

IREDELL EXPRESS.
EUGENE B. DRAKE & SON,
EDITORS AND PROPRIETORS.

Statesville, Friday, February 18, 1859.

Government Patronage.
The Winston Sentinel, true to low and vulgar instincts and a love of spits, devotes a tirade of slang and clap-trap in reply (1) to an article which appeared in the Express week before last, on "Mail Contracts," &c., and, feelingly enough, endeavors to justify the usage which was inaugurated by Democratic Presidents and their Subs, we believe, of rewarding a partisan press, for services rendered in upholding and advocating lococo principles.

The *humbony* and disgusting humbuggery which is attempted to be palmed off upon the public in defending this position, would be much less apparent, were it not for an admission, unwittingly made, no doubt, that the "spoils" are a legitimate plunder for the Party in power, and that they have a right, without objection being made in any quarter, to use the public funds at will. "It is not only the right, but the duty of the government," says the *Sentinel*, "to encourage, so far as it may be the dispensation of its patronage, that portion of the press which represents and sustains the principles upon which it is carried on." &c. This declaration made by the *Sentinel*, is not for the first time announced to the public, and the principle is no new thing—for the practice of the government for years has been, to squander the public money upon a subsidized press, and trading, vagabond politicians, until the treasury is become bankrupt! This must be as well-known to the *Sentinel*, as it is patent to the country, and it is for that the "Iredell Express, grumbles," more than forgiving the advertising the "Mail Contracts" to Democratic newspapers exclusively, please the *Sentinel*. It is simply absurd, in the *Sentinel* to insinuate that we would change our flag for a share of government patronage. If we bestowed upon us, Nothing, would be more easy for us to secure than the smiles and favors of the White House, especially at the present juncture, provided we would turn traitor to our principles, and share the reward of corruption, as the *Sentinel* may be now doing. When Democracy shall put on the substance as well as the semblance of honesty, then it may stand a chance to get our support, and not earlier. It is a fact well known to us, that rewards are at all times open freely to all who will embrace them, and turn Democrat—and we would simply ask, Was the *Sentinel* not lought after this manner?

At the risk of making this article longer than at first we contemplated, we will annex the following statements which (says an exchange) are evidently but a sample of what might be said of any and every branch of the public service:—

"Mr. Sherman's committee of investigations into the Navy Yard. What he will report to have been going on at Brooklyn for years past has been performed in like manner at Philadelphia, Pensacola, and Norfolk. The most gross corruption yet detected is in the employment, or rather in the payment of mechanics and laborers whose services are not needed, and indeed are not rendered. It will be proved that at and immediately before the last election 2,300 persons were in public pay at the Brooklyn Navy Yard. They turned the election in favor of Maclay, and against Col. Hamilton, and had it been possible to unite on Taylor or Litchford, these independent citizens would have secured the return of the regular candidate in that district. Master workmen have pocketed pay returned on the rolls as paid to persons who are shown not to have been employed at all. Others who were employed have been compelled to give the officials one-half their wages. Contracts have been awarded to bidders at double the rates offered by individuals and firms of greater responsibility. Materials have been paid for which were never delivered. In short, the Navy Yard is shown to be a sink of profligacy. It is hardly denied that the Philadelphia navy yard is the centre of disbursements which often control the politics of the whole State. The cost of all the work done at Norfolk and Pensacola is greater than at other yards, showing that corruption prevails there as elsewhere. It is no crude estimate that of the fourteen millions annually appropriated to the navy, three millions are plundered by the profligacy, heedlessness and corruption of those who disburse the funds."

As astounding as all this is, and even shocking to the nerves and arousing the fears of many professed Democrats, who are themselves engaged in exposing to public condemnation the profligacy and corruption which is an everyday custom with a majority of the members in their party, and especially with the portion of occupying place and power, yet, according to the declaration of the Winston *Sentinel*, "It is not only the right, but the duty of the government, to encourage, so far as it may be the dispensation of its patronage, that portion of the press (and of course every body else) which represents and sustains the principles upon which it is carried on." The government might be never so corrupt—may oppress the people with taxes and grind them under the nether mill-stone—may rob honest toil of millions of hard-earned dollars to go into the pockets of office holders and for election bribes; but it must be done, to "sustain the principles upon which the government is carried on," says the *Sentinel*.

