

RALEIGH REGISTER

AND NORTH CAROLINA GAZETTE.

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

VOL. XL.

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 4, 1839.

NO. 14.

JOSEPH GALES & SON,
EDITORS AND PROPRIETORS.

TERMS.

Subscription, three dollars per annum—one half in advance.

Persons residing without the State will be required to pay the whole amount of the year's subscription in advance.

RATES OF ADVERTISING.

For every 16 lines (this size type) first insertion one dollar; each subsequent insertion 25 cents.

Court Orders and Judicial Advertisements will be charged 25 per cent. higher; and a deduction of 25 per cent. will be made from the regular prices, for advertisers by the year.

LETTERS TO THE EDITORS MUST BE POST-PAY.

EXTRACT

From the Speech of HENRY A. WISE, in the House of Representatives, December 21, 1838.

"First came the explosion of the Pet banks—now come the explosions, one after another, in quick succession, of the Sub-Treasurers who were, or are to be, substituted for Banks, and I will show you that they prove all I ever charged to be true.

I said that in December, 1836, when Gen. Jackson gave his certificate that all was well, honest, fair, this very leg-treasurer, Swartwout, at New-York, was in default \$336,718. Well, sir, now it appears that, in twelve months after, he was in default to the tune of \$1,016,755! and, three months after that time, was a defaulter in the still larger sum of \$1,225,705 79 1/2!

Previous to my attempt at investigation, he had been stealing public money at the rate of \$56,000 per annum. After the cat was belled, he stole in one year \$680,236 63, and in the next three months \$208,780.37. Yes, sir, after the President had given him a certificate of honesty, and you, sir, and the House, and the committee, and the Executive, had shielded him from all scrutiny, he stole in one year the sum of \$780,236.63, and in the next three months at the rate of more than \$600,000 per annum—his defalcation averaging, throughout his official career, the sum of more than \$170,000 per annum, for seven years—and this, too, we are told, without the least suspicion!—"A Jew may believe it—but I do not!"

Sir, I said the other day that I did not rejoice in the public losses and calamities, though I confessed I did feel a thrill of triumph at having gained a victory for truth. The pet bank system and the sub-treasurers have exploded, as I said they would, and exposed their hidden enormities, concealed until they could be concealed no longer; but I do not rejoice at it. I made me no booth to sit and watch for the destruction of corrupt Nineveh. But, sir, there is one poor human being on this earth—alone now in the world—wrecked in reputation—blasted—slighted by men not half as worthy as he is—whose soul at scenes like these, does rejoice, must exult. Who and where is he? Sir, if you will go down Pennsylvania avenue to the corner of Four-and-a-half street beneath Mrs. Peyton's boarding house, you will find a gray-headed man, stricken in years; his name is Tobias Watkins! That man, for borrowing money of public officers, funds in their hands, not converting funds in his own hands to his own use, was imprisoned on the 14th of August, 1829, and tried on three several indictments, on all which he was convicted and fined, on one in the sum of \$750, on another \$300, and on the third \$3000. He was sentenced to be imprisoned three months on each indictment, in all nine months; and though imprisoned in August 1829, he was not released until March 1833. Kept in jail three years and six months for a real or fictitious defalcation of \$3,000! Where are now the defaulters of this reform administration? Where is Swartwout, after embezzling public money for eight years in succession, till he had taken and carried away a million and a quarter? Where is Price? Where is Gratiot? How long since their carriage wheels proudly hurled the Olympic dust of the fashionable streets and avenues of your metropolis of court and of fashion!—No marshals at their heels—no district attorneys prosecuting against them triple indictments; they ran away, or walked away, unforbidden, and none to hinder them! Where is Boyd? that land office defaulter, who appealed to "the misfortunes of speculation," to elect him in the Senate of his State, Mississippi? These are all innocent and unfortunate or escaping defaulters!—These are full handed public plunderers, pet plunderers, and go "un-whipped of justice." Sir, so was Tobias Watkins unfortunate. He was born and bred a gentleman—dazzled by the tinsel glare of this metropolis of splendid misery, and shabby splendor, (as it was once, with equal force, truth and beauty, described by the unequalled orator of Virginia, John Randolph)—of liberal mind and habits too, he lavished some three thousand, imprudently, thinking in his heart, that he should be able to replace that sum, and more, and 'make all strait,' and he was imprisoned for his imprudence for nearly four years and made to bear a felon's brand! Ah! sir, but he was a gentleman—he belonged to all the decency, to the 'silk stocking gentry'—he was not one of your Loco-foco defaulters—he was not unfortunate to the amount of

