

Communications.

FOR THE FREE PRESS.

The citizens of Edgecombe are requested to meet at the Court House in Tarborough, on Tuesday of next County Court, to express their opinions relative to the election of President and Vice President of the U. States for the next term, and to appoint a Delegate to meet in Convention at Raleigh, in June next, to make suitable nominations.—*Com.*

FOR THE FREE PRESS.

Mr. Howard: In your last paper I see a notice that an Anti-Van Buren meeting is to be held in this place on the second day of our next Court. The Anties seem determined to have a meeting. Then I call upon the Jackson men of this county to attend said meeting, and let the sentiments of Edgecombe upon this subject be fairly expressed. BRIAN.

FOR THE FREE PRESS.

Mr. Howard: I observe in your last paper an invitation to the people of Edgecombe to assemble for the purpose of eliciting some public expression of opinion in regard to the Vice Presidency. I feel authorized in assuming the fact, that the object of this meeting is to forward the pretensions of an eminent citizen of Virginia. And here I will premise, that no man more highly appreciates the talents—the patriotism—and the stern integrity of Mr. Barbour than I do, and were the contest narrowed down to Barbour and Van Buren, I should not hesitate in preferring the former. But it is the part of wisdom and of prudence to take an enlarged and a comprehensive view of this subject. Thus regarding it, to my mind it is obvious that the only effect that can result from pressing the claims of Mr. Barbour, will be to send the election to the Senate. The present political complexion of that branch of our National Legislature furnishes abundant reason to apprehend that in making an election the wishes of the American people would not be regarded. Place the election there, and the small States of New England with a fraction of the population and possessing few feelings and principles in common with them, will have as much weight as the great States of New York, Pennsylvania and Virginia. Place it there and for the second time Mr. Clay will possess and exercise the power of defeating the will of the people. Place it there and we have a Vice President opposed to us upon every point of national policy—opposed to us upon the Bank—the Tariff—Internal Improvement—in a word, a man who reared in the strictest school of federalism has uniformly advocated the most unwarrantable extension of federal power.

The Baltimore Convention is now in session. Let us wait until its result is ascertained. Most of the States that supported Gen. Jackson are there represented. United upon this—and being composed of men eminent for their talents, the Convention after exchanging opinions cannot fail to make the selection best calculated to preserve the harmony and advance the interests of the country. If Mr. Barbour is nominated let us sustain him: If Mr. Van Buren should be preferred let us waive minor objections and aid in carrying into execution the recommendation of the Convention.

I do not wish to appear the

eulogist of Mr. Van Buren—but I do wish to "render to Caesar the things that are Caesar's." Of him I feel justified in saying, that he has not sown dissension among nor compromised the interests of those with whom he has been associated. If he has battled successfully for his advancement, he has not forgotten his country. When his high ambition sought its own, that country has been benefitted by its struggles.

The constitutional sovereignty of the States has never been more ably sustained than by Mr. Van Buren. Upon this subject he says:—

"In the darkest hour of war, when the General Government was disheartened by debt and disaster—its unnerved arm was strengthened and the national honor rescued by the authority and patriotism of the States."

After alluding to the successful prosecution of works of Internal Improvement by the States, he goes on to observe:—

"A general surrender of such opinions (by the General Government) is therefore at this time a tribute justly due to the established character of the State governments. But they are not surrendered—but have become more and more extravagant, until those under whose protection they now are, claim for this government powers which were repudiated by the founders of this very school."

I might multiply extracts from this speech but am unwilling to occupy so much of your paper in demonstrating a truth with which every reading man must be familiar.

Perhaps some salutary inference may be drawn from the fact, that those individuals in North Carolina who have been most active in getting up these Anti-Van Buren meetings, are enemies of the President. The partisans of Mr. Calhoun and the loyal adherents of the fallen house of Quincy, equally opposed to Gen. Jackson, meet upon this common ground and suspend their mutual enmity while they labor to destroy the common enemy. Take any one committee appointed in any part of North Carolina, and I hesitate not to say you will find Mr. Barbour's pretended friends to be Nullifiers or "American System men." The first extending to us, under the auspices of Mr. Barbour, the blessings of free trade—the last hoping that, in the general confusion that may be created, the ex-minister to Panama may step in and bring back the government to the dark period of 1824.

