicate my conduct. If I have apparently departed from the rule that I have prescribed in this case, it was not from a disposition on my part to alter the line of my conduct, but when you interposed your name, by placing in my hands a copy of his letter addressed to Mr. Forsyth, I was compelled, by an act of yours, in order that my silence might not be interpreted into an acknowledgment of the truth of Mr. Crawford's statement, to correct his mis-statements, and to expose the enmity which actuated him, and which sought to use you as an instrument of its gratification.

You intimate that at some future time, when you may have more leisure, you will place the subject of this correspondence in a different light. I wish you to be assured, I feel every confidence that, whenever you may be disposed to controvert the correctness of either statement or conduct in this affair, I shall be prepared on my part to maintain the truth of the one, and frankness, honor, and patriotism of the other, throughout this whole transaction.

That you honestly thought that your orders authorized you to do what you did, I have never questioned; but that you can show by any document, public or private, that they were intended to give you the authority which you assumed, or that any such construction was placed on them, at any time, by the administration, or myself, in particular, I believe to be impossible.

You remark that my letter of the 29th inst. is the first intimation you had that I had taken a different view from yourself of your orders. That you should conceive that you had no intimation before, is to me unaccountable. I had supposed that the invitation of Mr. Monroe, in his letter to you of the 20th October, 1818, with the intention that the different views taken by you and myself of the orders should be placed on the files of the Department, and my letter to you of the 13th April, 1823, covering a copy of my letter to Major Lee, in which I referred to the public documents, and private correspondence between you and Mr. Monroe, as containing the views taken of your orders, and the offer which I made to present my views more fully, if not given sufficiently explicit in the documents referred to, were at least an intimation that we differed in the construction of the orders; and I feel assured that neither "my conduct, words, actions, or letters," afford the slightest proof to the contrary.

The charge which you have made against me, of secret hostility and opposition, which, if true, would so vitally affect my character for sincerity and honor, and which has caused a rupture in our long continued friendship, has no other foundation but that of a difference between us in the construction of your order—orders issued by yourself, the intention of which, I of course, could not mistake, whatever may be their true construction in a military point of view, and the right and duty of interpreting which belonged especially to me, as the head of the War Department. The mere statement of these facts must give rise to a train of reflections, the expression of which I cannot suppress.

Your course, as I understand it, assumes for its basis that I, who, as Secretary of War, issued the orders, have some motive to conceal my construction of them, as if I had no right to form an opinion whether the officers to whom they were given had transcended them or not, while the officer was at perfect liberty to express and maintain his construction. My right, as Secretary of War, was at least as perfect as yours, as commanding officer, to judge of the true intent and limits of your orders, and I had no more motive to conceal my construction of them than you had to conceal yours. The idea of concealment never entered my conception, and to suppose it, is to suppose that I was

utterly unworthy of the office which I occupied. Why should I conceal? I owed no responsibility to you; and if you were not afraid to place your construction on your orders, why should I be afraid to place mine? It was an affair of mere official duty, involving no question of private enmity or friendship and so I treated it.

In conclusion, I must remark, that I had supposed that the want of sincerity and frankness would be the last charge that would be brought against me. Coming from a quarter from which I had reason to expect for different treatment, and destitute, as I know it to be, of the slightest foundation, it could not fail to excite feelings too warm to be expressed, with a due regard to the official relation which I bear to you.

I have the honor to be, very respectfully, your most obedient servant,

JOHN C. CALHOUN.

General Andrew Jackson.

Mr. Forsyth to Mr. Calhoun.

Georgetown, D. C. May 3, 1830.

SIR—Having, at the request of the President to be informed what took place in the Cabinet of Mr. Monroe on the subject of the Seminole campaign, and before him a copy (except the omission of a name) of a letter from Mr. Crawford, which has since been communicated to you, the President has thought it just to permit me to read your answer of the 29th inst. to his letter inclosing it. Between you and the President, or between you and Mr. Crawford, or between you and the friends of Mr. Crawford, when spoken of in general, it is not my intention to intervene. There are, however, circumstances in your letter, of a personal character that require to be placed in their true light, in justice to you and myself. As to the first, you complain that the interposition of the name of the President deprives you of important rights; among these is enumerated "the right of being placed (by me) in possession of all the facts and circumstances connected with this affair." So far as I understand the point on which the President desired information, there is no circumstances or facts within my knowledge that can throw any additional light upon it. There is certainly no fact or circumstance within my knowledge, directly or collaterally connected with it, that is not at your service.