millions—he was not too full handed to be touched by the rude hands of the tipstaff—he was not a defaulter of the great democracy, and, poor fellow, he suffered for being a gentleman. By the by, sir, that word reminds me of the fact that it was during, or not until the past summer, your party first discovered that your President was a gentleman! The discovery was made first, I think, by grannie Ritchie. That venerable gentleman took me to task for finding some gentlemen in Petersburg, and as a set off, it boasted that President Van Buren too was actually a gentleman! Very strange! that a male President, the successor of the "ILLUSTRIOUS" in 1837, they did not find out to be a gentleman until the summer of 1838! They must surely have been trying to make him out a Whig. For myself, I always knew he was, in the ordinary sense, a gentleman; and it was mortifying to me to see that the Enquirer, by implication at least, had supposed until lately, that the President of the United States could be other than a gentleman—judging, I mean, from its boast of the sudden discovery; but my colleague there, (Mr. Dromgoole) will not, however, recognize Mr. Ritchie as a genuine Loco foco editor. (Mr. Dromgoole said no, no, he is a Conservative.) There is a cheering consideration connected with this discovery, though by the Administration press; it is the brightest omen which has occurred for years of Mr. Van Buren's downfall. Yes, sir, that cry of 'gentleman' upon him by his friends will finish him—with the party which supports him they might as well have cried 'mad dog!' It is a certain prognostic that he is going down. From the hour that father Ritchie made that fatal discovery, the man's doom was sealed. But, sir, the gentleman defaulter, Watkins, as I was saying, met his fate; and now that he has been purified by the fires of the law, we may be permitted to do him justice, and to make him the instrument of retribution. I call him up, I invoke his wrongs, his sufferings his injuries, his expiation, to rise in judgment against his persecutors to condemn them. Where is he now? In a station where he is, no doubt, far happier than in his day of precarious and terror haunted show, when he toiled as a poor slave in one of the stalls of your document factories called Departments. He is now an humble apothecary; and here I will say, for the benefit of all who would be honest, and who wish to be clean, that he keeps for sale the very best of 'palm soap,' and chloride of lime, and other chemical compositions, to take off the spots of locofocoism, and to cleanse from all corruption! I recommend to certain sub-Treasury gentlemen to go and buy; but what if they be once washed as white as snow, they will like the hog, return to the wallowing in the mire.

The following passage we commend to the earnest attention of those who regard the country's fame. If coming events cast their shadows before them, then will T. H. Benton's election to the Presidency be shadowed forth by the passage of the Sub-Treasury Bill, and the consequent reelection of Martin Van Buren. Are the American people prepared for this? Are they prepared to see Thomas H. Benton succeed Martin Van Buren! If they are not, let them begin in time, and take measures to prevent "a consummation" so "devoutly" to be deprecated. Let them, as the first great step of precaution, again defeat a measure which they have repeatedly rejected, but which the Executive is determined, if possible, to force upon them.

That now is the issue: Shall the People or the President prevail? The contest is no longer about measures. The Sub-Treasury may be proved to be the best system which the wisdom of man could devise; but, sir, the President and his minions have dared to force it upon us—have arrogantly proclaimed it shall be the law, "notwithstanding the lamentations here or elsewhere!" The measure has been thrice rejected—it is again presented, and if passed, will prove that the President is too strong for the People. In this issue, I can no longer debate its policy or expediency. Another consideration is paramount. I oppose it now because it is an executive measure. Prove it to be the best, I would have my arm chopped off, my tongue pulled out, before I will be forced to vote for it by the will of one man. I will not have "padding itself stuffed down my throat!" There was a majority of fourteen against it last winter; now, I fear, a much smaller majority. Some have gone over! No wonder. The President, notwithstanding the manifestations of public sentiment, has all the odds against the People. He has 100,000 office holders to do his bidding, stationed at every out-post—spies, informers, throughout the country. He has the press. He has the public money where-with to pay "the bounty" unprotected by law, in hands of partisans, placed where he pleases. He has the public lands. This is the great source of patronage and power.