And the "press" the *Sentinel* tells us, "in this country, is the great lever of political opinion." With such a party in power—and a corrupt press to do the bidding of the government and its demoralized agents, in the engorged name of our Country, what have the people to hope for!

The *Sentinel* closes its article with pious upon the economy of Mr. Buchanan's administration, as compared with the administration of Mr. Adams! An idiot might be supposed to possess more sense than that!

The Salisbury Banner.
Informs us that the sum allowed by government for publishing the "mail contracts" is much less than \$450 to each paper. Our information was derived from what we conceived good authority, and we gave it as was told to us. Be that as it may, and if the *Banner* works for government cheaper than other sheets, we no not know; but we

opposed the principle of exclusiveness, as also the unnecessary extravagance, so common now-a-days, in farming out government contracts. We suggested that the advertising, like any other matter, might be let to the lowest and best bidders, and not be used as it now is for special rewards to favorites.—That the object of this exclusiveness is to benefit a partisan press, is too apparent to admit of a doubt—a bribe, it is to maintain power, by whomsoever—although, we do not assert that every supporter, of any administration has or will receive a bribe. Then, it amounts to corruption in the government, as much so as if, the President were to propose to buy support in another way. He says in so many words, "Those who will support my administration, them will I pay." Hence it follows that such as do not support him, get nothing. Nor does it alter the case, whether the *Banner* and other kindred prints, are to receive \$450 or \$200 for publishing the mail contracts; it is a consideration which is allowed to them for advocating Democracy—from snout to tip of tail—carcass, hide, and hazzlets! For such service, we are ready to admit, the pay should be ample—for it is a nauseous job—but we object to Whigs being compelled to pay any part, of it to those who oppose their principles.

If Democracy are disposed to retrench, let them begin with small matters and large; but we opine they will be no less extravagant hereafter than in days of yore. The only way to teach a spendthrift economy is to place money beyond his reach, and require from stealing use strong locks, nor entrust them with the keys. We do not envy our neighbor his share of the spoil—no, no. But let him and others be satisfied out of the right pockets.

Look Out for a Crash.
There can be no doubt that the time is near at hand, in several of the Southern States at least, when a crash is to tumble many into ruin and entail the scenes of 1837—'8. The high prices for which negroes and lands are selling at the South, on credit, has no parallel in this country, and other extravagance is more rampant than before was ever known. Supposing the price of cotton should keep up to present figures, then the evil day must arrive, for it will be quite impossible for payments to be promptly met when prices go on enlarging so rapidly. But cotton will not long sell as it is now selling, in all probability, for what? In 1824-5 cotton was sold as high as 28 and 30 cents a pound, and in a month afterward fell to 12 and 13 cents, and then down to 6 and 7 cents a pound. The consequence was the bankruptcy of thousands, and general prostration of the financial affairs of the country. From \$1000 negroes sold down to \$500 and \$400. In 1837-'8, cotton sold at 16 and 18 cents in the markets of Mobile and New Orleans, and \$1200 to \$1500 was considered a large price for No. 1 negroes in Mississippi, where we were then residing. Cotton went down to 6 and 7 cents; negro men fell to \$600 and \$800, and the world is familiar with the pecuniary desolation that followed. Now cotton is selling for about 12 cents, at the South, and negroes sell for \$1000 and \$1200. It is not only the price of cotton, but the price of all the staples of the South, that is going up. Even the travelers that go from the middle States with their droves to the South are forced to sell chiefly upon credit, or do so for the sake of the long prices. The immense droves of horses and mules which are annually taken to the South from Kentucky, Tennessee, &c., are likewise sold upon credit, chiefly. A few weeks ago a negro trader from North Carolina was robbed in the city of Montgomery of \$10,000, but only \$2500 of the sum was in cash, the balance was in obligations. With such datum, it goes, we will be compelled to go upon the old stage-line principle. The Governor's fair promises, made last summer, have been disregarded by this Democratic House, and I believe, the people, particularly in the West, will place no confidence in the pledges that will be made in 1859. And why should they?

