

RALEIGH REGISTER AND NORTH CAROLINA GAZETTE.

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

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JOSEPH GALE & SON,
EDITORS AND PROPRIETORS.

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THE NEXT PRESIDENCY.

At a meeting of the friends of Mr. CLAY in the City of New York, it was resolved to use all proper efforts to procure a National Convention for the nomination of a Candidate for the Presidency, and employ all proper exertions to bring before that Convention the name of HENRY CLAY, as the man who, above all others, most enjoys, and most deserves to enjoy, the confidence of the whole American People.

The result of this meeting having been communicated to Mr. Clay, by a Committee, he returned the following Reply:

Ashland, 8th August, 1837.
GENTLEMEN: I duly received the letter which you did me the honor to address to me on the 20th ult. transmitting a copy of the proceedings adopted at preliminary meetings held by some of my friends in the city of New York, in relation to the next Presidential election. And I have read them, as well as your letter, with respectful attention and interest. I now beg leave to communicate to you the impressions I entertain of the matters of which they treat.

On the question of the propriety of agitating the Public at this time, by the discussion of the fitness of candidates for the Presidency, I entirely concur in the opinion expressed by you that it would be altogether premature. Six months have not elapsed since the official termination of the last election, and more than three years and a half remain of the term which was then filled. The country is moreover, suffering under a great calamity. All minds are absorbed by considerations in respect to measures of immediate relief. At such a moment, to divert or distract the public attention by introducing another exciting but remote topic, seems to be unwise. In expressing this sentiment, it is far from my purpose to convey any reproach or censure towards those who have taken a different view. They may have supposed, and it is quite likely that they were right in supposing, that the only adequate remedy which can be found for existing evils will be a change of those rulers by whose agency they have been produced or continued. But the necessity of some earlier relief is so great, and the expediency of bringing to the consideration of it a spirit of moderation, forbearance, and conciliation, is so obvious, that I think we should first direct our united exertions exclusively to this single object. We shall soon ascertain how far the Administration will co-operate with the country in the restoration of a sound state of things.

To guard against misconception, I ought to add that too much delay, as well as too much precipitation, should alike be avoided, in arrangements connected with the next election of a Chief Magistrate. Precipitation would expose the disinterestedness of our patriotism to animadversion; protracted delay to the danger of division and defeat.

I agree with you, gentlemen, entirely, in thinking, in regard to a candidate for the Presidency, that some mode should be adopted for collecting the general sense of those who believe that the purity of our institutions, and the preservation of our liberties, require a change in the Executive, and none better appears to me to have been suggested than that of a National Convention.

This will not supersede the previous employment of all proper means to produce union, harmony, and concentration. A resort to such means is recommended by their tendency to prevent those unpleasant collisions in the choice of delegates to the Convention, which might leave, among the friends of the respective persons thought of as candidates, a state of irritated feelings, unfavorable to that hearty co-operation in the final struggle so essential to success.

It cannot be too strongly impressed upon our friends that the question of the selection of the particular individual to accomplish those patriotic purposes which we have in view, although not unimportant, is of subordinate consequence. It should never be allowed to become the paramount object, nor to divide, more than is absolutely unavoidable, those who agree in the general principle.

Having said this much upon the general subject, suffer me now to add a few words in relation to myself personally. You are pleased to honor me with your confidence and attachment, to appreciate highly my public services, and to desire to place me in the highest station of the Government. I am profoundly grateful to you and to all

other friends who cherish towards me similar feelings and sentiments. For several years I have not looked to the event of my being placed in the office of Chief Magistrate as probable; my feelings and inclination have taken a different direction.— While I am not insensible of the exalted honor of filling the highest office in the gift of this great People, I have desired and sought retirement from the cares of public life; and, although I have not been fully able to gratify this disposition, I am in the enjoyment of comparative repose; and looking anxiously forward to more. I should be extremely unwilling, without the strongest reasons, to hazard this tranquility, and to be thrown into the turmoil of a Presidential canvass. Above all, I am most desirous not to seem, as in truth I am not, importunate for any public office whatever; nevertheless, if I were persuaded that a majority of my fellow-citizens wished to assign me to their highest executive office, that sense of duty by which I have ever been guided would prompt obedience to their will; and, candor, however, obliges me to say that I have not seen sufficient evidence of such a wish.

