

RALEIGH REGISTER

AND NORTH-CAROLINA GAZETTE.

"Ours are the plans of fair delightful peace, unwarped by party rage, to live like brothers."

THREE DOLLARS Per Annum,
ONE HALF IN ADVANCE.

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 3, 1835.

VOLUME XXXVI,
NUMBER 51.

PUBLISHED EVERY TUESDAY,
By Joseph Gates & Son.

TERMS.
THREE DOLLARS per annum—one half in advance. Those who do not, either at the time of subscribing or subsequently, give notice of their wish to have the paper discontinued at the expiration of the year, will be presumed as desiring its continuance until countermanded.

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COMMUNICATION.
FOR THE REGISTER.

The Mountains of Carolina.

The younger MICHAUX, on his way from the Valley of the Mississippi, in the Fall of 1802, passed through the counties of Yancy and Burke, and in the small Volume, containing an account of his travels, that was published soon after his return to Paris, the opinion is expressed, that in these counties, the Alleghany Mountains attain their greatest elevation. He mentions, in evidence that this belief is well founded, that his father found trees and plants growing upon them which he did not meet with again before reaching Canada.

The Geology of these counties has some peculiar features. They were visited during the last Summer, for the purpose of tracing the boundaries of their rock formations, and along with other collateral objects, provision was made for measuring the heights of their principal Mountains, with their bearings and distances from each other. Some gentlemen in the West, who expressed an interest in the subject, were promised an account of the results; and they are communicated with some explanatory remarks, to the REGISTER, in the belief that they will not be without interest for persons living in other parts of the State.

It is well known that the Mercury in the tube of the Barometer is continually oscillating, especially in the high latitudes; so that we cannot, from a single observation of its height, infer the elevation of any place above the level of the sea. But DAVILLE found from a comparison of the Meteorological Registers, kept with great care for a series of years in different parts of Europe, that the changes are simultaneous and similar in places considerably remote from each other.

One Barometer was therefore stationed at Morganton, and a record kept of its movements by Mr. PEANSON of that place. This served as a standard. The observations made at the same time (nearly,) upon the tops of the Mountains and at Morganton, furnished the data for calculating their elevations above that village, and the mean of ten observations, on successive days, gave what is probably a near approximation to the height of Morganton above the level of the Sea—968 feet. Deducing from this the descent to the bed of the Catawba, there remains only about 800 feet of fall between the Ford leading over Linville and the Sea. This will not be regarded as an extravagant estimate by those who are acquainted with this stream, and by such as have had no experience in investigations of this kind, it will be condemned as falling far below the truth.

North of the point where the James River leaves the Mountains, the first high ridge of the Alleghanies is called the Blue Ridge. In North-Carolina, this name is applied to the range that separates the Eastern and Western waters. This is commonly the first high Mountain, but not always. The Table Mountain, which forms so fine and striking a feature in the scenery about Morganton, is not a part of the Blue Ridge, but a spur or outlier. It seems, when seen from Morganton, to be a round tower rising perpendicularly from the summit of the first range of the Alleghanies. It is, in fact, a narrow ridge, affording a very fine prospect of the fertile valley of the Catawba and its tributaries in the South-east and East and of nature in her wildest dress where the Linville pours over the rocks along a deep ravine, wholly untenanted and uncultivated, and of a vast extent of Mountain peaks and ranges on the North-east. Its top is 2,453 feet above Morganton, and a little more than 15 miles distant in a right line.

The Grandfather, 17 miles from the Table, and 28 from Morganton, has hitherto been generally supposed the highest Mountain in North-Carolina. But it is found that, being difficult of access and enveloping himself in mystery, it has happened to him, as it does not infrequently to men, placed in corresponding circumstances, that he has enjoyed a reputation to which he is by no means entitled. The best point of departure for ascending the Grandfather is the Globe settlement near the head of John's River, where the traveller will find a pleasant home in a beautiful valley, and at JAMES RIDDLE'S, 1,600 feet above, on the side of the Mountain, a faithful and intelligent guide. From the distance and

the roughness of the way, it will prove a my friends and quondam pupils, Messrs. CLINGMAN and HOSKING can testify, a severe day's labor to a person inexperienced in travelling on foot, to visit the top and return. The summit is 4,588 feet above Morganton.