Sir, how can States-rights men support this mammoth Executive? How expect a large portion of the States to be free and independent, and to stand upon their reserved rights against power consolidated

in the hands of the Executive of the Federal Government; when every new State is raised, nurtured into very being and existence upon Executive pap and patronage?

Look at every new State on your frontier, and count their Executive force in the Senate. This is the domain corruption, which buys and secures States—the other sources of patronage, offices and money, retain men. Men and States will render the President omnipotent! I call on all the patriots of this land to drop currency, banks, finance—every minor consideration and topic—and to devote themselves wholly to the great work of resisting and reducing this Dagon Executive—to come up to our help—to come soon, or we will be powerless to resist! May an overruling Providence prevent the reduction of our strength to a minority, before this very session expires! The President has but a short time to "fatigue us into compliance," but if the "favorite measure" be passed, no tongue can tell the horrible results to this nation.

It will surely re-elect him to a second term; and who will succeed him? That is the last great question. Let me tell certain gentlemen of the South particularly, no matter what may be their hopes and their calculations for their man, there is one whom I cannot call a man, who is as sure of the Succession as he surely deserves nothing but ignominy and disgrace—that monster is Thomas H. Benton!

The Speaker. Not in order.
Mr. Wise. "The man" of Missouri, then: and who can bear the thought? I hold the horrible result up to the American People, as the last, worst result—the climax of horror—of the present corrupt dynasty!—When that happens, I will follow the examples of Swartwout and Price, and take passage for England!

COMMUNICATION.

FOR THE REGISTER.

Sentiments of our Forefathers.

No. 1.

The American Revolution is distinguished from any other event of similar kind recorded in history, by a number of particulars which deserve serious consideration. It originated, not from any violent and transient effervescence of feeling, but from principle. The war which arose from opposition to the claims and pretensions of the British Government, was a civil war; yet its annals are not stained with the record of that exasperated hostility which has usually characterized wars of this description. The people were for a considerable time free from the restraints of law; yet they lived, save when assailed by the enemy, more securely than under most regular governments. The leaders, both civil and military, entertained no designs of ambition hostile to the liberties of their country; and when their great object was accomplished, retired to the scenes of private life. And finally, after solemn and mature deliberation, a Constitution was adopted, by which equal rights are secured to every citizen.

No intelligent person can compare this event, or rather this series of events with the revolutions in either ancient or modern times, and not be struck with the difference. We need not enter into particulars. An able dissertation on the causes of these variations, would be a very acceptable present to the public. We hope, that some competent hand will undertake this work. Neither our time, nor the nature of our pursuits, will allow us to engage in political investigations, even had the course of our studies prepared us for them. Yet we have our opinions on some points involved in this enquiry, which it may be well to offer to the consideration of your readers.

Whatever might have been the spirit of some adventurers who came to this country, shortly after its discovery, the great body of settlers were not enticed hither by the love of gold, and the hope of wealth. They sought, in the new world, an asylum from intolerance and oppression; where they might worship God according to the dictates of conscience, without incurring fines and forfeitures; or suffering by the iniquitous practices of the Star-chamber, and the villainy of informers. "If," as has been said, "our Adam and Eve came out of Newgate,"—it was because the tyrants of the day had crowded that prison with the best men of their nation. As might have been expected, our forefathers brought their principles with them; and transmitted them as a most precious legacy to their children; and they to theirs, in successive generations. It was the descendants of these men, who accomplished the glorious work of the Revolution. They had learned, through principle, to obey the laws of their country; and of course, needed not the pomp of Executive dignity, and the power of a strong Government to preserve domestic peace. They had been disciplined, under the influence of religion; into habits of self-control; had learned to lay restraints on those passions which mislead men from the paths of virtue and true honour; and were able to resist temptations which would have been too strong for the vicious and irreligious.