Entertaining these feelings and sentiments, and having resolved to occupy a position of perfect passiveness, I think it best to adhere to that position. Should a National Convention of the friends of reform nominate any other person, he shall have my hearty wishes for his success, and my cordial support; and before the assembling of such a Convention, if one should be agreed upon, there may be such demonstrations of the popular will as clearly to trace the line of duty towards our common country. Requesting gentlemen, you and all who participate in the proceedings of the meetings forwarded to me, to accept my respectful and grateful acknowledgments,

I am, faithfully, your friend and obedient servant,

HENRY CLAY.

A short Political History.—We find in the Augusta (Geo.) Chronicle the following sketch of the political opinions of some of the prominent men of Georgia and South Carolina. It shows how men may alter their course without changing their opinions and is an example of their "consistency in inconsistency."

Strange things will happen. In 1821, the Legislature of South Carolina passed a preamble and resolutions, in reply to a resolution from the Legislature of Pennsylvania, proposing an amendment to the Constitution, so as to take away from Congress the power to incorporate a National Bank, or any Bank except within the District of Columbia. The Legislature of South Carolina, in its reply to this proposition said, "that as Congress is constitutionally vested with the right to incorporate a Bank, it would be unwise and impolitic to restrict its operations within such narrow limits as the District of Columbia." A resolution is before the Legislature of South Carolina, now in session, and will no doubt be passed, declaring a National Bank unconstitutional and inexpedient. We should like to see the Yeas and Nays both in 1821 and in 1837.

But this is still not the only strange thing that has happened! The bill chartering the United States Bank in 1816, was passed by a majority of only nine in the House of Representatives. Of the members from South Carolina, SEVEN out of eight, with Mr. Calhoun and Mr. Lowndes at their head, voted for it!! Had these 7 votes gone the other way, the bill would have been lost!! Of the members from Georgia, FIVE out of six voted for it!! These five were Wilson Lumpkin, Alfred Cuthbert, John Forsyth, Richard Henry Wilde and Edward Telfair! Had these five voted against the bill, it would have been lost!! Thus, either Georgia or South Carolina could have prevented the charter—but they voted for it, and so did a majority of the members from the Southern States, while it was opposed by a majority of members from the Northern States? It was then a republican measure—the measure of a republican administration—but now if any man in the South ventures the humble opinion that such an institution is necessary to carry on the fiscal concerns of the nation, and to aid our commerce, he is denounced and damned from Dan to Beersheba as a vile federalist plotting against the rights and interests of the South.

Governor Vance of Ohio, a practical democrat, a man of the people, from the people, and with the people—a man who raised himself from a wood cutter to the Executive Chair of one of the greatest States in the Union, in his late Message to the Legislature of Ohio, makes these remarks:—

"If it is the settled policy of those who administer the affairs of the Government of the Union, to overturn all our previously well established systems of credit, of finance, and of trade, by sinking the whole property and business operations of the country to a specie circulation, why do they not come forward and show their sincerity by the surrender of a portion of their own salaries? Do they suppose that the People will sit quietly by and acquiesce in seeing

their lands reduced to one fourth of their present value, whilst the provisions of the same law will add fourfold to the value of the salaries of our public servants? Thus giving to our President annually, instead of twenty-five thousand, (the nominal amount he now receives,) one hundred thousand dollars, and the other federal officers, down to the lowest postmaster, in the same proportion—Does not every person see that, under the prodigal expenditures now making, a few years appropriations will transfer to the pockets of the officers, agents, contractors, and retainers, of the General Government, the whole specie capital of the United States? Is it not true that our federal officers are growing rich on the distresses and embarrassments of those who support and sustain them? And are they not at this moment receiving ten per cent over and above that paid to the State officers where the law gives equal compensation?"

