

North-Carolina Free Press.

Whole No. 408.

Tarborough, (Edgecombe County, N. C.) Tuesday, June 26, 1832.

Vol. VIII—No 44.

The "North-Carolina Free Press,"
BY GEORGE HOWARD,

Is published weekly, at *Two Dollars and Fifty Cents* per year, if paid in advance—or, *Three Dollars*, at the expiration of the year. For any period less than a year, *Twenty-five Cents* per month. Subscribers are at liberty to discontinue at any time, on giving notice thereof and paying arrears—those residing at a distance must invariably pay in advance, or give a responsible reference in this vicinity.

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Communications.

FOR THE FREE PRESS.

Mr. Editor: Notwithstanding the republican nomination of MARTIN VAN BUREN, at Baltimore, as the Jackson democratic candidate for the Vice Presidency, it seems certain persons professing to be the friends of Gen. Jackson, are determined to continue to uphold the hopeless cause of Judge Barbour. Mr. Editor, why is it so? When did we ever before hear of such strenuous opposition to any individual as is manifested by the enemies of Mr. Van Buren? What, Sir, has Mr. Van Buren done thus to have incurred the unforgiving malignity of his enemies? Not crime, but the splendor of his talents and his great political success has awakened the lasting hostility of those who have a long time apprehended that he would one day successfully triumph over them, and receive as the proud reward of his eminent services, the highest gift the American people could bestow.

The falcon eye of jealousy has watched with untiring vigils his every act, and for his most brilliant and patriotic services the maledictions of his enemies have been poured upon him without a mixture of mercy. Sir, let us look at Mr. Van Buren as he really is. We see him a poor boy rising amid the stormy politics of New York with the splendor of a meteor, bearing down all opposition and rising to the proud eminence of Governor of an empire with the facility of Napoleon or of Julius Cæsar. We see him during the most gloomy period of our country, when was heard, from Canada to the Gulf of Mexico, and from the Sabine to the shores of the Atlantic, the dismal ejaculation of "hung be the heavens in black!" standing up as the uncompromising friend of his country and spurning with a noble indignation British oppression and British ravage. Is this the man whose electric eloquence then touched every soul and nerved every desponding arm—who then echoed amid the thunder of his eloquence, "millions for defence but not one cent for tribute"—is this the man, I say, whose nomination as Minister to the Court of St. James has been recently rejected by the Senate, for having compromised the honor and dignity of his country by fawning at the foot of the British throne? Let the people look to it.

This is the man whom we

have seen during his long political career, holding out the olive branch to all parties, but yielding never an inch of the ground he had taken. We have seen that while a violent and unforgiving spirit has ever marked the course of his enemies, Mr. Van Buren has extended to them a "charity even beyond forgiveness." While we see him towering above the opposition it has always been his lot to encounter, we never hear the shout of triumph nor boast of victory. If he has won laurels, he has won them in the broad day and open plain. If he has won victories, he has planted no trophies as the monuments of his triumphs, and as enduring sources of mortification to his enemies. We have seen him viewing the actions of his fellow man not through the jaundiced medium of party spirit, nor jealousy, that "green-eyed monster," ever usurping the empire of the nobler faculties of his soul.

But, Sir, in the absence of all proof, we are told he is a "political juggler." He is held responsible for the dissolution of the late Cabinet. Sir, do those most desirous of his sacrifice—those who are alleged to have fallen as his victims on that occasion, produce a single fact, a word, a nod, or a shrug to prove this reckless allegation? These very men, Branch, Berrien and Ingham, although writhing under the tortures of self-immolated ambition, never venture to charge Mr. Van Buren with the slightest improper interference in the disgraceful transactions which terminated in the dissolution of the late Cabinet. The charge stands unsupported by a scintilla of evidence, and yet the propagators of this groundless imputation continue to ring it in our ears and proclaim it from the house tops.

