

The Oxford Mercury.

AND DISTRICT TELEGRAPH.

BY JOHN CAMERON.

OXFORD, N. C., JANUARY 26, 1844.

VOL. III—NO. XIII.

From the Richmond Whig.

MR. RIVES.

The following letter from the Honorable William C. Rives, as will be seen from its face, was written to a personal and political friend in Hanover; but another gentleman having learned, in a conversation with Mr. Rives, that he had written such a letter, containing a full expression of his views on the subject of the Presidential Election, has obtained a copy of the letter, with permission to have it published—as the best means of satisfying all enquirers, and removing all doubts, as to the course Mr. Rives will pursue in the approaching contest.

WASHINGTON, Jan. 1st, 1844.

MY DEAR SIR—It seems to be now definitely settled, that the country is to be called upon to retract the solemn decision pronounced by it in 1840, upon the demerits of Mr. Van Buren's Administration, and to restore him to power, without a solitary atonement for the past, or pledge of amendment for the future. The indications which have been given here, since the assembling of Congress, are too significant to be misunderstood. The Convention at Baltimore, will have nothing to do but to register and proclaim the edict of the Caucus in the Capitol.

In this state of things, are we, who have so often testified, in the face of the world, our deep and earnest convictions of the fatal and demoralizing tendencies of Mr. Van Buren's whole system of political action, to stand aside with folded arms, and to shrink into an inglorious, I had almost said, treasonable neutrality, because of some differences of opinion on questions of public policy, from Mr. Clay, which a wise spirit of moderation, and the recognised arbitrament of the public will, are daily narrowing in magnitude and extent? I humbly think not.

The election of Chief Magistrate of the nation, is one of those vital processes, provided by the Constitution of the country, for the periodical regeneration of our system, by a fresh infusion into it, of the elements of popular health and virtue, in which no good citizen, unless under circumstances of a very peculiar character, can properly refuse to take a part, and to the extent of his influence and example, a decided and efficient part. When the vast moral and political influence of the office, as well as its direct attributes of positive and controlling power, are considered, it can never be a matter of indifference, or even of an equal balance of counterbalancing motives of preference or objection, who shall fill it. There is always a choice; and though the making of that choice, may sometimes be embarrassed by conflicting considerations, arising out of a want of entire coincidence of opinion with either of the opposing candidates, it is only the more incumbent on us to determine our preference with care and deliberation, according to the best lights of our understandings; and when once conscientiously formed, fearlessly and unhesitatingly to act it out.

In the approaching Presidential contest, then, we ought not and cannot be neutral; and if, as every thing now indicates is to be the case, that contest shall be between Mr. Van Buren and Mr. Clay, I have as little hesitation in saying that there is but one line of action by which we can acquit ourselves of the full measure of our duty to the country—and that is, waiving all minor considerations, to give a manly and determined support to Mr. Clay in preference to Mr. Van Buren. For myself, I can conceive of no greater calamity to the nation, or deeper discredit to the cause and very name of popular government, than the re-election of Mr. Van Buren would be, after the signal and overwhelming majority by which he was so recently deposed from power, upon the full and candid canvass of his measures, policy and conduct.

The host of vindictive passions which follow in the train of restored governments—the crowds of hungry retainers, pleading the merit of past services, who press forward to claim the reward of their fidelity, or indemnity for sacrifices and losses incurred in the common cause—the insatiable and pertinacious attachment to ancient abuses—the arbitrary and self-willed habits nurtured in the former possession of power—the commitment to favorite but pernicious schemes of policy, have all concurred to give a sort of proverbial currency to the remark of a celebrated English statesman and historian, that the worst and most dangerous of all revolutions is a Restoration. That all these evils would be realized to the widest extent, and in their most unmitigated virulence in the restoration of Mr. Van Buren, none can doubt who have been attentive observers of the selfish and vicious system of party policy exemplified in the creed and conduct of himself and his friends, or who have not forget-

ten that memorable motto of party rapacity, so boldly emblazoned on the shields of his chosen followers, which, in proclaiming "to the victors belong the spoils of victory," shamelessly pointed to the offices and public trusts of the country, as the rightful plunder of political warfare!

But to return to the remark I have already made. Could any thing inflict a deeper wound on the cause of Republican institutions, than such a spectacle of levity and instability, on the part of the constituent body, as would be exhibited in the restoration of Mr. Van Buren, after the overwhelming condemnation of his administration, pronounced by the almost unanimous voice of the country, but three short years ago? Would it not render popular government itself a "bye-word and taunt" among the nations? In 1840, the American people, upon the fullest and most deliberate hearing of both sides of the political controversy—of the friends as well as of the opponents of Mr. Van Buren—recorded their votes against him by such a majority as never before signaled the retreat of any minister from power, and was till then utterly unparalleled, and even unapproached, in the history of our Presidential contests. Of the 26 States, composing the Union, he received the votes of but seven, and all of these (except one) the smallest of the confederacy—of the 294 votes of the Electoral Colleges, he obtained but sixty—and of the popular suffrages, a majority of 145,000, out of the free and enlightened citizens of America, who voted in the election, gave in their accumulated verdict against him. And yet in the face of this solemn finding of the great inquest of the body of the nation—while the echo of the general voice which pronounced it has not yet died upon the ear—a bold attempt is made to induce the people to take back their own settled and well-considered judgment, and in elevating again to the highest office of the Republic the individual whom they had so recently and deliberately deposed, pronounce a flagrant sentence of stultification and incompetence upon themselves. I know not in what light other minds may view such a proceeding; but to me it seems a contemptuous sporting with the sovereign constituency of the country—a sheer mockery and insult to the public intelligence.