Imprisonment for Debt.—Gov. VANCE, in his late excellent Message to the General Assembly of Ohio, in speaking of Imprisonment for debt remarks:

"Imprisonment for debt appears to have attracted the attention of the benevolent and humane portions of society throughout every Government advanced in the scale of civilization. That it is a relic of barbarism, that ought to be struck from the code of civilized nations, is what I have long believed. In the observations that I have been able to make upon this subject, I have never discovered that it has been carried into execution but on two principles of action; the first, to gratify malice, and the second, to force the debt of the unfortunate out of some humane and benevolent friend, that would not see an old acquaintance, who, perhaps had seen better days, incarcerated in the prison house. Your attention is earnestly solicited to this subject, under the full belief that the year 1837 will close the period in our State history, when to be unfortunate in debt is a criminal offence."

Specie payments.—The Phenix Bank, in New York, has resumed specie payments. It has only about \$100,000 of notes in circulation, and 200,000 in specie. Its deposits amount to \$900,000, and will be redeemed in current notes, until the other Banks resume. We trust that the example will be followed by all the Banks of sound condition. We believe it now only needs a few such examples in the great Cities, to bring about a general resumption.

The Banks deserve great credit for the policy they have pursued since the suspension. Some of them, perhaps, have drawn the cord too tightly; but all have laboured, by a reduction of their circulation, and other liabilities, as well as an increase of their specie, to prepare themselves for resuming. This course has reduced their own profits, and caused some distress by producing a scarcity of money; but it was the only course calculated to effect a remedy speedily. It has disappointed all those predictions of the enemies of the Banking system, that the Banks would extend their issues excessively, and the country would be flooded with an irredeemable paper currency; that it would be the interest and policy of the Banks to delay the resumption, &c. In a pecuniary point of view it certainly would have been their interest to delay the period for resumption; but they have sacrificed profit to patriotism.

Fayetteville Observer.

DISGRACEFUL, IF TRUE.

We have learned from a very respectable source, that the Commissioners appointed to settle the claims of the Cherokees, have been guilty of the most barefaced peculation and fraud upon these ignorant people. Our informant says that the Commissioners were furnished, by the Department, with specie and Treasury drafts, with which to settle these claims;—instead of paying off the claims in these, they bought up a large amount of Mississippi, Alabama, and Tennessee Bank notes, at a heavy discount, and tendered them to the Indians in payment of their claims; they, naturally enough, refused them; they were then told that the Government had made no other provision—but that if they would make a deduction of fifteen per cent. they would give them specie; which rather than take the depreciated paper, they did. In this way they also paid off the claims of the whites who knew no better. But a gentleman of the Bar, in the western part of the State, who had a claim against the Government, presented it: the Bank notes were tendered; he refused to accept them; he was then offered the specie with the 15 per cent. deduction: this he also refused—threatened to write to the Department, and have their conduct examined—mounted his horse and rode off—a runner was immediately despatched to bring him back—he returned—and was then offered his choice of Treasury drafts or specie.

This is the amount of our information on the subject; and, if true, the perpetrators of such base conduct deserves the hottest indignation of every man who sustains the least pretension to honorable feeling. If the report be untrue, nothing will give us greater pleasure than to do them justice. *Lincolnton Transcript.*

Montgomery, (Ala.) Nov. 22.
Rev. Basil Manly, D. D.—The Rev. Dr. Manly, who, it will be remembered, has been recently elected President of the University of our State, passed last Sabbath in this place. He preached in the morning and in the evening to crowded and most gratified congregations. He displayed fine intellect, rich with learning, and a spirit alive with christian fervor.

All who heard him, must have felt that the State had gained much in inducing him to take charge of her University. Unless we are much deceived, we shall see a new order of things there. We hail his coming as an omen of good. We were struck with the sublime piety with which he devoted himself anew to God, upon coming into the State—which is to be his future home.