If desirable to you, you shall be furnished with a copy of my letter (a copy of it is in the President's hands) referred to in Mr. C.'s letter to me, and with the name of the gentleman to whom it was written, known also to the President. I cannot promise a copy of the letter from Savannah, to which my first was an answer, as I am not sure that it is in being; if it is and can be found on my return to Georgia, you can have a copy of it. Having thus offered justice according to your view of it, you will not be surprised that I should expect justice in return. Your answer to the President seems to be founded upon the presumption that there is some conspiracy secretly at work to do injury to your character, and to destroy your political consequence. With this presumption I have no concern; but the circumstances under which my name is introduced by you, renders it proper that I should be distinctly informed if this charge of conspiracy against you is intended to apply to me.

In justice to Mr. C. and for his use, I shall apply to the President for a copy of your letter of the 29th inst. If you have any objection you will state it. I shall take it for granted that you acquiesce, unless otherwise informed.

I am, sir, your obedient servant,

JOHN FORSYTH.

Hon. John C. Calhoun.

Mr. Calhoun to Mr. Forsyth.

Steam Boat Potomac, June 1, 1830.

SIR—I have just received your letter of the 31st ult. which was handed me by Mr. Archer. It gives me the first intimation that the President applied to you to obtain information of what took place in the Cabinet of Mr. Monroe, on the subject of the Seminole campaign, and, of course, as I suppose, that you were acting for him, and not for yourself, in your correspondence with Mr. Crawford. Neither the copy of his letter to you, placed in my hands by the President, nor his note covering the copy, gave me the slightest intimation of this fact; but, on the contrary, I had a right to presume, from Mr. Crawford giving you authority to show me his letter, if you pleased, that the correspondence originated with yourself, and was under your entire control, and not as I now infer, "at the request of the President, and for his use." The view in which I regarded the correspondence, and which I was justified to do, judging by the facts before me, fully explains my remarks

in my letter to the President, as far as you were concerned with them.

In the direction which this affair has taken, it is not for me to determine whether you ought to furnish me any information, or what it ought to be. Had I supposed that, under the circumstances in which I was placed, such a right belonged to me, I would have claimed it previously to my answer to the President's letter—so as to have had the advantage, before I made my reply, of whatever light might be furnished from the sources I therein indicated. That there are those who intend that this affair shall operate against me politically, by causing a rupture between myself and the President, and thereby affect, if possible, my standing with the nation, I cannot doubt, for reasons which I have stated in my answer to the President; but I must be permitted to express my surprise that you should suppose my remarks comprehended you, when they expressly referred to those whose names did not appear in the transaction, and consequently excluded you.

My answer to the President is his property, and not mine; and consequently it belongs to him, and not to me, to determine to whom he shall, or shall not, give copies.

I am, very respectfully, &c.

J. C. CALHOUN.

Hon. John Forsyth.

Mr. Calhoun to General Jackson.

Pendleton, June 22, 1830.

SIR: I embrace the first leisure moment since my return home, to enclose to you a copy of a letter from Mr. Forsyth, the original of which was handed to me on my passage from Washington to Norfolk, on board the steam boat, and also a copy of my answer.

You will learn by a perusal of Mr. Forsyth's letter, that it refers to the correspondence between us, and that it places the subject of that correspondence in a light in some respects different from what I had previously regarded it. I had supposed, from the complexion of your letter to me, that the copy of Mr. Crawford's letter to Mr. Forsyth had been placed by the latter in your hands, without any previous act or agency on your part; but, by Mr. Forsyth's letter to me, I am informed that such is not the fact. It seems that he acted as your agent in the affair. He states that you applied to him to be informed of what took place in the cabinet of Mr. Monroe, on the subject of the Seminole campaign; and I infer, as the information could be obtained only from some one of the members of the cabinet, and as Mr. Forsyth was not one, and, as I am informed, not particularly intimate with any of its members, except Mr. Crawford, that the object of your request was to obtain the information through Mr. Forsyth from Mr. Crawford, and that consequently, in writing to him, and in placing the copy of his letter in your hands, he can be regarded in no other light but that of your agent.

Under this new aspect of this affair, I conceive that I have the right to claim of you to be put in possession of all the additional information, which I might fairly have demanded of Mr. Forsyth, had the correspondence been originally between him and myself, on the supposition on which I acted previously to the receipt of his letter. He avows himself ready, if desired by me, to furnish me with the additional information; but a sense of propriety would not permit me to make the request of him. Considered as your agent in this affair, it is not for me to make the request of information of him. What additional information I conceive myself to be entitled to, by my letter to you of the 29th May, will sufficiently indicate. A part of the information, it seems from Mr. Forsyth's letter, is already in your possession, and there can be no doubt but that the whole would be furnished at your request.

