

Communications.

FOR THE FREE PRESS.

Mr. Howard: In your last paper I find a notice to the people to meet for the purpose of appointing a Delegate to the Baltimore Convention. As that Convention will be held for the express purpose of nominating a candidate for the Vice Presidency, I would respectfully present to their attention the name of PHILIP P. BARBOUR, of Virginia. A SUBSCRIBER.

FOR THE FREE PRESS.

To those at all acquainted with the events that have transpired within the last two years, it must be apparent that from the moment of Mr. VAN BUREN'S admission into the government, he has been an object of unceasing jealousy on the part of those who have recently endeavored to effect his political disgrace. Accusations of a most vague and indefinite character have been preferred against him—and his prompt and manly denial tortured into an evidence of guilt. He has been held responsible for all the misdeeds of the administration—while for the immense benefits it has conferred upon the country, not the slightest credit has been awarded him. Was a minister recalled? Mr. Van Buren instigated it—Was an officer in the departments removed? Mr. Van Buren was the cause. The President discovers that he has been misled in the supposed friendship of Mr. Calhoun and tells him so—until Mr. Van Buren is the individual who is to bear all the weight of that gentleman's indignation. Subsequently the Chief Magistrate, in the exercise of a high constitutional privilege and for reasons which the country approved, thinks proper to re-organize his Cabinet—again Mr. Van Buren is the luckless object upon whom is to be vented all the venom of those who had not the magnanimity to emulate his voluntary abandonment of a situation he was so eminently fitted to adorn. And thus has it been through the whole period of Gen. Jackson's administration. The last act of this drama has just closed—the measure of injustice and iniquity has just been filled in the attempt to sacrifice him to the mad ambition of one man and the malignant hatred of another.

Preliminary to any comment upon this extraordinary proceeding, it may not be improper briefly to refer to the situation of the Colonial trade prior to, and at the date of Mr. Van Buren's instructions. The Treaty of Ghent did not affect in the slightest degree our intercourse with the colonies of Great Britain—that government refusing to negotiate upon this subject and determined to adhere to her ancient policy of regulating it by Parliamentary enactments and orders in council. So that upon the restoration of peace our trade with the West Indies rested upon the same basis that regulated it before the war. Another feature of the British policy with regard to trade with her colonies was the right to impose protecting duties upon American produce imported into those colonies. In the maintenance of the principle involved she has been inflexible.

Between 1815 and 1823 several acts of Congress were passed, having for their object the

coercion of the British government to abandon these protecting duties. By reference to these acts it will be seen that they imply a demand on our part, to participate in this trade without being subjected to the restrictions under which other nations enjoyed it. Could we have succeeded in this, our commerce would certainly have been benefited. Still we cannot question the right, however much we may deprecate the policy, of her regulating her own colonies in her own way. The effect of these acts of Congress was to diminish the value of this trade; still, it was considerable and to parts of the country highly important.

At length the Parliamentary act of 5th July 1825, offers this trade to all nations who might within one year accept and reciprocate its provisions. The time limited for its acceptance was wasted by Mr. Clay in attempts to secure it by treaty—forgetful that ten years of fruitless negotiation had shewn the scheme utterly impracticable. Having failed to avail ourselves of the benefits thus proffered, the ports were closed against us by an order in council, December 1826. Such was the state of things when Mr. McLane was dispatched to London and in the instructions he received are found the sentiments of which such grievous complaint is made.

It will be proper to recollect that during the last Presidential election this subject was fully discussed before the people; and the former administration was charged with having lost this trade by neglect and mismanagement. How much this contributed to put down that administration it is not my purpose to say; but we know that in every section of the country the accusation was made and vindication attempted. We know too that that subject was embraced in the verdict which was rendered by the people.