Dr. Manly's manner, as a speaker, is very polished. His language is beautiful, and his voice is remarkable for its softness. His person, his intellect and his manner, all qualify him for taking a high stand, as a pulpit orator; and his benevolence and fervent piety, added to these will, we trust, make him greatly useful.

A Man of Few Words.—A young man sometime since arrived at a certain inn, and after alighting from his horse went into the travellers' room, where he walked backwards and forward for some time displaying the utmost self-importance. At length he rang the bell, and upon the waiter's appearance gave him an order nearly as follows:

"Waiter, Sir, I am a man of few words, and don't like to be continually ringing the bell and disturbing the house; I'll thank you to pay attention to what I say."

"Yes sir," replied the waiter.
"In the first place bring me a glass of brandy and water (cold), with a little sugar, and also a tea spoon; wipe down this table, throw some coals on the fire, and wipe down the hearth; bring me a couple of candles, pen, ink and paper, some wafers, a little sealing wax; let me know what time the post goes out; tell the ostler to take care of my horse, dress him well, stop his feet, and let me know when he's ready to feed; order the chamber maid to prepare me a good bed, take care that the sheets are well aired, and put a clean night cap and a glass of water in the room; send the Boots with a pair of slippers, that I can walk to the stable in; let him I must have my boots cleaned, and brought into the room to-night, and I shall want to be called at five o'clock in the morning; ask your mistress what I can have for supper, tell her I should like to have a roast duck, or something of the sort; desire your master to step in, I want to ask him a few questions about the drapers of this town."

The waiter answered "Yes, sir," and then went to the landlord and told him that a gentleman in the parlor wanted a great many things, and among the rest he wanted him, and that was all he could recollect.

"I thought thy bridal-bed to have deck'd."

A Wedding and a Funeral.—Rarely does it fall to our lot to record a more remarkable act of Providence, than that of which we are now called to speak. We yesterday announced the marriage of the sister of our friend Alderman Peters, at his own house, and this day we record the death of his estimable wife—a lady beloved by all her acquaintances for her domestic virtues, and other excellent qualities—an event, as we are informed, almost coincident with the marriage. She was in her accustomed health and spirits, during the morning, and after the marriage ceremony, was engaged in putting up parcels of the wedding-cake for her friends. Feeling suddenly ill, she went to her bed, and as she rested her head upon her pillow—expired! The coincidence is as touching as the bereavement will be deeply felt by her numerous family and friends. How sudden the transition!—A cypress wreath for the wedding garland! The theme is one for the muse of Mrs. Sigourney.—*N. Y. Com. Adv.*

An Expunging Witness.—A merry kind of a witness being under examination the other day, in the Washington county court, in a case in which one of the fair dames of that county stood charged with having committed an assault and battery upon one of our lords of creation, was asked what he knew about the case? To which he promptly replied, that the lady in the case had EXPUNGED one of the eyes of the gentleman in question. He was then required to tell the court and jury what he meant by EXPUNGING the gentleman's eye.—Which he did with much sang froid, declaring that the lady had drawn black lines around the aforesaid gentleman's eye with her nails.—*Hagerstown Torch Light.*

Political Bitterness is the caption of an excellent article in the Baltimore Republican. The following is an extract:
"There is a degree of bitterness frequently displayed by some politicians in speaking of political opponents, which cannot be otherwise than painful and disgusting to every generous mind. That difference of opinion will exist among men, is natural, and to suppose men dishonest who happen to entertain views which may be supposed to be incorrect, is to suppose that there cannot be any honest difference of opinion.—

That men who agree in opinion should entertain a friendly feeling for each other is perfectly natural, but to indulge a feeling of hostility towards an individual because he happens to entertain views not entirely in accordance with our views, displays an unwillingness to allow others the privileges which every man claims for himself, which is that of thinking for himself. Yet this is frequently the case; and it generally happens that those who are loudest in their protestations of a desire that every man should be left free to exercise his own judgment, and to form his own opinions, and who denounce the most boisterously those whom we suppose attempt to exercise an influence over others, and to control their opinions, display the greatest degree of bitterness in speaking of those who entertain opinions different from their own."