We are told again that Mr. Van Buren is a Tariff man. Is it so soon forgotten that Mr. Van Buren was expressly instructed by his constituents to vote for the Tariff of 1823? Is it not also remembered that at that time we had a heavy national debt, which the public welfare required should be as speedily extinguished as possible? In the absence of these reasons we have the highest confidence that Mr. Van Buren, if elevated to the Vice Presidency, would carry with him into that office a conciliatory and compromising disposition, and a sincere desire that all interests should meet on fair and equitable grounds, and thereby save the country alike from anarchy and consolidation. Upon the subject of internal improvements, Mr. Van Buren's course has never been equivocal. We know him to be opposed to the expenditures of the government funds upon objects clearly local, and perhaps as much upon those which are clearly national.

Towards Mr. Barbour, I, for one, cherish no hostile feeling whatever. In the various offices he has filled he has acquitted himself nobly and manfully. But I beg leave to point out two strong objections to our supporting him for the Vice Presidency. The one is, his election is hopeless and his being

held up by his friends can only have a tendency to elect Mr. Sergeant, the most obnoxious of all the candidates. The other is still stronger. We know Mr. Barbour believes the Tariff unconstitutional, and all appropriations of public moneys for any kind of improvement equally so. Believing this, in the lamentable contingency of the President's death before the end of the term for which he was elected, we should see our Executive Magistrate acting under the most solemn of all obligations, bound by his regard for God and religion, as well as his own reputation, to stamp his veto upon every popular measure, and thereby throwing the country into discord and confusion. Let the people ponder upon this.

Again. Shall North Carolina be always found like a blind boy, following in the wake of Virginia politics? Have we not wisdom and independence enough to judge for ourselves? New York is willing to become our great ally; she holds out to us the olive branch, and if we reject the proffered emblem now, it may be forever too late.

There is another forcible consideration which presents itself in regard to this matter. Who are the leading men of the country who are pursuing Mr. Van Buren with the vengeance of Nero or Robespierre? Look, Sir, to the scenes recently acted on the floor of your National Senate. Will you see among those voting against the nomination of Mr. Van Buren, as Minister to the Court of St. James, any except the partizans of Henry Clay, the father of the odious "American System," and of John C. Calhoun, the champion of South Carolina nullification! This fact, my fellow citizens, should never be forgotten. Let us beware of those who, while they "strike us with one hand ask alms with the other." A JACKSONMAN.

Culture of Silk.—Mr. Gideon B. Smith, Editor of the American Farmer, has our sincere thanks for calling, in the last "Globe," the public attention to the provisions of the bill for the promotion of the culture of Silk. "This is the third session that it has been before Congress"—and Mr. S. believes that he is "the only one in the Union that has openly opposed its passage." In this, we suspect, Mr. S. is incorrect—for, if we are not much mistaken, we have taken the same liberty to protest against the measure.

Mr. Smith says, that "the bill appropriates \$40,000, to be given to Mr. Duponceau (of Philadelphia) in trust, to be given to John d'Homergue, (a foreigner) to enable him to establish a silk filature, for reeling silk; and all that d'Homergue is required to do, in consideration of these \$40,000, is to instruct sixty young men in the art of reeling raw silk and preparing it for market."

Mr. S. first states his objections to the bill on the ground of expediency—and then comes to an objection which we think perfectly irrefutable:

"5th. The measure is palpably unconstitutional. If Con-

gress can appropriate the national funds to the establishment of silk filatures, they may do so to the establishment of any and every other trade or manufacture. Indeed, the force of this branch of the argument is so clearly and conclusively apparent, I am astonished that Congress has entertained the subject at all. If this bill passes into a law, there is no object to which money can be devoted, that Congress may not take under its patronage in the same way."

We think this objection irresistible—and we trust the measure will be arrested. Mr. Smith is entitled to the public acknowledgments for the manly manner in which he has met the subject.—*Richmond Enq.*

The ship Jupiter, which left Norfolk for Liberia on the 9th ult. carried with her 170 emigrants, 91 of which were manumitted slaves—of these, 14 were liberated by the Rev. Joseph J. Gray, of Halifax county, in this State.

