

## Communications.

FOR THE FREE PRESS.

Mr. Editor: It has been already remarked that this is the era of strange events. The annular and sublime eclipse of the sun—the inquietude of the old world—a revolution in France—a revolution in Poland—the excitement in England on the Reform bill—the nobly achieved independence of Belgium—the rapid strides made towards universal freedom—the many strange occurrences in our own borders—altogether have signalled this as a most extraordinary period in the destinies of mankind.

But among them all, there should not be forgotten the rejection by the Senate of the nomination of **MARTIN VAN BUREN**—“Tell it not in Gath, publish it not in the streets of Askelon”—a combination, extraordinary as it is criminal, have dared to attempt to sacrifice an individual at the expence of the public welfare—they have attempted to immolate upon the altar of private pique and malevolent envy, the well earned fame of the great Jackson and the “Great Magician.” Yes, Sir, the Great Magician—a man whose private and moral character, stands as fair and irreproachable as any man’s—whose political life has long withstood the popular theme of magician and intriguer—whose character, both private and political, has withstood the baseless charges of the mighty, the magnanimous, and the patriotic *John C. Calhoun!* that man who when the incorruptible Jackson was informed that he had acted towards him with a base duplicity, attempts to sacrifice Mr. Van Buren, whom his vanity had induced him to believe would one day be his great rival for popular distinction, as the author of a “horrible plot,” when he at the same time virtually admits himself guilty of the damning charge.

I do not wish to expatiate upon this extraordinary event—the people see it and the people will judge. Let them read the debate—the speeches made by the Opposition in secret conclave on this nomination—what else are they, but the outpouring of disappointed hope and malevolent malediction. Let this maniacal fever rage on—let the tornado of disappointed and criminal ambition thunder still its blind anathemas—let the Clay and Calhoun faction unite to dissolve the Union—to ruin our country and our country’s noblest son—but let them remember—yes, let them remember always, that though the fillets may be wreathed, the faggots lighted, and the victim bound, yet “Truth is mighty and will prevail.” Let them remember that Daniel was safely delivered from the lion’s den, and Jonah from the whale’s belly—and let them remember, moreover, that their day of retribution is coming—that whatever they may say or do will avail them nothing before the tribunal of the PEOPLE.

But, Mr. Editor, I have another object in view in calling public attention to this article—“Merit to whom merit is due,” is a correct maxim; and, “judge men by their actions and not by their professions,” is another—among the whole of our Jackson editors in North Carolina, where are they who have stepped forward and acted the

noble part of an advocate for the President and the people in this matter? The answer is short and specific—the manly Watson, of the Newbern Sentinel—the firm and unwavering Strange & Hybart, of the North Carolina Journal—and last, but not least, the manly, the noble, the able, talented and independent Ransom & Ramsay, of the Raleigh Constitutionalist.

A JACKSON MAN.

## POLITICAL.

### SCENES AT WASHINGTON.

Messrs. Clay and Smith.—We copy from the Globe the following sketch of the sparring in the U. S. Senate, between these individuals, on the Tariff resolution, merely premising that Gen. Smith is a revolutionary veteran, now nearly eighty years of age, and for thirty-nine years has been a member of Congress.

Mr. CLAY passed to the consideration of the financial remarks of the Senator from Maryland (Mr. Smith.) The Senator commenced his remarks by saying that he had been accused of being too friendly to manufactures. A more malicious accusation, said Mr. Clay, was never made by created man. If any one should repeat the charge, let him be referred to me; and I will take my solemn oath, on the holy Evangelists of Almighty God, that since I have known any thing of his course, in either House, he has been a most determined foe to manufactures. \* \*

Mr. Clay called for the sinking fund act, of which the Senator from Maryland had accused him of ignorance. How did the Senator know I was ignorant of that act? [Mr. Smith disclaimed the words imputed to him. He had never accused any member of this body of ignorance, and hoped he should never so far depart from Senatorial propriety.] The Senator, continued Mr. Clay, supposed me to be ignorant of that act. There are two errors which very frequently find place in some minds; one is the error of magnifying our own knowledge, and the other is the error of depreciating the knowledge of others; and the honorable gentleman must excuse me if I say that he is a prominent example of the existence of both errors. \* \*