"Timeo Danaos et dona ferentes." CIVIS.

FOR THE FREE PRESS.

Mr. Howard: I promised last week that a more minute account of the Anti-Van Buren meeting, lately held at Greenville, should be given in the next number of your paper. Accordingly I proceed to state the manner in which that meeting was gotten up, its political complexion, and the manner in which the resolutions of that meeting passed without one dissenting voice.

The night preceding the meeting some gentleman, not a resident of Pitt, suggested such a course. The next day a vast concourse of persons assembled at Gen. Clark's tavern for the purpose of hearing an interesting discussion between two gentlemen—when public notice was given that a meeting of the citizens on the subject of the Vice Presidency would that evening be held at the Court House. About 5 o'clock some

few gathered round the Court House—the Sheriff made repeated proclamations from the Court House window—many were persuaded to come up—a man with a stentorian voice was posted at the door and called upon the vast crowd in the streets to come up, telling them among other things that they were going to have the "Bull to dance." They at length succeeded in mustering about fifty persons, several of whom were Van-Buren men, but who regarding the meeting as wholly an *ex parte* affair, did not vote at all on the resolutions. The largest portion of the meeting having gone there out of mere curiosity, and ignorant of the claims of both Mr. Van Buren and Mr. Barbour, did not vote at all. I should consider it by no means an illiberal calculation to estimate those who voted in the affirmative at 15!

The meeting was addressed by Henry Toole, Esq. in an eloquent manner, I admit. He alluded to Senator Poindexter's supposition of a determination of Gen. Jackson, in the event of Mr. Van Buren's success, to retire from office and leave Mr. Van Buren in possession of the Presidency. As a very strong evidence of the fact, he charged Mr. Van Buren with being an accomplished intriguer, an artful sophist, a designing politician, and pronounced him responsible for the Tariff of 1828. He eulogised Mr. Barbour, calling him the champion of State rights, etc.

Now, Mr. Editor, I am not disposed to detract from Mr. Barbour's merits. He is a Southern man, an able man, and an amiable man. But let me ask the real friends of this gentleman, what is the prospect of his success? Will even Virginia herself support him in the event of the Baltimore Convention's nomination of Mr. Van Buren? But on the other hand, should Mr. Barbour unexpectedly be nominated by that Convention, I for one would cheerfully acquiesce in that nomination; and this I believe to be the prevailing sentiment among the real friends of the Jackson party in this State.

But will Jackson men suffer themselves torn to pieces, division created in our ranks by the opposition? Should they who mean to vote for neither Van Buren nor Barbour dictate to us the course we ought to pursue? Do we want advice at the hands of our enemies? Shall those who oppose the President, who wish for the downfall of his administration, shall they tell us how we ought to uphold it?

Mr. Editor, in the remarks I have made about this Greenville meeting I have meant nothing invidious. In their private relations I highly esteem most of the persons in attendance on that occasion. With no other view than that of a desire to do justice to Mr. Van Buren and to the great democratic party to which I belong, have I ventured to say a word in regard to this matter.

FAIR PLAY.

FOR THE FREE PRESS.

"I am Sir Oracle, and when I speak Let no dog bark."

Mr. Editor: I saw in your paper of the 22d, a communication signed Fair Play, purporting to give a correct statement of the Anti-Van Buren meeting that took place in Greenville the 8th instant. Fair Play was very anxious to show some foul play in that meeting, if he