The result of the recent election in Chenango county, New York, must be a source of infinite gratification to the Hon. John C. Clark, the member of the House who moved to lay the Sub-Treasury Bill on the table. For this step, and for daring to nominate the editor of the Madisonian for Public Printer, he was denounced in the most unscrupulous terms by the Official Journal, and it was no doubt fondly believed by the Administration that he would be "instructed out" by his constituents. On the authority of the New York Evening post (V. B.) we stated a few days since, that the change in Mr. Clark's county amounted to 1400 votes; but more complete returns swell the Whig gain to 1866.

VAN BUREN IN TENNESSEE. The New York Commercial publishes the following extract of a letter from the town of Jackson, in Tennessee, dated Nov. 28:

"It is a singular fact, that though this place with about 2500 inhabitants took its name from our Ex-President, and until within one year has been the residence of some of his strongest friends, with a large majority for his cause, but one solitary man in the whole town at this time, is a supporter of Martin Van Buren or his measures."

TWENTY-FIFTH CONGRESS.

Correspondence of the Balt. Com. Transcript.

Tuesday, Dec. 26, 1837.

This has been a day of great interest in both Houses of Congress. The festivities of Christmas seem to have in nowise relaxed the ardor and discipline of either branch of the National Legislature. An immense crowd thronged the Senate galleries at an early hour this morning. To-day being set apart for the renewal of the debate upon the Abolition petition presented a few days since by Mr. Swift, of Vermont. The people were doomed to disappointment on this point, by that Senator announcing, that owing to the wishes of several of his fellow members, he had determined to postpone his intention of bringing the subject again before the Senate. The time when he would present the petition was not specified. The crowd, however, was fully compensated by the unexpected recurrence of the bill for the suppression of small Notes in this District. This bill it seems, had not been patched sufficiently, and so it came up again as the order of this day. The discussion upon it was quite as animated and entertaining as during the last two sittings. There was a pleasant encounter between Mr. Clay, of Ky. and Mr. Buchanan, than whom, no opponent more even tempered and fair, is to be found in this body.

What threw amusement into their discourse was a remark from Mr. Clay, that in his opinion the effect of the bill, without the amendment proposed by Mr. Young of Illinois, would be to make the Secretary of the Treasury subject to the penalty contained in it. Mr. Buchanan, in replying to Mr. Clay, paid him a compliment by saying that even if such were the effect of the bill, he had no doubt that the Senator from Kentucky had ingenuity enough to get the Secretary out of the scrape. Mr. Clay received the compliment, with a devout aspiration that he should never be called to take in hand such a desperate case.

Mr. Wall, of New Jersey, presented a series of Resolutions, in compliance with the Governor of his State, which speak in a condemnatory spirit of the conduct of the late Executive in relation to the Public Treasury, of the expunging Resolution, and strongly commend the conduct of Mr. Southard (the other Senator from N. J.) regarding the latter measure. Mr. Wall, you know, acts on the instructions principle. On presenting the paper, he merely wished it to be laid on the table and printed—saying nothing of its contents. Mr. Clay, of Ky. with some surprise, said he wished to know the contents of it. It was finally read—not much to Mr. Wall's satisfaction, I should judge.

In the House was a bustling debate upon the memorial from the Peace Society in N. York, in reference to our dispute with Mexico, presented by Mr. Adams. Some part of the discussion was very warm and excited. The proposition by Mr. Adams was to refer it to a Select Committee while Mr. Howard wished it to be sent to that on Foreign Affairs. There has been nothing done with it yet.

Correspondence of the Baltimore Com. Transcript.
WASHINGTON, Dec. 27, 1837.