Aware of the refusal of the British ministry to negotiate with Gallatin and Barbour upon the subject of the colonial trade, in consequence of our having failed to accept the terms that had been offered in the act of July 5th, and believing that Mr. McLane would be met by the same objection, Mr. Van Buren determined to anticipate it and thus remove the only bar to the success of the negotiation. Under such circumstances and with this view the instructions were given. Stripped of the verbiage and sophistry with which Mr. Webster and Mr. Clay have shrouded it, what is the specific allegation? Why—that it was left to the discretion of Mr. McLane, in a certain posture of affairs, to say that the people of the United States did not approve of Mr. Adams' policy, and especially in reference to the colonial trade; and that the present administration is not responsible for the acts of the last. Admit that a distinction was thus made between that administration and the present—or the former and the country—and that a reflection upon the conduct of the former was implied in that distinction. Had not the people condemned the measures of that administration? Did it involve a violation of national honor to say that "it would be unjust to set up the acts of that administration as the cause of the forfeiture of privileges which would otherwise be extended to us?" The American public had in the

most emphatic manner stamped the seal of reprobation upon the very act in question; and futile would have been the attempt to conceal from the keen sagacity of Lord Aberdeen a truth which had been proclaimed at the ballot box and through four hundred presses transmitted to the world. Was it to be expected that Mr. Van Buren should have acted upon the infallibility and justified the errors of the fallen dynasty, after having denounced them as wrong in principle and injurious in practice? Where would have been his consistency? Where his self respect?

The result of the election in 1828 effected the second civil revolution in this country—and Gen. Jackson, in the last, like Mr. Jefferson in the first, felt the full force of the circumstances that had induced it. It is idle to say that they, who, by that result, were brought to administer the government, were not bound to accomplish the wishes of those who had contributed to it; and it does not diminish this obligation that such compliance involved an implication of the conduct or capacity of those who had preceded them. Thus to reason—is to place the character and interest of the public agent above those of the public themselves. In our country, besides being the fountain of all political power, the people are the parties really interested in all the affairs of the government; and the particular individuals who may chance to direct it, are the mere instruments by which they act. In our foreign, no less than our domestic relations, they are bound to declare the opinions and obey the wishes of those from whom they derive their authority. These principles, modified in some sort by the nature and form of government, are of universal application. In reference to our own, they are so fairly deducible from the character and genius of our institutions and so consonant with reason and common sense, that no doubt can be entertained of their truth. In acting upon these, Mr. Van Buren made the distinction not for the benefit of the "party"—but with the more enlarged and patriotic view of securing this trade for the whole country. EDGECOMBE.

CONGRESS.

SENATE.

Wednesday, Feb. 29.—The special order (Mr. Clay's resolution on the Tariff) having been called, Mr. Forsyth rose and submitted an amendment committing the resolution, with the substitute offered by Mr. Hayne, to the committees of finance, manufactures, and agriculture, with a view to their presenting such a modification of the Tariff as will comport with the various interests of the country. Mr. F. then spoke for about two hours in opposition to the protective system; and when he had concluded, Mr. Robbins gave notice of his intention to address the Senate on the subject, and moved an adjournment, which motion was carried.

Thursday, March 1.—The apportionment bill, together with the amendment offered by Mr. Webster was taken up, and Mr. Webster briefly explained the character of the amendment, and opposed the bill in its present shape as unequal and unconstitutional. The bill was laid on the table. The special order was passed over, and the bill for adjusting the

claims of the State of Virginia for revolutionary services was taken up, and after explanations from Mr. Tazewell, was ordered to a third reading.

Friday, 2d.—The bill to liquidate the revolutionary claims of the State of Virginia, and the bill to adjust and pay the claims of the State of South Carolina, for advances made to the United States during the late war, were passed. The consideration of Mr. Clay's resolution, proposing a modification of the Tariff, was resumed, and Mr. Robbins spoke two hours in its support. The Senate, after spending some time in Executive business, adjourned over to Monday.

Monday, 5th.—The apportionment bill was taken up, with Mr. Webster's amendment, and it was discussed till the Senate adjourned.

H. OF REPRESENTATIVES.

Wednesday, Feb. 29.—The Post Office bill was passed through a committee of the whole on the State of the Union, and ordered to be engrossed for a third reading. Mr. Vance moved an amendment to it, granting the power of appointing deputy post masters to the President of the United States, *by and with the advice and consent of the Senate*—but the amendment was negated by a vote of ayes 74, noes 54. The House went into a committee of the whole, and took up the bill to amend the existing Revolutionary pension law.