Windsor Her.

The Comet.—Mr. H. Burritt, of Connecticut, has brought forward a map, pointing out the path of the approaching Comet. Mr. B. informs us, that from the middle of October to the middle of November, it will, to us, be most brilliant. It will rise in the east, on the 13th of November, about 10, P. M. and reach meridian at 4 in the morning. It will not be less, at any time, than 54 millions of miles from the earth, and 83 millions of miles from the sun—so that those bodies will not be in much danger from the course of this sublime luminary.

Gold Mining.—We notice several articles going the rounds of the papers, which have taken their origin from a paragraph in the Greenville Mountaineer, which we noticed at the time of its first appearance, and cut out for remark; but on looking for it a day or two after, it appeared to have been mislaid, and we could not lay our hands on it, until we found it copied into the columns of distant papers, and circulated as evidence against the profitableness of the mines in this region. It has been our fortune to be situated in what is denominated the "Gold Region of North Carolina," and from the facts which have fallen under our observation, we hesitate not to say, that no business within our knowledge, in which the same skill and capital is employed, reaps any thing like the profit which the Gold Mining business affords. It is true, that, like all other kinds of business, speculations have been made in the sales and transfers of mines, and, in some cases, men have worked where the products would not compensate them for their labor; but as a general rule, the laborer has received a rich reward, and those who have once engaged in it, and still are pursuing it, and all who are able, are purchasing and leasing mines, which is the surest rule by which to judge of the profits which arise from the business. It is impossible to

state the immense amount of the precious metal which has been collected, or the number of persons engaged in the business; but the fact is, at no time have so large a number of hands been employed, or has the character of the mines stood higher than now, by those conversant with the business. We know not how extensive the travels of our neighbor may have been in this region, or how close his observations; but truly, we cannot but think that he has viewed the mines in somewhat the same spirit that the fox did the grapes.

Rutherfordton Spec.

Mysterious Disappearance.—On Wednesday afternoon, 9 h inst. Mr. H. Burtis, of the house of H. Burtis & Co. hatters, lately established in Baltimore, left his store for the purpose, as he stated, of making preparations to attend a wedding which was to take place that evening. About an hour afterwards he was seen in Frederick street, since which he has not been seen or heard of.

Important Decision.—In a recent case of arbitration in the city of New York, David B. Ogden, Esq. as arbitrator, decided that when an auctioneer bids for property he offers for sale, and makes repeated bids on himself until he receives a real bid, at which the property is struck off, the purchaser is not bound by the purchase.

Imprisonment for Debt.—At Winchester, Va. on the 15th ult. Capt. Eleazor Barrow, who had been imprisoned nearly two years for a debt of \$40, cut his throat with a razor, leaving a large family in penury and want.

Silas E. Burrows, Esq. of New York, is about erecting a monument to the memory of the mother of Washington, at his own expense. It is to be forty feet in height, of pure marble, and surmounted by a bust of Washington, presented by Col. Howard, of Baltimore. There is to be no other inscription than "Mary, the mother of Washington."

Riot.—The Philadelphia Chronicle states that a riot took place recently at the Eagle race course near Trenton, between a body of the laborers upon the Canal and the spectators on the course—that the laborers, about 100 in number, undertook to clear the field, but were unsuccessful, and in the attempt many were very seriously, probably mortally wounded, as we learn that one or more have since died, and that the field was literally strewn with the bodies of the combatants. Several of the natives have since been attacked by the laborers and dreadfully maltreated. Some of the rioters had been arrested.

A case of Slander was decided at the late Superior Court of Putman county, in Georgia, in which the plaintiff, a young lady of humble but respectable character, received a verdict of \$2000 damages. The slander was a few words spoken by the defendant against the purity of the character of the plaintiff.