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BY GEORGE HOWARD,

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DOMESTIC.

From the Raleigh Constitutionalist.

Washington, Feb. 4. 1832.

Messrs Editors: This is the second day Mr. Clay has amused the Senate with his peculiar tariff eloquence. I suppose he will occupy Monday in winding up. After all his mighty and splendid efforts, I do not think he will be able to reach the *White House* on the fourth of March, 1833. It is evident that Mr. Clay is not speaking what he believes, when he says, that taxes imposed on articles of consumption make them cheaper. The argument if carried out amounts to this:—two merchants go to Europe and buy goods—when they arrive in this country, one honestly pays the duty at the Custom House, and the other smuggles in his. According to Mr. Clay's American System doctrine, the one which pays the duty can afford his goods the cheapest. The doctrine carries on its face an absurdity which should subject its advocates to just scorn and contempt. And I venture to say, that, if twenty-five years ago, a man had advocated such doctrine in Congress, he would have been looked upon by all men of sense as a common fool. Yet such is the desperate state of the public mind at present, we find this inflammatory and abominable doctrine swallowed with avidity by some *even of our Eastern men*. I had hoped, that at this session of Congress, we should be able to have so modified the Tariff as to have given something like general satisfaction. But I must say, that recent events have seemed rather to make me doubt, than even to hope, there is the least possible chance to effect any thing like a beneficial reduction. It is painful to relate that the ultimate and substantial interests of the yeomanry of the country are but objects of a secondary nature, with the majority here. Mr. Clay leads a party who are trying to supplant Gen. Jackson, and to effect which they would roll heaven and earth together. They seem disposed not to yield one inch of ground, as respects their tariff principles. Mr. Calhoun, at the head of a small party, goes for an entire abandonment of the principle of protection. And thus the two extremes are pushed to the very point of desparation; and finally, we shall, after all, break up and do nothing during this state of things. You have seen the course of policy which our venerable President has recommended in relation to the Tariff, viz: *Con-*

cession and Compromise. But unfortunately for the country, we are too weak to carry this point. Clay, with his party, yielding no ground; Calhoun and his, contending for an abandonment of the protective policy. Thus the President is literally *crucified between two thieves!* I have nothing to say about combinations and coalitions; but one thing I will say—that, in my opinion the *fag ends* of parties are determined to use every means in their power, to thwart the views of the President.

The conduct of some of our Southern Senators in voting to reject Mr. Van Buren, has not, in my opinion, materially our cause. I fear it has produced an apathy with some of our New York friends. I confess I am at a loss to account for their conduct myself. You will see by reference to the debates in secret session, that the ostensible reason assigned by the opposition, for his rejection, was his instructions to Mr. McLane in relation to the West India trade. I do not blame Mr. Clay and his faction for rejecting him on that account. It was to be expected that the man, who, by his negligence, had lost that valuable trade, and failed in repeated efforts to regain it, would hardly be honorable enough to commend the man who had sagacity enough to regain it. But it is strange—nay, passing strange, that Mr. Calhoun and his partizans should join in the massacre. All who are conversant with the history of the times, know that Mr. Calhoun and his friends were the most clamorous of all in relation to the loss of this "valuable trade and nursery for our seamen," as one of them termed it. And now, strange to relate, they have joined with the man who, by negligence, lost it, impolitically, (as they hope,) killing the one who has regained it. Strange proceeding! I confess, to me. I had thought the instructions given to Mr. McLane met the approbation of all the then Cabinet—but I am informed by the Ex-Secretary of the Navy, that it did not. Since which, the President has informed me, that he gave express orders to Mr. Van Buren to give the instructions. I view the whole as a thrust at the President, intended by his enemies to disgrace him, and to cover the odium which was attached to Adams and Clay. *Some men who have once been strong friends of the President have played a bold fist in the dark in relation to this business.* I know not how they can say to their constituents, they are the friends of Gen. Jackson. They have "done" us "much evil, the Lord reward" them "according to their works."

Your obedient servant,
J. SPEIGHT.

U. S. Bank.—In the House of Representatives on the 28th ult. a resolution appointing a select committee to examine into the affairs of the Bank of the United States, with power to send for persons and papers, being under consideration:—

Mr. BRANCH said, believing as he did that the President of the United States was desirous to see this question bro't

to a definite issue, he had bro't his mind to resist every measure which was calculated to delay its ultimate decision. He would not impeach the motives of those who were willing to go into this question—but he could see no benefit from it. Let it result as it might, it would not affect the veto of the President. Does any man on this floor believe that the President would sign a bill rechartering the Bank? Throughout a long career of public service, he has constantly pronounced the charter of the present, as well as the former Bank of the U. States to be unconstitutional. He has taken an oath to support the Constitution against all encroachment. Can any one doubt but he will redeem his faith? After its rejection by the President can it be passed by two-thirds of both Houses? Why then should the public mind be longer agitated with uncertainty on this exciting subject? Why should artful speculators be permitted to avail themselves of the present uncertain state of events? Enquiries are daily passing on this subject. The President is stated to be of one opinion, the Secretary of the Treasury of another. If the charter of the Bank is to be renewed it ought to be known. If not to be it should be understood. It was the duty of the House to act promptly on the subject. The whole country expected it. He would do the President the justice to say that he never shrunk from any proper responsibility. It was from no desire of his that this subject was delayed. It was to be attributed to his counsellors—to a power behind the throne greater than the throne itself. The President desired no such subterfuge. Believing that the object so much desired—the prostration of the Bank may be better attained by avoiding all delay, he should vote against the resolution.

