

THE WHIG CLARION.

H. W. HUSTED, EDITOR.]

RALEIGH, AUGUST 2, 1843.

[Vol. I. No. 11.

LETTER FROM MR. GRAHAM.

Just as our paper is going to Press, we have received the following Letter from Hon. WILLIAM A. GRAHAM, to which we invite public attention—not only in justice to him, but to shew how recklessly the most unfounded charges are preferred against leading Whigs:

Register.

HILLSBORO', July 22, 1843.

DEAR SIR: A friend has called my attention to an article in the N. C. Standard, which I had not before seen, in which I am charged in substance; 1st, with receiving mileage as a Member of Congress, beyond the amount allowed by law; 2ndly, with receiving compensation as a Member, while I came home to attend a Court. The most material part of the article is as follows: "Wm. A. Graham, Hillsboro', am't rec'd.

\$1,132 00
R. M. Saunders, Raleigh, 1,086 40
45
Distance from Raleigh to Hillsboro' 32
40 miles, doubled 80, pay 13

Days charged by both from 31st May to 13th September 1841, inclusive: and yet Mr. Graham came home to attend a Superior Court."

To shew that my mileage was excessive, it is assumed in this article, that that of Gen. Saunders was correctly charged; that he wrote to the Post Master General for the distance from Washington to Raleigh, and received for answer, that it was 283 miles, &c. I have been told to-day, that Gen. Saunders at a recent public meeting in Chatham, reiterated both the above allegations in regard to myself. He has, therefore, if this information be correct, made himself the endorser, if he be not the original author of them. It certainly would have been more *manly*, if such imputations were intended to be made, to have spoken of them where I had an opportunity of hearing. I was present at the discussion in Raleigh, where such charges were freely preferred against others, by Gen. Saunders, but no allusion even was made to me, in connexion with them. Are they true in respect to me? I deny the correctness of that standard, by which it is proposed that I shall be judged. I deny that General Saunders according to the document to which he makes reference, received pay for only 283 miles as his distance from the City of Washington, though he insists that that is the true distance for which he was entitled to compensation.

His whole compensation for the Session referred to, was, as we have seen, \$1,086 40. The Session consisted of 106 days, at \$8, 848

Leaving for mileage, 238 40
576 miles, double of 288, at 40 cents per mile, is 230 40

Excess above the distance he claims, \$8

So that he has received pay for 298 miles as his true distance, notwithstanding the letter of the Post Master General. If I have committed any error on this subject, which I utterly deny, it was with no such lights before me as that letter afforded. The law allows compensation at a given rate, "for every 20 miles of estimated distance, by the most usual road" from the place of residence to the Seat of Government. When called on by the Secretary of the Senate for my distance, I told him I was unable to give it with entire accuracy, that the road travelled was by Raleigh, and my distance beyond that was 40 miles. I stated to him the distances from place to place as far as Richmond, Va. and asked his aid in estimating it from there. By the result thus obtained, my account was settled, and I have no reason to doubt that it was done with correctness. The Post Office book referred to, in the Standard's article, represents Hillsboro' as nearer to Washington than Raleigh. It could, therefore, furnish no true guide in my case. For the writer of that article, does me no more than justice, in admitting that I am entitled to the additional mileage from that place to this, as a part of the usual road. Indeed, it is manifest that the nearest Post route is not, but that the most usual road travelled over, and of course paid for, is the standard for estimating mileage. I am aware that there has been complaint for years, that in this portion of the compensation of Members of Congress, there were abuses which required correction; and I uniformly contributed my aid, where any real effort has been made to reform them. But I deny that I have at all participated in any such abuse.

As to the other charge, that I came home to attend a Court and received compensation during my absence on that business, it is without the least foundation in truth. At the extra Session referred to, I was present at the adjournment, and did not reach home until the latter part of the Court week here in September. The only occasion when I ever left, by reason of professional business, was at the Executive Session called at the inauguration of Gen. Harrison—then I remained until after all the important nominations had been acted on, and left a few days before the adjournment. *But my pay stopped with my departure.*

Will you do me the justice to publish this in the Register?

Very respectfully yours,

WILL: A. GRAHAM.

WESTON R. GAGES, Esq.

THE PUBLIC DOMAIN.