Enclosed you will find a circular, which was sent secretly to the Democratic members of the House, but unluckily enough for them it fell into the hands of the *Whigs*. I hope you will publish it. The bill taking off some of the restrictions on the Greenville and French Broad Rail Road is now under consideration. The Salisbury Bank bill has just passed the Senate with a Branch at Statesville. The bill is well restricted, and many persons think the restrictions are too unreasonable, but I think the stock will be taken."

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We have Frequent Complaint.
Made by subscribers that the Express does not reach them occasionally in time, and then not at all! This is as trying to us, as it is vexatious to them; and can be accounted for, only in this way—some Post Master fails to discharge his duty and forward the packages, or else the papers are allowed to be taken from his office by persons having no right to them, and too mean to subscribe and pay the cost of a paper for themselves. We are informed it is a common practice with some Post Masters, especially where Offices are kept in Stores, to allow of the mail-matter being scattered around and at the mercy of every loafer who enters, without regard to ownership. This should not be allowed in justice to patrons and publisher!

The Express is regularly and carefully packed and mailed and forwarded from the Office in this place each week—any delay that may happen afterward, we cannot avoid. Post Masters have a responsible duty to perform to the public, and be the reward much or little, the trust should be faithfully and energetically executed.

Correspondence.
OUR HOME CORRESPONDENCE.

To the Man in the Moon.
Politeness demands that I should respond to your epistle—if there were no other inducement, I feel considerably flattered by the notice your moonship has been pleased to bestow upon me from your exalted Throne; and I will add, that it has awakened thoughts that never before entered into the dreams of a visionary school-girl.

Some consideration is due you, for so benignantly regarding our planet. How often your silver beams illuminate our World, rendering every scene so romantic and almost spirit-like in their soft loveliness: glancing upon the quiet lake or limpid stream, reflecting a halo of beauty,—or trembling upon the delicate flower revealing its soft blushing hues,—or searching out the pearly dew-drops, half hidden by dark-green foliage. Or now with a glorious flood of light enveloping the silent city, keeping vigils over its profound slumbers; and recompensed only by the furrow of worship of few, whose refined feelings enable them to appreciate the pure and beautiful,—the poetry of life.

There is a marvellous fascination in these moon-lit nights; it is so like an inspiration to me. I imagine from the brilliant display of light radiated from your Kingdom, that in magnificence it is pre-eminently superior to our earth. But still, I must say with the Poet, "My own green land forever." And "Young America" too, is without a parallel, if he does go into "delectable spasms" sometimes, putting on his "Sunday-face," and assume a non-descript-gait. I always shall admire his non-starche and insinuating address, (I beg pardon for dissenting from your moonship's opinions.) We believe in these "go-ahead" boys, who dare to be original, and select their own way. "Fast young men" is an enviable sight these days,—they are fifty years in advance of the present age; who now don't adore them? Your lordship will not think this extravagant, I hope! If I wish to retain this idea, I must forbear to glance at your bright face, for I have narrowly escaped a fairy javelin of Cupid, and there is a bewitching lustre in your appearance, a mysterious power I'm unable to solve. I have not come to a decision on your proposal yet; it all seems so like a hallowed dream or Elysian revelry. You'll pardon my want of decision, remembering, I'm a mere school-girl.

Yours with profound regard, IOWE.
P.S.—Perhaps I should be candid with you and tell you in the strictest confidence, that there is one among the lords of earth, in whom I realize my views of a gentleman; in him I perceive beautifully combined, all that can adorn, or elevate human nature: a noble countenance, a peerless symmetry of form, elegant and dignified manners,—a voice whose deep tones are all melody,—the soul-like eye of soul, and magnanimity and loftiness of spirit; affluent in intellectual treasures, and a heart that is ever alive to the claims of others. He lives, not for himself, but to benefit his race; and oh! he loves me, and with him I would become wise and better, though none so exalted in station as if I shared your Throne.
S. F. COLLIERE.