These facts serve to account for those events which distinguish our Revolution from all others; and show the reasons why it was so honourably conducted, and so hap-

pily terminated. It is not denied, indeed, that there were many loose, irreligious, and vicious men engaged in the cause. Yet, happily for them, and for us, they felt the diffusive and powerful influence of religious principle, and were thus preserved from bringing disgrace on themselves, and doing mischief to their country. Had the interests of the State, and the rights of the people been committed to the protection of a corrupt population, and unprincipled leaders; instead of rejoicing, as we do, under the genial influences of rational liberty, our Revolution would have been terminated, as others have done before, in an iron-hearted despotism; and we should now be "hewers of wood and drawers of water" to a privileged race of royal and noble tyrants. Some fierce and daring spirit, raised by the storm which then agitated us, would have set down on a throne, and swayed his sceptre over the land—or foreign enemies would have prevailed; and he whose memory is now venerated as the father of his country, would have been stigmatized and punished as a traitor.

Should any one deny the justness of these remarks, it will be incumbent on him to account, on sufficient causes, for the event under consideration. The facts which we have adduced, are abundantly supported by historical evidence. A volume would be necessary for the detail. We can here mention only a few particulars,—and first, we refer to the Life of HENRY, by the late Wm. Wirt, for evidence on this very interesting subject. We much regret, that the accomplished author of this work, had it not in his power to make his readers more familiarly acquainted with the private sentiments, and inmost feelings, of that illustrious Virginian. We should have been most highly gratified by the publication of many such letters as that addressed to his daughter. We have, however, in the history of the man, enough for our present purpose; because, it is evident that his mind was strongly under the influence of religion; and that he made use of this religious feeling on the people for the purpose of producing the most powerful effects of his oratory. The writer of this article, has often heard the venerable counsellor of that wonderful man, assert that he very frequently made appeals to the Deity, and quotations from the Scriptures; but not, as is too common now, with levity, and abortive attempts to be witty. On the contrary, he never adverted to these awful subjects, without indicating in the whole expression of his countenance, and in his tones of voice, the deepest solemnity. So powerful, indeed, was this exhibition of feeling, that all among his Auditors, who had in their bosoms any elements on which the orator could operate, were made to sympathize with him; and were subdued and awed, and overwhelmed by the majesty and glory of the divine attributes, momentarily at least recognized by them.

But this is not a solitary case. The same tone of feeling was general. Of this we have decisive evidence in the writings and speeches of the day. If we thought that our young friends, for whom we mainly write, were as conversant with these subjects as they should be, we would let the matter rest on this general assertion. But much of the very—very little time that is employed in reading, is wasted in whinpering over scenes of fictitious distress, or in studying characters as they are exaggerated and distorted in the novels of the day; instead of being devoted to the study of the particular history of our own country. In confirmation of our assertion then, we would refer to the Declaration of Independence.—In the beginning of that instrument, an appeal is made to the God of nature. And it concludes with these remarkable words:—"And for the support of this Declaration, with a firm reliance on the protection of Divine Providence, we mutually pledge to each other our lives, our fortunes, and our sacred honour." A year before the publishing of this Declaration, the Old Congress—honoured be its memory!—appointed a day of humiliation, fasting, and prayer to Almighty God, "that the Colonies might be ever under the care and protection of a kind Providence, and be prospered in all their interests; that America might soon behold a gracious interposition of Heaven for the redress of her many grievances, &c." On this subject, RAMSAY, one of the best of our historians, has remarked that, "Since the fast of the Nineties recorded in sacred writ, perhaps there has not been one, which was more generally kept, with suitable dispositions, than that of the twentieth of July, 1775. It was no formal service. The whole body of the people felt the importance, the weight, and danger of the unequal contest in which they were about to engage; that every thing dear to them was at stake, and that a divine blessing only, could carry them through it successfully.—This blessing they implored with their whole souls, poured forth in ardent supplications, issuing from hearts deeply penetrated with a sense of their unworthiness, their dependence, and danger; and at the same time, impressed with a humble confidence in the mercies and goodness of that Being, who had planted and preserved them hitherto, amid many dangers in the wilderness of a new world." To this specimen of the feelings and sentiments of the most illustrious body of men that ever