At the last Session of Congress, on the motion of Mr. Dayton, United States Senator from New Jersey, a Report was made from the Treasury Department of "the quantities, surveys, acquisitions, sales, and reservations of the Public Lands," from which we make the following extracts:

Estimated quantity of land yet to be sold in each State and Territory, including the unceded territory east and west of the Rocky Mountains, south of latitude 49 degrees—

	Acres.
1,084,064,993	
Deduct reservations	7,526,779
Leaving	1,076,538,214
Value at \$1 25 per acre	\$1,345,672,767 50.
Of the above quantity the Indian title is extinguished to	367,947,165
Unextinguished	716,117,828
Surveyed	272,646,356
Unsurveyed	811,418,637
Of the public lands there have already been sold, down to September 30, 1842, 107,796,526 acres bringing	\$170,940,942 62
Money paid for extinguishing Indian title, Florida & Louisiana purchase, including interest	\$68,524,990 32
Paid for surveying and selling, including pay of salaries and fees	9,968,610 14
	78,491,601 46

Balance, being the nett funds derived from the public funds \$92,449,341 16. In addition to 'ands sold, there have been granted to the new States, for purposes of internal improvement, education, &c. grants for military services, reservations made, and sold for the benefit of Indians, &c., 33,756,559 acres. Of the public lands, Virginia, New York, Massachusetts and Connecticut, ceded 169,609,819. Georgia ceded 57,798,522. North and South Carolina ceded 26,432,000. Purchased of France and Spain 987,752,332

Total 1,242,792,673

This report also contains the deeds of cession from the several States, every one of which expressly provides that the cession is made for the common use and benefit of the several States.—We quote from the deed of Virginia as an example:

"That all the lands within the territory so ceded, &c. shall be considered as a common fund for the use and benefit of such of the United States as have become or shall become members of the Confederation or federal alliance of the United States, Virginia inclusive, according to their usual respective proportions in the general charge and expenditure, and shall be faithfully and bona fide disposed of for that purpose, and for no other use or purpose whatsoever."

Also from the cession of Massachusetts:

"Whereas several of the States in the Union have a present no interest in the great and extensive tract of uncultivated country lying in the westerly part of the United States, and it may be reasonable that the States above mentioned should be interested in the aforesaid country, Be it enacted," &c.

The Vermont Patriot, the leading Loco-Foco paper of that State, says:—

"We wish Democrats would decline office under this Administration, at present, if they have any decent provision for a livelihood, short of the Poor-House."

The Whigs will consider a berth in the Poor-House far more honorable than an office begged from John Tyler.

HISTORY AND CHARACTERISTICS OF LOCOFOCOISM.

Political parties are much better understood by the practical operation of their principles than by the professions and cries of an electioneering contest. Locofocoism is remarkable for its assumption of popular designations, and for its appeals to the passions and prejudices by delusive epithets. By means of a single word—*Democracy*—it has been enabled to hold, spell bound, a large number of the unreflecting portion of the community, who are influenced more by names than things. Democracy and locofocoism, to the discriminating observer, who knows any thing of the meaning of the former word, as applied to a political party in this country, have no affinity whatever.—The democratic party instituted by Thomas Jefferson during the administration of John Adams, had for its cardinal principle, the reduction of executive power. Locofocoism, on the contrary, has always advocated the preservation and extension of the prerogatives of the executive. During the administration of General Jackson, the veto, for the first time in the history of the government, was employed not as a weapon to defend the constitution, but as an instrument to enforce the personal views of the Executive. The views of the President were then paramount to the action of the legislative branch of the government, and the latter was taught to regard itself as a subsidiary instrument to carry out the intentions of the President. In a word, the one man power grew supreme, and the will of the President became as omnipotent as the word of the Russian Czar. In imitation of Gen. Jackson, the Governors of the States, of the same political party, set up their individual wills as the standard of law and legislation, and reduced the legislatures to mere registries for the recording of their edicts. In this practical and alarming increase of executive power, locofocoism is at utter variance with the increasing vigilance manifested by Mr. Jefferson of the powers lodged in the President by the constitution. Thomas Jefferson would have regarded the modern use of the veto power by the locofoco executives as the very essence of despotism.

It would be difficult to find any single instance in which the locofoco democracy agrees with the democracy of Jefferson and Madison. In truth, no party of which we have any knowledge, ever evinced such a radical difference between its professions and practice as this same locofoco party. At the polls, when votes are to be gained, no party is more strenuous in its denunciations of extravagance and expense in the finances of government, and yet, when in power, none is more notorious both for its prodigal waste of the public funds and for their corrupt misapplication.