The Revenue Bill.
Having passed the Senate and received a finish, will be published in the Express so soon as we receive a copy. The people in all sections will be much gratified with its provisions early enough for their comfort.—But taxes are indispensable for the support of government, and to be appreciated must be felt.

Fate of the Western Extension.
A correspondent writing to us from Raleigh, says:—
"The bill taking off the restriction on the Western Extension, has just met with a Waterloo defeat, year 31, noes 74. All hope of getting assistance from this Legislature is gone. We will be compelled to go upon the old stage-line principle. The Governor's fair promises, made last summer, have been disregarded by this Democratic House, and I believe, the people, particularly in the West, will place no confidence in the pledges that will be made in 1859. And why should they?"

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Confidential.
A Democratic "Confidential" Circular.

We have received from a friend in Raleigh, one of the "Confidential" Circulars, which was distributed among the Democratic members of the Legislature, recently, expressing fears for the salvation of the party, and urging members to act with more energy in the discharge of their public duties to the people. It is a curious document and shows the "shaking of dry-bones" in the Democratic bee-hive. "We give it exactly as printed.—Here it is.

[CONFIDENTIAL]
An appeal to the Democratic members of the House of Commons of North Carolina.
The adjournment of the Legislature is now near at hand, and our political campaign—State and Federal—of 1860, with all the important results which must accompany its decision, will be conducted mainly in view of the doings of the Democracy in relation to the various plans of internal improvement that have been presented during the session. These are the great practical questions by which persons will be judged. With but few exceptions, these measures have been voted down in the House of Commons; and, from that action, a fatal danger is to be feared to the assembly of the Democratic party of North Carolina. The State was Whig for years; and its traditions and principles take their complexion from the old Whig sentiment. It was only through the prostration of the old Whig party, when betrayed by Know-Nothingism, that the State went over to the Democratic side.—There has been, however, no radical and essential change in the views of the people upon general questions of public policy. These views are settled and permanent, and may be successfully appealed to, for the utter overthrow of our party, when we offer any grounds for it to our enemies.

Have not these grounds been given to the foes of the Democratic organization in the opposition of many Democratic members to the various internal improvement measures produced at this session? Have we not put a powerful weapon into the hands of our opponents, with which, unless we promptly wrest it from their grasp, they will cut our throats at the next State elections?
The AYES and NOES having been taken upon the several questions alluded to, an authentic and indisputable RECORD is thereby furnished by which our opponents will not fail to profit in the important canvass of 1860. Shall they be allowed to do so; and to go forward prosperously in the conception of that shrewdly-devised plot of their leaders for the ruin of the Democratic party in North Carolina, which was indicated, only the other day, by no less an authority than the Raleigh *Standard*? SHALL NOT THIS RECORD BE CHANGED before it is too late? Will not every Democratic Commissioner put himself right, at once, before the people?

LET IT BE REMEMBERED that our overthrow in 1860 involves the loss of North Carolina to the Democracy in the federal contest of that year, and perhaps the election of a BLACK REPUBLICAN PRESIDENT! Already are our enemies counting with confidence upon REVOLUTIONIZING THE STATE when the time comes. WILL YOU LET THEM DO SO?
MANY EASTERN DEMOCRATS.
CONGRESS.

In the Senate, on Monday, the Agricultural College bill, from the House after some amendments, was passed by 25 yeas to 22 nays. Mr. Slidell urged his Cuba measure, and said he would move it as an amendment to the Civil and Diplomatic Appropriation bill.—After devoting some time to the horse-railroad the Senate adjourned. In the House Mr. Stephens endeavored unsuccessfully to bring up Territorial business for Tuesday and Wednesday. Various matters were discussed in Committee of the Whole, when the House took a recess till evening for general debate. During the discussion of the Tariff question in the evening session, Mr. Vance made a speech of the politics of the country. We take the following brief report of Mr. V.'s remarks from the National Intelligencer:

Mr. Vance, of North Carolina, addressed the committee upon the subjects of the tariff, the public lands, and the bill granting pensions to the soldiers of the war of 1812. He held himself ready, at the risk of being called a protectionist, to reject the odiousness of the doctrine that this country must keep on glorifying free-trade and borrowing money to pay the expenses of the Government! He was opposed to a tariff for protection simply; but as the Government was now spending more money than its income, they had either to raise the tariff to a level with the expenditures, or lower the expenditures to the present tariff, or walk into an insolvent court and file a schedule. He believed the specific duties were the fairest, simplest, and best for the merchant, the consumer, and the Government. In relation to the public lands, he agreed with Gen. Jackson, that they should not be kept as a source of revenue to the General Government, but should be distributed among the several States of the Union.

In the Senate, on Wednesday, a resolution was adopted inquiring into the expediency of abrogating the Canadian reciprocity treaty. The resolutions relative to the revenue were then taken up, when Mr. Trumbull, of Georgia, made a lengthy speech in reply to Mr. Bigler of the day before. Mr. Slidell's Cuban bill was then taken up, and after a long parliamentary

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Have not these grounds been given to the foes of the Democratic organization in the opposition of many Democratic members to the various internal improvement measures produced at this session? Have we not put a powerful weapon into the hands of our opponents, with which, unless we promptly wrest it from their grasp, they will cut our throats at the next State elections?
The AYES and NOES having been taken upon the several questions alluded to, an authentic and indisputable RECORD is thereby furnished by which our opponents will not fail to profit in the important canvass of 1860. Shall they be allowed to do so; and to go forward prosperously in the conception of that shrewdly-devised plot of their leaders for the ruin of the Democratic party in North Carolina, which was indicated, only the other day, by no less an authority than the Raleigh *Standard*? SHALL NOT THIS RECORD BE CHANGED before it is too late? Will not every Democratic Commissioner put himself right, at once, before the people?

LET IT BE REMEMBERED that our overthrow in 1860 involves the loss of North Carolina to the Democracy in the federal contest of that year, and perhaps the election of a BLACK REPUBLICAN PRESIDENT! Already are our enemies counting with confidence upon REVOLUTIONIZING THE STATE when the time comes. WILL YOU LET THEM DO SO?
MANY EASTERN DEMOCRATS.
CONGRESS.

In the Senate, on Monday, the Agricultural College bill, from the House after some amendments, was passed by 25 yeas to 22 nays. Mr. Slidell urged his Cuba measure, and said he would move it as an amendment to the Civil and Diplomatic Appropriation bill.—After devoting some time to the horse-railroad the Senate adjourned. In the House Mr. Stephens endeavored unsuccessfully to bring up Territorial business for Tuesday and Wednesday. Various matters were discussed in Committee of the Whole, when the House took a recess till evening for general debate. During the discussion of the Tariff question in the evening session, Mr. Vance made a speech of the politics of the country. We take the following brief report of Mr. V.'s remarks from the National Intelligencer:

Mr. Vance, of North Carolina, addressed the committee upon the subjects of the tariff, the public lands, and the bill granting pensions to the soldiers of the war of 1812. He held himself ready, at the risk of being called a protectionist, to reject the odiousness of the doctrine that this country must keep on glorifying free-trade and borrowing money to pay the expenses of the Government! He was opposed to a tariff for protection simply; but as the Government was now spending more money than its income, they had either to raise the tariff to a level with the expenditures, or lower the expenditures to the present tariff, or walk into an insolvent court and file a schedule. He believed the specific duties were the fairest, simplest, and best for the merchant, the consumer, and the Government. In relation to the public lands, he agreed with Gen. Jackson, that they should not be kept as a source of revenue to the General Government, but should be distributed among the several States of the Union.

In the Senate, on Wednesday, a resolution was adopted inquiring into the expediency of abrogating the Canadian reciprocity treaty. The resolutions relative to the revenue were then taken up, when Mr. Trumbull, of Georgia, made a lengthy speech in reply to Mr. Bigler of the day before. Mr. Slidell's Cuban bill was then taken up, and after a long parliamentary