We may notice here, an error in the Act of the Legislature establishing Yancy County and assigning its boundaries. It is said, that they shall run with the Tennessee "line to the County of Ashe; thence with the line of said County to the Grandmother Mountain," &c. It is here supposed that the Grandmother is either the same Mountain with the Grandfather, or a continuation of it, and in the Ashe line, whereas she is 3 or 4 miles distant from both. She sits humbly and submissively at the feet of her venerable spouse, with the little Grandson between—a pattern to all good dames in the country below. From the fact that her head is crowned with the balsam fir (no very certain sign) she may probably have an elevation of 2,600 feet. If there should seem to be any thing to warrant a suspicion of a want of affection in this worthy couple, in the distance at which they have located themselves from each other, their great bulk should not, whilst we are forming our judgment, be neglected.

The Roan Mountain is 15 miles from the Grandfather, and 85 N. W. from Morganton, lying directly over, or beyond, the Hawksbill. It touches the Tennessee line, but the highest peaks are in North-Carolina. This is the easiest of access, the most beautiful, and will best repay the labor of ascending it, of all our high Mountains. By one of my friends, the preference is given to the Yellow, which is in fact a continuation of the Roan, on account of the symmetry of its form; but it is considerably lower. With the exception of a body of rocks looking like the ruins of an old Castle, near its South-western extremity, the top of the Roan may be described as a vast meadow, without a tree to obstruct the prospect; where a person may mount his horse and gallop for a mile or two, with Carolina at his feet on one side, and Tennessee on the other, and a green ocean of Mountains raised into tremendous billows immediately about him. It is the Elysium of a Southern botanist, as a number of plants are found growing in this cold & humid atmosphere, which are not seen again till we have gone some hundreds of miles farther north. It is the pasture ground for the young horses of the whole country about it, during the Summer. We found the Strawberry here in the greatest abundance and of the finest quality, in regard to both size and flavor, on the 30th of July. The elevation of this Mountain was twice taken, on the 22d and 30th July—With a difference of 28 feet in the result—5,042 and 5,070 above Morganton. Of these measurements, the latter was made with the greatest care and in the most favorable weather. The height assigned to the other Mountains was also rudely verified from this, by means of a water level.

The Black Mountain, lying mostly in Yancy, but forming through a part of its course the boundary between Yancy and Burcombe, is a long ridge at a medium distance of about 30 miles from Morganton. It has some Peaks of greater elevation than any point that has hitherto been measured in North-America, East of the Rocky Mountains, and is believed to be the highest Mountain in the U. States.—It is a matter of considerable difficulty, in the case of a long ridge like this, that swells here and there into a knob two or three hundred feet higher than its neighbors, to ascertain which it is that overtops the rest, from our inability to determine how much of the apparent elevation of one, amongst a number, is due to its nearness; & how much to height. The Black Mountain cost nearly a week's labor in fixing upon the Peak to be measured and the measurement. We ascended first the summit nearest the road leading from Morganton to Burnsville, and found it 92 feet lower than the Roan, with Peaks considerably more elevated farther South. Yeates's Knob, between the waters of Caney River and Ivey, was next represented as over-topping every thing in that part of the country. Though higher than the Grandfather, it proved to be considerably lower than the Roan, but from its summit we had a fine view of the Black Mountain Ridge sweeping round in a sort of circle, at the distance of 8 or 10 miles, and were able to distinguish the highest Knobs. Two were very nearly equal, but the one at the head of the ridge between the North and Middle forks of the Caney River, was finally fixed upon as the highest. On its top the Barometer stood at 25,807 inches; and it has an elevation of 5,508 feet above Morganton, or 6,476 above the level of the Sea.

The mean elevation of Yancy county above Burke, is about 1,600 feet; so that it is about 2,500 above the level of the Sea. The Ford of Toe River, near Thomas Young's, is 1,308, and Burnsville 1,632 above Morganton. The ascent of the Blue Ridge from Turkey Cove Creek to the Gap, is 1,665 feet.