adorned this, or perhaps any other nation, we will add an example or two from the biography of him to whom all hearts were turned in the hour of extremity; who is regarded by the world as an ornament to his country and to his species; and who has bequeathed, as one of his best legacies, an example for the instruction of Generals, Statesmen, and citizens. In the most interesting scene ever exhibited on this continent,—the resignation of the supreme command over the armies of the United States,—WASHINGTON, addressing the President of Congress, declared that "he accepted of the office with diffidence in himself, but with confidence in the Providence of Heaven; and that his gratitude for the interposition of Providence increased, with every view of the momentous contest." Towards the close of this address, he used the following words. "I consider it an indispensable duty to close the last solemn act of my official life, by commending the interests of our dearest country to the protection of Almighty God; and those who have the superintendance of these, to his holy keeping." The President of Congress, in his answer, re-echoed the sentiments of the illustrious Soldier, in terms deeply affecting. On entering upon a new office, that of President of the United States, in his address to the Senate and House of Representatives, he offered "his fervent supplications to the Almighty Being, whose providential aid can supply every human defect, that his benediction might consecrate to the liberties and happiness of the United States, a government instituted by themselves, for those essential purposes." These are a few of many expressions, made by the father of his country, of the pious tone of his feelings. And we all know that WASHINGTON made no theatrical display; no parade of profession; no announcement of sentiments, which he did not entertain.

Were it not for encroaching upon your limits and the attention of your readers, we could go farther into detail; we could easily show that HANCOCK, and ADAMS, and JAY, and, in general, the worthies of that day, cherished the same deep sense of religion. We are verily persuaded that, take our revolutionary patriots all in all, the record of history do not exhibit such another constellation of worthies. Their talents, their firmness, their purity, and their willing sacrifices to the honour and interest of their country, place them,

"Above all Greeks, above all Roman fame."

In all the ardour of war; in the midst of the fiercest flames of civil discord; and in the triumphs of victory, they remembered that the Most High reigneth among the nations. This sustained them in difficulties and defeats; and restrained them in the hour of success. When danger stared every one in the face, and the holy cause to which they were devoted, seemed to be threatened with ruin; they remembered its justice, looked up to Heaven, and took courage; and when the trumpet sounded the notes of triumph, the fear of God inspired moderation, and prevented excess. It was thus that they laid the foundation for the glory and happiness of their country.—Let Statesmen of the present day study their character, and imbibe their sentiments, and imitate their example.

CURIOUS FACTS.

Mr. Prentiss, in his Speech on the abuses in the Treasury Department, referred to the fact, that the Secretary swore before the Investigation Committee, in February, 1837, that he knew of no defalcations.

Mr. Prentiss then read a Correspondence, proving that Mr. Woodbury did know of defalcations which took place as long since as 1834. This Correspondence between Wm. D. Harris (a Receiver of Public money in Mississippi, and a defaulter to the amount of 60 or 70,000) and the Secretary of the Treasury, occurred during two years and a half, and ended, it is believed, in 1836. The letters read, written by Mr. Woodbury in regard to Harris' case, were eighteen in number. The summing up of Mr. P. was amusing, and was done in a manner something like the following:

Letter first, from Mr. Woodbury to Mr. Harris: "Mr. Harris, do let me hear from you."

2d. "Mr. Harris, I am pained to hear from you."

3d. "Mr. Harris. What is the matter?"

4th. "Mr. Harris—you must send your monthly return to the Treasury Department."

5th. "Mr. Harris, your returns are not satisfactory."

6th. "Mr. Harris, I am grieved and pained to hear from you."

7th. "Mr. Harris, your returns ought to have been received. They are minus the receipts in your department, thousands of dollars."

8th. "Mr. Harris, your returns should have been received long ere this. A settlement is necessary. Your returns are incomplete, and show a deficiency of tens of thousands of dollars."

9th. "Mr. Harris, we must have a settlement."

10th. "Mr. Harris do send your returns. Why can't you, now? If you do not I shall be grieved."

11th. "Mr. Harris, you have done wrong."

12th. "Mr. Harris, don't do so any more; that's a good man."