John C. Calhoun gave the best idea of the locofoco party when he described it "as held together only by the cohesive power of public plunder." It would puzzle any one to indicate any other fixed principle for its course of action than this very attractive one, or to account for the union within its ranks of so many of the basest demagogues and most profligate politicians. The passion for public plunder, for the "spoils" of office, give to the movements of the locofoco party an energy, zeal and union of action that enables it to triumph over the less disciplined forces of the friends of law and order, whose chief object of exertion is the securing of good government. It is surprising, however, to see so many respectable citizens still acting with it, after the melancholy experience we have had for the last fourteen years, of its extravagance and corruption and the blighting effects of its destructive policy upon the commerce and trade of the country. It is natural enough that office-seekers and spoils hunters should still find a consolation for all the evils of locofocoism in the bounties bestowed upon them for services in the war waged upon the credit and trade of the nation, but that sober, well disposed citizens should be deluded to self-immolation on the Moloch altars of locofocoism by the hypocritical cry of "*Democracy! Democracy!*" is a matter of astonishment to all enlightened men.—*National Forum.*

George Colman being once asked if he knew Theodore Hook—Oyes, 'washi his reply; 'Hook and I (eye) are old associates.'

The Salem Register copies the following passage from a speech delivered by Mr. Webster, in Boston, in 1834—contained in the 3d vol. of his lately published Speeches. It is a severe animadversion upon his Tylerism, and non-committalism:

"Under present circumstances I should wish to avoid any concealment, and to state my political opinions, in their full length and breadth.

I desire not to stand before the country as a man of no opinions, or of such a mixture of opposite opinions that the result has no character at all. On the contrary, I am desirous of standing as one who is bound to his own consistency by the frank avowal of his sentiments, on all important and interesting occasions. I am not partly for the constitution and partly against it; I am wholly for it, for it altogether, for it as it is, and for the exercise, when occasion requires, of all its just powers, as they have heretofore, been exercised by Washington, and the great men who have followed him in his administration.

I disdain, altogether, the character of an uncommitted man. I am committed, fully committed; committed to the full extent of all that I am, and all that I hope, to the constitution of the country, to its love and reverence, to its defence and maintenance, to its warm commendation to every American heart, and to its vindication and just praise before all mankind. And I am committed against every thing which, in my judgment, may weaken, endanger, or destroy it. I am committed against the encouragement of local parties and local feelings; I am committed against all fostering of anti-national spirit; I am committed against the slightest infringement of the original compromise, on which the constitution was founded; I am committed against any and every derangement of the powers of the several departments of the government, against any derogation from the constitutional authority of Congress, and especially against all extension of executive power; and I am committed against any attempt to rule the free people of this country by the power and the patronage of the government itself. I am committed, fully and entirely committed, against making the government the people's master.

These, gentlemen, are my opinions. I have purposely avowed them, with the utmost frankness. They are not the sentiments of the moment, but the result of much reflection, and of some experience in the affairs of the country. I believe them to be such sentiments as are alone compatible with the permanent prosperity of the country, or the long continuance of its union.

And now gentlemen having thus solemnly avowed these sentiments, and these convictions, if you should find me hereafter to be false to them, or to falter in their support, I now conjure you, by all the duty you owe to your country, by all your love for the general cause of liberty throughout the world—I conjure you, that renouncing me as a miscreant you yourselves go on—right on—straight forward, in maintaining with your utmost zeal, and with all your power, the true principles of the best, the happiest, the most glorious constitution of a free government, with which it has pleased Providence, in any age to bless any of the nations of the earth."

WHIGS OF 1776 AND 1843.

We copy the annexed interesting paragraph from the Black River Journal, published at Watertown and Sackett's Harbor, New-York. The editor may be truly congratulated on numbering among his friends and readers such a Father of the republic, still true to the political faith of his youth:

THE TRUE DEMOCRATIC SUCCESSION—Perry Burdick, now about ninety years of age, living in Cortland County, in this State, who served under Washington, is one of the most remarkable of the surviving Revolutionary Heroes. Erect in form, with an intellect mighty amid the ruins of age, a commanding, yet amiable expression of countenance, great conversational powers, and ardent patriotism and piety, he is a living apostle, known and read of all, in proof of the tendency of industry, temperance, and a good conscience, to promote longevity, as well as to qualify one to enter without fear on an untried state of being.

Mr. Burdick has an accurate knowledge of American History, and with a most retentive memory can trace remarkable occurrences since the settlement of this country. In this respect we believe him second to no man of his age. In one particular we think him solitary and alone, in the United States. He has voted, we believe, at every Presidential Election since the formation of the government—which vote shows the true Democratic succession. The Candidates he voted for for the Presidency were—

George Washington, twice; John Adams once, Thomas Jefferson, twice; James Madison, do; James Monroe, do; John Q. Adams, do; W. H. Harrison, do.

He says if he is living, he shall vote for Henry Clay for the next Presidency. We saw him about a month since when he was in tolerable health. We should be glad to know if there are others in the United States who have invariably voted at the Presidential Elections, and supported the true Democratic succession?