For the sake of comparison the following heights are given. The first five are copied from Worcester's Gazetteer:

Mount Washington, in New Hampshire, hitherto accounted the highest Mountain in the U. States—highest Peak 6,234
Mansfield Mountain—Vermont, 4,279
Saddle Mountain—Massachusetts, 4,000
Round Top—highest of the Catskills, 3,804
Peaks of Otter—Virginia, 3,955
Table Mountain—Burke, N. Carolina, 3,421
Grandfather, 3,955
Yeates's Knob, 5,558
Black, at Thomas Young's, 5,946
Roan, 6,039
Highest Peak of the Black, 6,476

There are other high Mountains at no great distance from those that were measured, as the Bald Mountain in the Western part of Yancy and the White Top in Virginia, which are nearly, if not quite, as high as the Roan. In the South-eastern part of Haywood county, near the South-Carolina line, there is a tremendous pile, and between the counties of Haywood and Macon and the State of Tennessee, the Unikee Mountain swells to a great elevation. But these appear to the eye to be lower than the Black.

As the Western Mountains, now that their respectability in regard to height and interest is ascertained, are likely to attract an occasional visiter from below the Ridge, and perhaps from the neighborhood of the Coast, a few directions answering the purpose of a "Guide to the Mountains," are added.

The Pilot has not infrequently been the *Ultima Thule*, or rather the *Colonna Herculeæ*, by which the excursions of such as have travelled heretofore in search of Mountain scenery have been limited. It is a remarkable mountain, but after having been for a time amongst the giants of the West, one cannot help feeling some contempt for the Pilot as he passes it on his return. Its height is just about that of the low-gaps in the Blue Ridge.

By such as would see more of the Mountains, the first point to be reached is Morganton. From this place the Table Mountain is frequently visited; it is easy of access, and will hardly be neglected by any one who is in search of beautiful and romantic views and prospects. The Falls of Linville are not far distant from the Table, and though not at present a place to be visited by the sojourner, will repay one of the harder sex, for the fatigue of finding his way by a rough road over the ridges, to Linville Cove; of clambering the yet rougher hills that still intervene between him and the object of his travels, and of wading the river two or three hundred yards for the purpose of reaching the finest point of view. It is perhaps the wildest and most picturesque scene in North-Carolina, with a splendid description of which, if we had room, leisure, and the inclination, we might embellish this communication to the REGISTER. But he is a churl that will insist upon plucking all the flowers that adorn his path, and not leave a pink or rose for those who are to come after him. Passing by the Old Fields of Toe, and the Forge, where Iron little inferior to the best, if it be not absolutely the best made in the United States, is manufactured, he may reach the summit of the Roan by this route, over the top of the Yellow. His fare and accommodation will not however be of the best, and although the Poet declares that

A Summer night in green-wood spent,
Were but to-morrow's merriment,
we think a good house and comfortable bed very much to be preferred.

The other route is by the way of the Pleasant Gardens and Turkey Cove, or (if the Burke County Court will have the road above McKinney's put in repair) over Linville Mountain to Case Creek, where he will find himself in the BAKER settlement, amongst a kind and worthy people. From this place, if there be ladies in the company, they may ride without danger or much fatigue, quite to the top of the Roan—a distance of 4 or 5 miles.

It is most desirable to have a clear day for the excursion, and it is worth waiting for, if our visit happen to be made at a time when the Mountains are wrapped in clouds. Such a condition of things is by no means improbable. The Rain falling annually about the head of Toe River may be estimated at double of that descending upon the same area below the ridge and at some distance from it. It was part of our scheme to collect materials for giving greater precision and accuracy to the Map of this part of the State, nor was it through a want of zeal or faithful labor (it requires very little of either knowledge or skill) that we failed; but during the whole term of our stay about the Mountains, there were but two days that they had not clouds resting upon them, a large part of the time.

But even under such circumstances, there is no want of objects of attention. Often, especially in the morning, the Mountains lift their heads into a serene sky above a sea of mist and cloud that girdles their sides. They may be ascended then, if for no other object, for the sake of the prospect which awakened the slumbering fire in the bosom of BEATRICE, and inspired one of the finest passages in the Minstrel:—

"And oft the eager cliff he lov'd to climb
When all in mist the world below was lost.
What dreadful pleasure! there to stand sublime,
Like shipwreck'd mariner on desert coast,
And view the' enormous waste of vapor, just

In billows lengthening to the horizon round,
Now scoop'd in gulfs, with mountains now embos'd,
And hear the voice of mirth and song rebound;
Flocks, herds, and waterfalls along the hoar profound."