After alluding to the friendship he had always exhibited towards the army and navy, Mr. Clay touched the subject of Internal Improvement. He had said that there would be left 18 millions, after modifying the Tariff upon the plan he proposed. But he did not wish to retain a revenue of 18 millions. I will go as low as any body, I will go lower than any body. You shan’t out-brag me. Give three millions to Internal Improvement, and Colonization, and the revenue may go down to nine millions. While treating the subject of Internal Improvement, Mr. Clay alluded to the construction of the Committee on Roads and Canals; it had been so organized by the honorable Senator from Maryland, that four out of five of the members were against the constitutionality of the power to make Internal Improvements and the expediency of exercising the power. \* \*

Mr. SMITH was sorry to find that he had unintentionally offended the honorable gentleman from Kentucky. In referring to the vigorous age he himself enjoyed, he had not supposed he should give offence to others who complained of the infirmities of age. The gentleman

from Kentucky was the last who should take the remark as disparaging to his vigor and personal appearance;—for, when that gentleman spoke to us of his age, he heard a young lady near him exclaim,—“Old, why I think he is mighty pretty.” The Hon. gentleman, on Friday last, made a similitude where none existed. I, said Mr. S., had suggested the necessity of mutual forbearance in settling the Tariff, and, thereupon, the gentleman vociferated loudly and angrily about removals from office. He said I was a leader in the system. I deny the fact. I never exercised the least influence in effecting a removal, and, on the contrary, I interfered, successfully, to prevent the removal of two gentlemen in office. I am charged with making a Committee on Roads and Canals, adverse to Internal Improvement. If this be so, it is by mistake. I certainly supposed every gentleman named on that committee, but one, to be friendly to Internal Improvement. To the Committee on Manufactures he assigned four out of five who were known to be friendly to the protective system. The rights of the minority, he had endeavored, also, in arranging the Committees, to secure. The appointment of the Committees he had found one of the most difficult and onerous tasks he had ever undertaken. One-third of the House were lawyers, all of whom wanted to be put upon some important committee. The oath which the Senator had tendered, he hoped he would not take. In the year 1795, he had sustained a protective duty against the opposition of a member from Pittsburg. Previous to the year 1822, he had always given incidental support to manufactures, in fixing the tariff. He was a warm friend to the tariff of 1816, which he still regarded as a wise and beneficial law. He hoped, then, the gentleman would not take his oath.

Mr. Clay placed, he said, a high value on the compliment of which the honorable Senator was the channel of communication, and he the more valued it, inasmuch as he did not recollect more than once before, in his life, to have received a similar compliment. He was happy to find that the Hon. gentleman disclaimed the system of proscription;—and he should, with his approbation, hereafter cite his authority in opposition to it. The Committee on Roads and Canals, whatever were the gentleman’s intentions in constructing it, had a majority of members, whose votes and speeches against Internal Improvements, were matter of notoriety. The gentleman’s appeal to his acts in ’95, is perfectly safe; for, old as I am, my knowledge of his course does not extend back that far. He would take the period which the gentleman named, since 1822. It comes, then, to this: The honorable gentleman was in favor of manufactures; but he had turned. I need not use the word—he has abandoned manufactures. Thus—

“Old politicians chime on wisdom past, And totter on, in blunders, to the last.”

Mr. Smith. The last allusion is unworthy of the gentleman. Totter, Sir, I totter. Though some twenty years older than the gentleman, I can yet stand firm, and am yet able to correct his errors. I could take a view of the gentleman’s course, which would show how inconsistent be

has been—[Mr. Clay exclaimed angrily, “Take it, Sir, take it—I dare you.” Cries of “order.”] No, Sir, said Mr. S., I will not take it. I will not so far disregard what is due to the dignity of the Senate.

Messrs. Branch and Forsyth.—In the debate on the nomination of Mr. Van Buren, Mr. Poindexter related a conversation, which took place between the President and one of his dismissed Secretaries, on the eve of the dissolution of the late Cabinet; from which it was inferred, that a previous arrangement had been made for the elevation of Mr. Van Buren. In reply, Mr. Forsyth said: “In the interview (spoken of by Mr. Poindexter) it is acknowledged that Mr. Van Buren’s letter of resignation was handed to this volunteer repeater of confidential conversation with the Chief Magistrate.” The remarks of Mr. F. have called forth the following correspondence.

From the U. S. Telegraph.  
The subjoined are copies of notes which have passed between Governors Branch and Forsyth, through our hands as the friends of these gentlemen.  
Samuel P. Carson.  
Wm. S. Archer.