The House of Representatives is now engaged upon a subject, before which, in point of importance, the topics of Slavery and Abolition will hide their diminished heads. This subject is the Mississippi election.— At the opening of the sitting to-day, it was rumored throughout the Hall, that Messrs. Word and Prentiss, the new claimants for the seats of the Mississippi Representatives, were on the floor, and that the business of the day would solely refer to them. After the journal was read, the Chair announced the reception of a communication from those gentlemen, containing the credentials of their election. These being read, Mr. Cambreleng moved to refer them to the Committee on elections. Mr. Bell alluded to the election of Mr. Yell of Alabama, whose position with regard to his constituents, he said was precisely parallel to that of Messrs. Gholson and Claiborne, and wished to know why the same course had not been pursued in the latter case, as in the former. He also asked Mr. Yell if he had resigned his seat. Mr. Yell said in reply, that he had not, and also observed, by way of explaining the difference between his case and the one in question, that though he had considered himself elected for the whole Congress, yet in compliance with the wishes of some of his friends, he had presented himself for a re-election.

Mr. Graves, of Ky., offered a Resolution to have Messrs. Word and Prentiss allowed to take seats in the House and take part in any debate upon their claims. Mr. Pope, of Ky., moved to have it modified, so as to have struck out all after resolved, and substitute that the House instantly allow the claimants to be sworn in, and rescind the decision given last session upon the claims of Messrs. Gholson and Claiborne.

The discussion on these resolutions became animated. Messrs. Hamer, Legare and Foster, supported Cambreleng's motion, and strenuously opposed the proposition to allow the claimants to be allowed to take their seats.

Messrs. Bell, Reid and Dawson were most conspicuous in opposing the motion to refer the subject to the Committee on Elections, their chief argument being that this Committee by pronouncing the decision of last session in favor of the present Representatives, had prejudged the matter, and were therefore unfit to examine the claims of the new candidates.

Mr. Claiborne, in a short speech, characterized with truly noble and magnanimous sentiments, declared that he was willing to allow his rivals to take seats and discuss the matter in the House, but he was opposed to their being sworn in. He alluded to the decision made by the House last session, which he and his colleague considering as final, had not presented themselves before their constituents for a re-election.— He moreover said that Messrs. Word and Prentiss had conducted the canvassing for their election, not only fairly, but even generously. The tone of Mr. Claiborne's remarks did much credit to his heart.

After a long debate, Graves' resolution was laid on the table by a vote of 90 to 87. Mr. Calhoun finally amended Cambreleng's by having the Committee instructed to report all the facts connected with the matter. In this form the motion prevailed, and the House adjourned.

Mr. Gholson is confined to his room with rheumatism.
Just before the Senate adjourned, Mr. Calhoun offered a series of resolutions, which were read and ordered to be printed. The preamble to them savors strongly of State Right's principles, and after a long statement of the unwarrantableness of one section of the country interfering with the domestic concerns of the other, the resolutions declare that the Abolition petitions from the North, are so many direct attacks upon the interests of the South. These commanded great attention, when being read, owing to the peculiar stress laid upon the principles breathed forth in the preamble. This is a sort of anticipatory movement in reference to Mr. Swift's petition.

Correspondence of the Balt. Chronicle.
Washington, Dec. 28, 1837.

In the House, as soon as the Journal was read, Mr. Briggs, of Massachusetts rose, and offered a resolution to authorize the committee of Accounts to inquire into the expediency of reimbursing Mr. Noyes of Maine, for the loss of certain Treasury notes, to the amount of \$250, which was lost in the following manner. Mr. Noyes received a package of money from the Sergeant-at-Arms, consisting of a roll of gold and three Treasury notes, in a paper enveloped.— Thinking it a package of gold only, he tore off the paper, and burned it, several members standing by at the time. Afterwards, Mr. Noyes discovered that he should have received more than he had done, and thus ascertained the occurrence of the accident. The resolution of Mr. Briggs was adopted.

About two hours was then occupied in the presentation of reports from Committees, and there were a great many bills read twice and referred appropriately. After which, the next business in order was on the reference of a memorial presented by Mr. Adams on Monday week, from the N. York Peace Society, and other individuals friendly to the peace cause, praying Con-