Or, without going above the clouds, he may find in the streams below, an humbler but not less agreeable amusement, in the capture of the speckled Trout with which they abound. It is a luxury to feel him bite; he takes hold with such earnestness, zeal and hearty good-will, and this luxury is exchanged for another not less alluring, when after having been prepared by the cunning hand of a comely "shieldmaid" maiden, the biter is bitten in his turn. [See Doughty's Cabinet of Nat. Hist. vol. 1. p. 145-9.] Or, instead of the Trout, he may catch the amiable quadruped with the many names that is associated with him: (called in Yancy the Crocodile or Water Puppy) who is not found except in the tributaries of the Ohio, and, we believe, is confined to the clear cool streams that flow down the Western declivities of the Alleghanies—cook him and shew the Yancy people that the dislike generally entertained for him is a prejudice, and that he is in fact excellent eating.

The roughness of the sides and top of the Black Mountain is likely to prevent his being often ascended from motives of curiosity and pleasure. A route, very much better than that pursued by us, is not likely to be discovered, and that can be accomplished only on foot; and for between one and two miles, it is through thick laurels and along a bear trail. What these are, must be learned by experience, as a description alone will not convey an accurate idea of them to the mind of a lowlander. The laurels are so closely set, and their strong branches so interwoven, that a path cannot be forced by pushing them aside; and the hunters have no method of advancing, when they happen to fall in with the worst of them, but that of crawling along their tops. The Bear, in passing up and down the Mountain, finds it wisest to keep the ridges, and trampling down the young laurels as they spring up, breaking the limbs from the old ones and pushing them aside, he forms at last a sort of burrow above ground, through this bed of vegetation, along which he passes without difficulty. This is a bear trail; which though an excellent kind of turnpike probably in the view of the animal that formed it, is much less highly approved by the two-legged animal who treads it after him, and who submits with some degree of shame and indignation to the fashion of the place in regard to the attitude he assumes as he travels up and down the mountain. From such an expedition, he is likely to return thoroughly fatigued at night. The top is covered with the Balsam Fir, from the dark and sombre shade of whose foliage it doubtless received the name of the Black Mountain. The growth of the tree is such on these high summits, that it is easy to climb to the top and taking hold of the highest branch look abroad upon the prospect. At the time of our visit, the Mountain was enveloped in mist, which prevented our seeing more than a couple of hundred yards, and we were so uncomfortable from cold, that some of the company urged a return with the least possible delay, and this when it was clear weather, at a small distance below the ridge and the Thermometer at 80.

The temperature of a few Wells and Springs is subjoined. The finest iced water is a rapid drink, in comparison with the pure element that gushes from the sides of these Western Mountains.

Wells on Chapel-Hill, Oct. 17,	59°
Well in Lincolnton, July 6,	61°
Morganton, July 16,	58°
Spring Keller's Field,	58°
" Daniel Moore's Globe Settlement,	57°
" James Riddle's,	54°
" Near the top of the Grandfather,	53°
" Ascent of the Roan,	52°
" North side of the Black Mountain,	50°
" Another, same Mountain,	48°

Politics of the Day.

EVENTS AT NASHVILLE.

Judge White has been unanimously elected Senator as the reader knows, notwithstanding that President Jackson entered the field against him in person, and condescended to circulate, under the privilege which the Constitution conferred on the Presidential office for patriotic, not malevolent purposes, the base slanders coined by his Kitchen counsellors. Gen. Jackson has not only been foiled in his vindictive and arbitrary attempt to overthrow Judge White in his confidence of Tennessee, but is placed by the failure in the most humiliating, for President of the U. S. in the most degrading attitude. He has not merely failed to overthrow Judge White, but he has most signally lowered himself in the good opinions of those whose good opinions he may be supposed to value the most—the people of his own State. His worst enemy could not ask to have his enmity indulged by seeing him placed in a more mortifying and contemptible position. It is always ridiculous to go out for wool, and come home shorn." Gen. Jackson undertook in the plenitude of his conceit and his natural

arrogance, rendered four fold more enervating by flattery and fortune, to regulate the people of Tennessee—to designate the successor for whom they should vote—and to punish Judge White for presuming to permit his name to be used as a candidate against his own favorite. It was an insult to Tennessee that he should conceive her citizens capable of being whistled off at his call—and they have nobly avenged it. Tennessee has earned distinguished honor, and there is not an independent man who does not pay to her independence the tribute of his sincere admiration.