13th. "Mr. Harris, your returns are still behind. Do write."

14th. "Mr. Harris, why have you not written?"

15th. "Mr. Harris, I am sorry to hear that your returns are not received. You are a very naughty man, very indeed; and I shall be grieved and pained if necessity compels me to write to you again about the balances due the department."

16th. "Mr. Harris, you are in debt to the department, and must pay what you owe, or be removed."

17th. "Mr. Harris, you have not settled your accounts."

18th. "Mr. Harris, I have received your letter of resignation."

"All this correspondence—the eighteen letters from the Secretary of the Treasury to Harris—consumed two years and six months of the latter part of the administration of Gen. Jackson. The Secretary of the Treasury swears in February, 1837, that he knows of no defalcations! Early in 1838, the Secretary publishes two hundred and sixty letters, embodied in a report,—more than two hundred of which complain of violations of duty on the part of the officers of the General Government! Let the friends of Mr. Woodbury reconcile these facts if they can."

Elizabeth City, N. C., Jan. 22.

DESTRUCTIVE FIRE.—It becomes our painful duty to record one of the most destructive fires with which this place has ever been visited. On Sunday evening, the 20th inst., at about 6 o'clock, a fire broke out in the Jewelry Store of Mr. George Storey, on Main St., and such was the violence of the devouring element, that before the Firemen could get the upper hand of it, it had destroyed all the buildings between Market St. and North St., with the exception of the National Hotel which was, by the exertions of the firemen, saved. It was with the utmost difficulty that the fire was kept from crossing the street, and had it but done so, in all probability some six or eight buildings more, including the new three story Hotel kept by Abner Williams, and the City Hotel kept by James S. Relf, would have been consumed.

The principal sufferers are
Geo. Storey, house & Jewelry, - \$ 2,000
John A. Gambril, - - - - - 1,500
Dr. Matthews, 2 buildings, - - - - 500
S. Jackson, 3 buildings, - - - - - 700
Wm. Laboyteaux, goods & furniture, - - - - - 1,000
Mathew Cluff, 1 building, - - - - - 800
Misses Gallop's Millinery, - - - - 300
Jno T. Keeling, loss of Stock of Leather and Boots and Shoes, - - - - - 100
Robert Elliott, Tailor, - - - - - 100
Thomas White, who occupied the house opposite to where the fire commenced had all his things removed, but as is usual in such cases, not more than half can be found. Several persons who boarded at his house have also suffered considerably.

The Editor of this paper has lost part of a valuable Library, which he cannot replace most probably under four or five years, and perhaps not then, as there were many ancient Classics, which are now entirely out of print, and it is, therefore, very difficult to obtain them. He had commenced moving over from the office now occupied by him, to the upper part of Mr. Storey's house, and when the fire was discovered, such was the greatness of the smoke that no one could get to the room where the books were; the value of them was about \$600.

Several persons who occupied rooms in the National Hotel have also experienced severe losses. Mr. Geo. W. Charles, Collector of this port, lost about \$300.
We should think that the whole of the losses incurred will amount to nearly twelve thousand dollars, and, as far as we can ascertain, there was no insurance on any of the property destroyed.—Phanix.

The Public Domain.—From indications already given, there cannot be a doubt that the Legislature will give a decided expression against the vile system of plunder attempted to be enforced by the new States, and by some of the demagogues of the day.

The graduation bill will meet with no favor; and we are glad to find that all parties seem to concur in the propriety of speedy action against that iniquitous measure.—At a meeting of the Select Committee on the subject, a few days since, Gov. TYLER was requested, as its chairman, to prepare a strong report against the swindling process by which the Old States were about to be plundered of their just proportions of the public domain.—Richmond Whig.

Anecdote.—During Mr. Duncan's late speech in the House of Representatives, a listener was struck with the homely remark of a countryman, who was standing near also listening with great attention to the speech.

"What's the name of that 'ere gentleman in the white vest, who's making so much noise?" said he.

"That, sir, is Mr. Duncan of Ohio!"

"Duncan is it! Well, I've heard tell of him. Why he's got brass enough in his forehead to make a bell-metal skillet!"