U. S. Bank.—It appears from information published by the President of the Bank, that the amount of stock held by foreigners is 34,055 shares; equal to \$8,405,500, without including the premium. The whole number of foreign stockholders is 470. The domestic stockholders of the Bank are 3,602, in number, owning 195,620 shares. The U. States hold 70,000, and there are in transit between the different transfer officers, 325 shares—making in the whole 350,000 shares, which, at \$100 each, make the amount of capital, viz: \$35,000,000. Present premium per share, \$124 1-8 to \$124 1/2. Amount of specie on hand at the Bank of the United States and its several branches, on the 1st January, 1832, was \$7,038,823 12.—*Ral. Reg.*

Petersburg Rail Road.—We learn from the Petersburg Times, that the bill, recently introduced into the House of Delegates of Virginia, providing that one half of the State's subscription shall be paid when individual Stockholders shall have paid a like proportion of theirs, and the remainder when indi-

viduals shall have paid the other half, passed that House on the 13th ult. by a vote of 64 to 37. "In addition to this highly gratifying intelligence, (observes the Times,) we embrace the occasion to mention, that a wealthy citizen of North Carolina has recently subscribed the amount of \$10,000 to the Company's funds—a flattering evidence of confidence, inspired no doubt by the extraordinary punctuality with which the original Shareholders have met the requisitions thus far upon them, the unexampled energy under all circumstances) with which the work has progressed, together with the prospect of ultimate profit from the investment."—*Ral. Star.*

Free Negroes.—A bill providing for the removal of free persons of color from Virginia, has passed the House of Delegates of that State, by a vote of 79 to 41. The bill appropriates for the object \$35,000 for the present year, and \$90,000 for the year 1833; the emigrants to be transported to some place beyond the limits of the United States, left to the discretion of the Central Board. This Board is to consist of the Governor, Treasurer and Auditor, who are clothed with the power of appointing agencies at Norfolk, Petersburg, or other places. No compulsion is to be used in any case.—*ib.*

Emigrants to Liberia.—The Norfolk Herald says:—Capt. Allen, of the ship Samuel Wright, at New York, from Havre, informs that the ship Robert, which had just arrived at Havre, spoke the ship James Perkins, bound to Liberia, with passengers, who had twice attempted to take the ship, but were prevented. She was proceeding on her voyage. The James Perkins sailed from this port for Liberia, about the last of December. We would fain believe, that there has been some misapprehension or mistake in the understanding of the information as received by the Robert. The passengers in the James Perkins were people of unquestionable good conduct, and every thing had been provided for their comfort and accommodation—besides, what could it have profited them to have got possession of the ship? How could they have navigated her? And if they had found any of the crew adequate to that office, to what part of the world could they have shaped their course, save the one they were going to? or what do with the vessel? Nothing but insanity or the desire of self destruction could have prevailed with them, we should think, to make so rash & desperate an attempt.

Death by Fire.—A melancholy incident occurred at Norfolk on Saturday week. Mrs. Sarah Piercy, who had but a week before lost a sister, whose infant children she took charge of, was standing with her back to the fire caressing one of them, when her dress, of light calico, caught fire, and she was immediately enveloped in flames. In her confusion she threw herself on the bed, the clothes of which

also caught. She then rushed down stairs. In the mean time her screams, with those of the children, had been heard at the next house, the master of which ran in and met the unfortunate lady at the foot of the stairs; he seized her in a moment, and throwing her down and wrapping the carpet around her, immediately extinguished the fire, which by that time had nearly consumed her entire clothing! A physician was immediately called in, but she was past all hope of recovery; and after remaining in the most excruciating agony till 11 o'clock next day, she expired. Mrs. Piercy was in the 37th year of her age, widow of Mr. James L. Piercy, and the only survivor of the family of the late James Hunter, Esq. of Norfolk borough.

Duelling.—The New Orleans Free Press, of the 30th ult. says: a meeting took place on Saturday between two gentlemen of that city; at which, after the first fire was exchanged, one of the parties stepped forward and offered his hand to his antagonist, who refused it. The ground was then retaken, and the party refusing instantly shot dead.

☞ An Albany (N. Y.) paper states that a duel, between two Southern students, very recently took place at Schenectady. They fought with pistols and dirks and both were wounded, although not dangerously. The names are not mentioned.

☞ A conspiracy has been recently detected in Philadelphia, formed against a young man by the name of Silkman. He was charged by different individuals and at different times before the police, with having passed counterfeit money. The police were also informed, that counterfeit bills were hidden on the premises of the accused, which upon examination, were found accordingly. Under these circumstances, the young man was arrested and held to bail to answer the charge at the Court of Sessions. Suspicions however were excited that all was not right, and one of the accusers was arrested, from whose examination it was made to appear, that a party of villains had conspired to have Silkman convicted and sent to the state prison.

☞ An old gentleman near Baltimore was lately threatened with death if he did not send \$800 in a letter to the Baltimore post office, directed B. L. A letter was sent, and the person who called for it was arrested. He has hitherto stood high for integrity and good conduct, and said he had been requested by a stranger at a tavern to ask for such a letter; but the stranger could not be found, and the man is in prison.

☞ At Hempstead, N. Y. a wagoner being absent from home, a black, who knew he had money, broke into the house. The wagoner's wife was awake by the growling of her dog, a fine mastiff, and told him to seize the man. He did so, and was found standing by the dead body of the black in the morning.