Immediately after his election, Judge White being in Nashville, on his return from the South, was as it were, coerced into accepting a public dinner from his friends. It was thronged by great multitudes, the Legislature in a body being present. The proceedings will reach us in a day or two, and we shall take pleasure in laying them before the public.

A third event of interest is, that one of the corporals of guard of Van Buren men in the Legislature, a Mr. Guild, has introduced Resolutions instructing Judge White to vote for Benton's expunging resolution. The House refused to print them, a circumstance pretty significant of their ultimate fate. They were suspended at the last dates, on a motion to postpone them to the 25th December, (indefinite) which will no doubt prevail.

As may be supposed, these events at Nashville, so mortifying to the Hero's self love, so decisive against Kitchen dictation in Tennessee, and so unpromising for Van, have been received at the Palace and its environs, in high dudgeon. The Globe is in a transport, and the President no doubt swells with indignation. Gov. Cannon, Judge White, and Mr. Bell are assailed with increased acrimony. We are sure it will give the reader pleasure to see how the independence of Tennessee has gravelled the presumptuous men who openly boasted that Gen. Jackson would "put all to rights" in that State, and attempted to execute the boast. We quote the extract from the Globe with this view:

"We give below a Nashville letter, from a gentleman with whom we have no acquaintance. We doubt not, however, that it gives a true account of the attitude of things in the Tennessee Legislature.—While Judge White's friends were electioneering, throughout every county of the State, as devoted friends to General Jackson—while Bell himself pretended he was his true friend, and intended to support him—while Judge White, through his Knoxville organ, was disclaiming every motive of the opposition for his opposition votes (he wished only to save the President from responsibility),—while all those delusive professions were making, we knew that the only object was to secure the election of Governor, of the Senate and Assembly, and of all subordinate offices of the State under the new Constitution, for the office hating party in Tennessee; and then we knew that they would turn the whole power of the Government, acquired by the deception practiced on the people, against the President, and do their utmost to perpetuate the stigma recorded in the journal against him, and to mar every future measure of his Administration." We have not been disappointed by results. We find the proposition to mark Mr. Clay's resolution with the reprobation it deserves, met at the threshold by an attempt to defeat even debate. The Senatorial election was carried before the Governor's speech was delivered, and a great triumphal feast crowned the grand result of the proceedings of the Legislature, before the People had an opportunity to hear that it was in session.

"This proves the admirable tactics of the Bank Governor Cannon—the Bank Representative Bell, and the new acquisition of the Jaudon connexion, whom the vision of the Presidency has seduced to throw aside his political mask, and to make visible those hidden tendencies of his heart which induced him, while pretending deep political hostility to them, to house with Calhoun, Tazewell, McDuffie, &c. and to send his son to imbecile, as a student of law, under Webster, his preceptor's repugnance to democratic equality of rights. It must be gratifying to every lover of simple, unassuming honesty in politics, to see excessive puritanical pretension to ultra patriotism and republicanism expose itself. We must confess that it gives us the greatest satisfaction to see Bell and his conductor laboring in the cause of Clay, Calhoun, and Webster. It teaches an admirable moral lesson; it proves that the profoundest dissimulation must sooner or later betray itself, and that the sanctified demeanor, the name, and, nay, very personification of a praise-God barebones, will not long, among the intelligent and vigilant People of this country, pass for true virtue."

suming honesty in politics," Messrs. Kendall and Blair, deem it a crime to be intimate with Calhoun, Tazewell and McDuffie, and have the modesty to imagine that such a charge, preferred by them, is to be the prostration of such a man as Hugh Lawson White. Judge White must choose his friends with more circumspection. He must cut Tazewell and Callaghan, and mate with the Whiteheads and Leases, when the Globe will apply the axiom *nosce te socios*, and draw favorable deductions of his taste and principles.