I make this application solely from the desire of obtaining the means of enabling me to unravel this mysterious affair.—Facts and circumstances, light of themselves, may, when viewed in connection, afford important light as to the origin and object of what I firmly believe to be a base political intrigue, got up by those who regard your reputation and the public interest, much less than their own personal advancement.

I must remark in conclusion, that the letter of Mr. Forsyth affords to my mind conclusive proof that the intimations to my prejudice, to which you refer in your letter of the 30th ultimo, and which you seem to think made no impression on your mind, have not been without their intended effect. On no other supposition can I explain the fact, that, without giving me any intimation of the step, you should apply for information as to my course in the cabinet, to one whom you know to be

hostile to me as Mr. Crawford is, and who could not, as you know, make the disclosure consistently with the principles of honor and fidelity, when my previous correspondence with you ought to have satisfied you that I was prepared to give you, frankly and fully, any information which you might desire, in relation to my course on the occasion.

J. C. CALHOUN.

To President Jackson.

General Jackson to Mr. Forsyth.

Washington, June 7, 1830.

SIR—I have received your letter of the 2d inst. enclosing a copy of your letter to Mr. Calhoun, of the 31st ult., and his reply thereto, all which I have duly noted.

You have requested a copy of Mr. Calhoun's letter to me of the 29th of May last, for the purpose of its being shown to Mr. Crawford, Mr. Calhoun, in his reply to you, does not consent, nor yet object, to your being furnished with a copy, but refers the matter to my discretion.

A copy of the original letter of Mr. Crawford to you having been submitted to me, it occurred as being proper and correct that you should be apprised of Mr. Calhoun's answer, and therefore it was shown to you. I cannot on reflection, perceive any impropriety in now according to you the request you have made, particularly as, on your referring this matter to Mr. Calhoun, he does not object. I accordingly send it, with this injunction, that it be used for no other purpose but the one you have stated, to be shown to Mr. Crawford.

In the letter which you have addressed to Mr. Calhoun, you state as follows to wit: "Having, at the request of the President to be informed what took place in the Cabinet of Mr. Monroe on the subject of the Seminole campaign, laid before him a copy (except the omission of a name) of a letter from Mr. Crawford," &c. This is construed by Mr. Calhoun into a declaration that I requested you to furnish me with the information. I am satisfied it was not by you so intended, and I would be glad you would so explain it to him. I never conversed with you upon this subject previous to the time when you sent me Mr. Crawford's letter. The facts are these: I had been informed that Mr. Crawford had made a statement concerning this business, which had come to the knowledge of Col. James A. Hamilton, of New York. On meeting with Col. Hamilton, I inquired of him, and received for answer that he had, but remarked that he did not think it proper to communicate without the consent of the writer. I answered, that being informed that the Marshal of this District had, to a friend of mine, made a similar statement to that said to have been made by Mr. Crawford. I would be glad to see Mr. Crawford's statement, and desired he would write and obtain his consent. My reasons were, that I had, from the uniform friendly professions of Mr. Calhoun, always believed him my friend in all this Seminole business; and I had a desire to know if in this I was mistaken, and whether it was possible for Mr. Calhoun to have acted with such insincerity and duplicity towards me. I have enclosed Mr. Calhoun a copy of this letter.

And am, sir, with respectful regard, your most obedient servant,

ANDREW JACKSON.

The Hon. John Forsyth, Senator in Congress.

Mr. Forsyth to General Jackson.

Augusta, June 18, 1830.

SIR—I have had the honor to receive your letter of the 7th inst. and the copy papers enclosed within it. The papers will be shown to Mr. Crawford, and no other use made of them by me.

I did not intend to convey to Mr. Calhoun the idea that any personal communication ever took place between us prior to the date of Mr. Crawford's letter, relative to the occurrences in Mr. Monroe's Cabinet on the question of the Seminole war. What I intended he should know, and I suppose will now understand, if I have inadvertently misled him, is, that I did not volunteer to procure the information contained in Mr. Crawford's letter, but that it was obtained for your use, in compliance with your request. Major Hamilton requested me, in your name, to give to you what I had previously given to him. Mr. Crawford's account of the transaction. With this request I complied, after having first obtained Mr. Crawford's consent, and received from him his correction of a mistake I had made in repeating his verbal statement.

I have the honor to be, &c.

JOHN FORSYTH.

To Andrew Jackson, President of the U. States.

Augusta, June 17, 1830.

SIR—General Jackson having sent to you a copy of his letter to me of the 8th inst. it is proper that you should see the