Washington City, }  
Feb. 5th, 1832. }

Sir: I have read the printed report of your speech, prepared by you for the press, purporting to be the remarks which you made in the Senate in secret session, on the nomination of Martin Van Buren as Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary to the Court of St. James. The notice which you take of a conversation referred to in the debate by Mr. Poindexter, Senator from Mississippi, requires that I should ask of you to state to me, explicitly, whether you did or did not know, or had reason to believe, at the time you wrote out your speech for publication, that I was the “somebody, one of the late Secretaries” to whom you refer as the volunteer repeater of confidential conversation with the Chief Magistrate? Your reply to this communication will regulate my future action on this subject.

I am, respectfully, yours, &c.  
JOHN BRANCH.  
Honr. John Forsyth.

Washington, Feb. 5th, 1832.

Dear Sir: Although perfectly satisfied with your verbal declaration, on reflection since we separated this morning, I think it indispensable that the concluding paragraph in the enclosed letter should be omitted, or that your remarks to me on the subject of it should be in writing before an answer to it is transmitted to you. I return it to you to adopt either course that may be most agreeable to you.

I am, dear Sir, very sincerely,  
JOHN FORSYTH.  
Hon. Mr. Carson.

House of Representatives, }  
Feb. 6th, 1832. }

Dear Sir: If the simple interrogatory contained in the letter of Gov. Branch, would be more acceptable to you without the paragraph with which it concludes, I am authorized as his friend, to state to you that that paragraph may be considered as stricken from his note, not deeming it essential to the subject of his inquiry.

Very respectfully,  
SAM. P. CARSON.  
Hon. John Forsyth.  
P. S.—Your note was not handed me till this day, since the meeting of the House.

Washington, Feb. 6th, 1832.  
Sir: I have received your note by Col. Carson.

The remarks of mine, to which you point my attention, were made in answer to Mr. Poindexter, and intended to apply to the person referred to by him, without knowledge of that person, on my part, then, or at the time my remarks were prepared for the press.

I am, very respectfully, yours, &c.

JOHN FORSYTH.  
Hon. Mr. Branch.

Washington, Feb. 7th, 1832.

Sir: In your answer to my note by Col. Carson, you state that you did not know that I was the person referred to by Governor Poindexter as having held a conversation with the President. It being now made known to you that I was the person, I wish to inquire whether you feel yourself at liberty to disavow the application of these remarks to me.

I am, respectfully, &c.  
JOHN BRANCH.  
Hon. John Forsyth.

Washington, Feb. 7th, 1832.

Sir: Your note of this morning informs me that you were the person referred to by Mr. Poindexter in the observations alluded to in our former notes, and inquires whether I feel at liberty to disclaim the application to you of my remarks in reply.

Having submitted the subject to some of my friends, who unite in thinking that the inference from the observations of Mr. Poindexter, under which my remarks were made, that the conversation referred to had been confidential, was not warranted, and satisfied that the view of the subject is correct, I have no hesitation in disclaiming the application to you of the charge imported by these remarks, of having repeated a confidential conversation.

I am, respectfully, &c.  
JOHN FORSYTH.  
Hon. John Branch.

Mr. Carson respectfully requests those editors who have published the remarks of Gov. Forsyth on Mr. Van Buren’s nomination, to publish, also, this correspondence.

Messrs. Poindexter and Moore.—The New-York Courier and Enquirer in commenting on the speeches of these Senators, on the nomination of Mr. Van Buren, charged them with having retained a Mr. Clements “to coin falsehoods,” and with purchasing “a wilful falsehood,” &c. In reply, the following Card appeared in the National Intelligencer:—

A Card.—It must be obvious to every honorable man, that Mr. Poindexter, of Mississippi, and Mr. Moore, of Alabama, cannot stoop to notice the infamous falsehoods which appear in the columns of the New York Courier and Enquirer, relating to their recent vote on the nomination of Martin Van Buren. The Editor has been regularly purchased, and paid for, by a lucrative office which he holds in the city of New York; it is his business to circulate through his columns lies to order—wholesale or retail; and no one can doubt that he, as in duty bound, faithfully performs his contract.

This King of the Jews, who has sold his character, and his conscience, and, like Judas, would sell his God for thirty pieces of silver, cannot be made to feel the influence of truth, or the reproaches to which his vile calumnies subject him; he is safe behind the mud-wall which he has erected as a secure battery, to protect him from all the