The letter from Nashville alluded to in the Globe, groans bitterly. We read it with great pleasure, and we will not deprive the reader of the same enjoyment. It is an acknowledgement of defeat, and that it is lost:

NASHVILLE, Oct. 8, 1835.
"On Monday last, the Legislature of this State assembled, and on Tuesday was fully organized, immediately after the organization of the two Houses a resolution was adopted providing for the election of a Senator in Congress, which took place at 3 o'clock on the same day. Between the adoption of the resolution and election, Mr. Guild, of Sumner, introduced a preamble and resolutions, instructing our Senators in Congress to vote for expunging resolutions from the Journals of the Senate, Mr. Clay's condemnation resolutions against the President of the United States. The resolutions were laid on the table, by a rule of the House, for one day; upon a motion to print, the House refused. On yesterday the resolutions were called up, and Mr. Callom, of Overton, moved to postpone the further consideration of the resolutions until the 25th December next. Upon this motion, Col. Guild made a very able and lucid argument, and treated the motion as one intended to defeat the design of the resolutions, and to amount to an indefinite postponement. During Col. Guild's argument, some of the gentlemen who did not relish his remarks very well, called the gentleman in order. The Chair decided that the gentleman was in order, and an appeal to the House was made, which sustained the decision of the Chair and the gentleman was permitted to proceed. Mr. Anderson, (son of Joseph Anderson of the Treasury Department), and who is understood to be an opposition man, expressed his intention to answer Col. Guild, on to-day, and the House adjourned. To-day, nothing was done in the House on the subject, in consequence of the *White festival* which was given at Vauxhall.

"The design and proceedings of the Festival are marked with some circumstances which evidently show 'high-way the wind blows.' It will be recollected that the whole Legislature without distinction of party, voted for Judge White as Senator.—The Legislature was invited to participate in the festival of the day, without distinction of party, and the gentleman company at Nashville, the Franklin and Whites Guards of Columbia, were invited to honor the occasion with their presence; which they did, without distinction of party; and it was expected that our citizens generally, who respected the character of Judge White, would be welcomed at the festival and would be solicited to unite with those who got it up without distinction of party.—But a singular feature was discovered in the proceedings of the festival. Mr. Lee, Mr. Peyton, Mr. Shields, and Mr. Harris, Members of Congress, were invited to the festival, and many citizens of the State were also invited, while Gola, Polk and Johnson, who were also in Nashville, and Judge Grundy, were not invited. It is believed that this was a manoeuvre of the Nashville Junta, to make a great flourish of signs and trumpets, to operate on the Legislature, which it was understood would be called upon to express an opinion on resolutions instructing our Senators in Congress to vote for expunging Mr. Clay's obnoxious resolution from their Journals; and as another proof (if any were wanting), that it was so intended, a few weeks ago Judge White was called upon by a member elect of the Legislature, (who must have been anxious that his name should appear in the public prints,) to write a letter, setting forth his views on many subjects, and among others, Benton's expunging Resolution.

"Judge White accordingly wrote a letter, and it was published in the Nashville papers, just as the Assembly met, no doubt for the purpose of forestalling the Legislature, and giving a direction to their proceedings, which would suit the Judge's Constitutional views on the subject of Benton's expunging resolutions. It is thought here by some, that the Resolution by Mr. Guild will fail, in consequence of the efforts of the Legislature, which will have upon Judge White's prospects, aside from this reason, they would adopt it without doubt. Some few honest Whites men will vote for him; they say, that if Judge White had placed himself in a situation to be injured by his adoption, that is no reason why simple justice could not be done to President Jackson.

"Judge White was honored with the company of Governor Cannon, from the Nashville Inn to Vauxhall; so all know was and is, a United States Bankman, and Anti-Jackson man, and against the Administration generally; while Judge Grundy, Colonels Polk and Johnson, were very wisely considered by White Whites as not good company for the Judge and his Washington caucus at the eating and drinking party. Some twenty or thirty of the members of the Assembly did not attend the festival, in consequence of the conduct of the *no party party* invasion of their invitations. Mr. Parvett, the member from Humphreys, attended the festival, and gave the following toast:

"The State's Resolution of 1834, condemning the President for a violation of the Constitution and Laws of the United States: May it be branded with infamy and condemnation."
"I think Tennessee Representatives will yet do justice to the most distinguished and venerated citizen, by refusing her Senators to blue from their journals the foul stigma that rests upon him, or the people will take it into their own hands."
Richmond Whig
The Committee of Correspondence and Vigilance, appointed by the meeting in Ohio which last winter nominated Judge White for the Presidency, have since the Judge's withdrawal, published an address, reviewing the merits of the several candidates now before the public, and closing with the avowal of their determination to support Mr. Van Buren. This movement of the Committee was foretold by some of the Western Editors who were skillful in reading the signs in the political firmament, and it was resolved on most opportunely for operating on the elections which came on in Ohio a short time after. What effect it had remains to be seen.—*Nat. Intelligencer.*