Thursday, March 1.—Mr. McDuffie, from the committee of ways and means, reported a bill to exempt merchandize imported under certain circumstances, from the operation of the Tariff act of 1823. Mr. E. Everett, from the committee on military affairs, reported a bill providing for the settlement of the accounts of certain diplomatic functionaries. The House resumed the consideration of the resolution proposed by Mr. Clayton, for the appointment of a select committee to investigate the affairs of the Bank of the U. States. After some discussion, Mr. Watmough proposed a substitute, but subsequently withdrew it. Mr. Clayton rose to address the House, but it being 4 o'clock, an adjournment took place.

Friday, 2d.—Mr. Clayton's resolution directing the appointment of a select committee to examine into the affairs of the Bank of the United States, was taken up. Mr. Clayton addressed the House in support of his resolution, until the expiration of the hour allotted to morning business.—Mr. Root submitted a resolution, recommending to the several States an amendment to the Constitution of the United States relative to the election of President and Vice President.—The bill for the benefit of Mrs. Decatur was further discussed in committee, by Messrs. Davis of Massachusetts and Carson.

Saturday, 3d.—Mr. Wickliffe proposed an amendment to the Revolutionary Pensions bill, and extending its provisions to the militia and volunteers who fought in the Indian war, on the western frontier, until 1794, which was ordered to be printed.—The resolution of Mr. Clayton, for the appointment of a select committee on the affairs of the Bank, was, on his motion, postponed till the next day.—The bill for the relief of Mrs. Decatur and others, was further discussed.

Monday, 5th.—Mr. Adam presented a memorial of certain citizens of the city of New York, in favor of the Cherokee Indians and the Missionaries recently imprisoned for disobedience of the laws of the State of Georgia, which he moved to refer to a select committee. A debate, which occupied the whole day, ensued. Mr. Thompson of Georgia, moved to lay the memorial on the table, which was rejected—yeas 91, noes 92. The question "will the House commit the petition?" was subsequently agreed to—yeas 96, noes 93. It was finally committed to the same committee of the whole on the Union, to which various petitions of a similar character were heretofore committed.



TARBOROUGH.

TUESDAY, MARCH 13, 1832.

The friends of Gen. Jackson are requested to meet at the Court-house in Tarborough, on Wednesday (in Superior Court week) the 14th inst. to appoint a Delegate to the Baltimore Convention, to be held in May next, to nominate a suitable candidate for the Vice Presidency. Com.

"Molly Squat" in our next.

Newspapers.—Proposals have been issued for publishing a weekly newspaper at Chapel Hill, the village of the University of North Carolina, by the name of "The Harbinger." It is to be edited by Mr. William B. Crittenden, by profession an advocate in the city of New York—its principal objects will be, "to diffuse literary information with correct taste; to press the importance of popular and academic education," &c. "with a studious exclusion of all that is of a party character." The publication will not be commenced unless 1200 subscribers shall be obtained for two years. It will be issued once a week, on a folio sheet, with good type, &c. The payment from each subscriber will be \$5 in advance, and \$5½ if not made till six months from the time of subscription for the first year—for the second year it will not be more, possibly it may be less, than \$4 in advance, and \$4½ after six months. Any person wishing to become a subscriber, can send on his name either by mail, post paid, or otherwise.

Mr. William Potter, late of the Raleigh Constitutional, has issued proposals for publishing a weekly newspaper in Asheville, Buncombe county, to be called the "Jacksonian Republican." It will be neatly printed on a super-royal sheet, at \$2 per annum, payable in advance.

The Washington Globe of the 6th inst. contains an interesting correspondence between a committee of the Republican members of the New York Legislature and the President of the United States, relating to the recent rejection of Mr. Van Buren. We will endeavor to make room for the President's letter in our next.

It would appear, by the two following articles, that the vexed "Indian Question" will speedily be bro't to an issue.

From the National Intelligencer, of 5th March.

The Cherokee Case.—In the Supreme Court of the U. States—Samuel A. Worcester vs. the State of Georgia.

On Saturday last, Mr. Chief Justice Marshall, delivered the opinion of the Court in this case, reversing the judgment of the Superior Court of Gwinnett county, in Georgia. The effect of this decision is, that the recent acts of Georgia taking possession of the Cherokee country, and providing for the punishment of persons therein