had felt his competency; but Mr. Fair Play, notwithstanding his residence in Greenville a few months, might possibly be mistaken, in the politics of Gen. Clark and others, that he has taken the liberty to mention. It is an avowed fact that Gen. Clark and Dr. Gorham were both Adams men; but there were others who sanctioned the proceedings and resolutions who were Jackson men, and myself for one—my purpose was to disapprove the conduct and to show that I am opposed to Martin Van Buren as Vice President—and I believe that I can answer for several others, if I am not mistaken. Perhaps, Mr. Editor, Fair Play drew his inferences from some remarks that were made in the Polemic Society of Greenville, Wednesday evening after the meeting—a member of this Society, who was not in favor of the meeting, sought an opportunity in the debate to say that the meeting did not express the will of the people. Perhaps if Fair Play had been appointed Secretary of this meeting, that his real name might have appeared in your paper in capitals, then he would have been known from Tarborough, or perhaps his name would. As to the Counsellors that he mentions, I know nothing of their politics, more than they are opposed to Van Buren—there was also a counsellor from the same place that Fair Play writes from, who was at the meeting, who expressed himself in favor of Jackson last year, but as for his really being so, I leave for Mr. Fair Play to find out. Fair Play, to lengthen out his columns as much as possible, deals considerably in aliases—he may alias them as much as he thinks proper, and then he is compelled to grant them the liberty of speech. I think I am warranted in saying, that neither the Chairman nor Secretary are Clay men—and I ought to know as well as Fair Play. Does Fair Play pretend to arrogate to himself the liberty of saying, because he lives in Tarborough and we in Greenville, that we have no right to call a political meeting when he is about?—Fair Play certainly reminds us of the heathen god, that was once a log in the garden—he has acted as the fly that left the mustard pot, before he could couch in such a small place ideas that was to convey so much meaning to his would-be republicans. Fair Play is the first intimation that I ever had of our Chairman and Secretary not being republicans—and he says, "Mr. Grimes too was there"—we know that to be a fact—did Mr. Grimes address the meeting? did he make any motion, or present any resolution? No, he said but one word more than Fair Play did, and that was "I"—which Fair Play thought he had no right to do, because he was opposed to Van Buren. Perhaps the Magician (should he come into office) will remember Fair Play when he goes to make up his jewels—then Fair Play will tell him all about the meeting that took place in Greenville, and for aught I know, he may have our turpentine inspector removed and appoint a friend of Fair Play's. RUBEN.

Greenville, May 24, 1832.

The receipts of the Wesleyan Methodist Missionary Society, during the past year, amount to \$214,316.

N. Y. Com. Adv.

CONGRESS.

SENATE.

Tuesday, May 15.—The Chair communicated a letter from the Secretary of the Treasury, transmitting a statement made by him, in obedience to a resolution of the Senate, showing the amount of duties collected under the existing law, and the amount which will be collected under the bills reported from the committee on manufactures of the Senate, and under the Tariff, submitted by the Secretary of the Treasury. Fifteen hundred copies were ordered to be printed.—Mr. Holmes introduced a bill, on leave, to abolish postage on newspapers, which was twice read and referred to the committee on the post office and post roads.—The resolution some days ago offered by Mr. Benton, for printing blank number of copies of the report of the committee on the Bank investigation, and blank number of the documents accompanying the same, was taken up. On motion of Mr. Dallas, it was amended so as to include the counter reports of the minority of the committee, and the first blank having been filled with 5,000, and the second with 1,000, the resolution was adopted.—Mr. Dallas gave notice that on Tuesday next, he would call up the bill to renew the charter of the U. S. Bank.—On motion of Mr. Smith, the bill authorizing a subscription on the part of the United States to the stock of the Baltimore and Ohio Rail Road Company, was taken up for consideration. Mr. Smith commenced a speech in support of the bill, and after speaking a short time, he yielded the floor for the delivery of a message from the House of Representatives, announcing to the Senate the death of the Hon. Jonathan Hunt, a member of the House from the State of Vermont, and that his funeral will take place to-morrow at 4 o'clock, P. M. On motion, it was resolved unanimously, that the Senate will attend the funeral; and, as a testimony of respect for the memory of the deceased, they will go into mourning, and wear crape round the left arm, for thirty days. The Senate then adjourned until Thursday.

Thursday, 17th.—Mr. Smith moved that the Senate proceed to the consideration of the bill authorizing a subscription, on the part of the U. States, to the stock of the Baltimore and Ohio Rail Road Company—after some discussion, Mr. Smith withdrew his motion in favor of a motion to go into Executive business. The Senate then proceeded to the consideration of Executive business, and after spending some time therein, adjourned.

Friday, 18th.—Mr. King, from the committee on public lands, to which was referred the bill from the committee on manufactures appropriating for a limited time, the proceeds of the sale of the public lands, made a report thereon, which was read and 5,000 copies ordered to be printed.—The pension bill was taken up, and the amendment extending its provisions to officers and soldiers who fought in the Indian wars prior to 1795, was rejected. Mr. Marcy moved to embrace in the bill those who served three months, which was rejected. Mr. Frelinghuysen moved an amendment granting