And by what means is Mr. Van Buren to be again presented as the legitimate and appointed candidate of the Democratic party? Nor certainly by the will of the great body of the party, who, we have every reason to believe, deprecate and deplore the madness and folly of the act, but by the secret and invisible agency of self-constituted conclaves and caucuses, controlled, with absolute sway, by a few bold and adroit political managers. I run no risk in saying that if the individuals composing the party throughout the Union could be interrogated, upon the *voix publique*, to say whom they would prefer as the Presidential nominee of the party, three-fourths of them, at the least, and probably a far larger proportion, would, unhesitatingly, declare their preference for some new candidate. And yet in utter contempt of the popular sentiment of the party, and disdainfully rejecting the only equitable, as well as practicable mode of arriving at the will of the majority thro' the medium of a fair, equal and uniform popular representation in the nominating convention, the friends of Mr. Van Buren, (holding on to that old machinery of party discipline and subordination, derived to them from the cunning order of the Jesuits thro' the bloody Jacobinical Clubs of Revolutionary France, by which one or two active spirits are enabled to suppress the will and control the movements of vast and entire bodies of men,) imperiously declare that he and he only, shall be the candidate of the party. Is it not time that honorable and patriotic men, as they respect the dignity of their own character, the privileges of freemen, and the sacred principles of Republican Government, should unite in one generous and virtuous struggle to overthrow, effectually and forever, the tyranny of a system, which, if now submitted to, must finally convert our noble popular institutions into the worst of all dominations—that of an unscrupulous and sordid party oligarchy.

And what are the wise and benignant measures of administrative policy which are promised us as the fruits of Mr. Van Buren's restoration? A return to the glories and blessings of the Sub-Treasury system—a renewed war upon the currency, commerce and business of the country! Just at the moment when, by the mere fact of the withdrawal of the hostility of the government, and that *vis medicatrix naturae* which is inherent in the energies of a free, enterprising and industrious people, all the business pursuits of the nation are regaining their prosperity and activity, and the currency and exchanges of the country are finding their

proper and natural level, every thing is to be again thrown into confusion, and we are to be re-plunged into a chaos of wild and pernicious experiments, simply to signalize a remorseless party triumph, in the consummation of a measure openly at war with every great practical interest of the community. And to this would be added, by a natural and necessary connexion, all that long train of congenial abuses which so ingloriously illustrated the era of Mr. Van Buren's former administration—multiplied schemes for extending Executive power and Presidential patronage—profuse and prodigal expenditures of public money—the impunity and protection of faithless public officers, purchased by the merit of their party services—a new brood of defaulters, of the Hoyts and the Harrises, a race, the entire disappearance of which, since 1840, is one of the proudest proofs of the justice and necessity of the change, then decreed by the voice of the people. But it were vain to attempt an enumeration of the teeming abuses that must ever attend the fundamental heresy of Mr. Van Buren's political system, which, instead of regarding government as a high and holy trust for the good of the country, sees in it nothing but a job to be administered for the benefit of a party, of which the President is the head and grand almoner.

Now, I would ask, what is there to be apprehended from Mr. Clay's election, which ought to have the weight of a feather in the scale, when compared with the fatal and destructive evils, poisoning the vital elements of Republican freedom and virtue, as well as the essential sources of national prosperity and happiness, which, we have every reason to believe, would inevitably follow the restoration of Mr. Van Buren. We shall, doubtless, have paraded before our eyes, in stereotyped horrors, the old and thread-bare appellation of the *Tariff, the Bank, and Distribution*. On the subject of the *Tariff*, I do not hesitate to say, that Mr. Clay's *creed*, developed in his recent letters, is in every respect, as just, as sound and unexceptionable, as that of Mr. Van Buren, and his *practice* infinitely better. Mr. Clay did not vote for, or approve the *Tariff* of 1828, consigned to an odious celebrity, under the name of the *Bill of Abominations*, which Mr. Van Buren and his friends carried by their votes. It is rather an unfortunate coincidence, considering the professions of Mr. Van Buren, that all the *Tariffs* which have been most complained of in the South, owe their existence upon the Statute Book to the votes of himself or his friends. It is no want of charity, then, but the result of the most candid and deliberate consideration, when I express the decided opinion, that Mr. Clay is far more to be relied upon for a practical adjustment of this delicate and complex subject, on terms just and satisfactory to all sections of the Union, (harmonising their various interests by the golden rule of moderation, which is the only pledge of permanence and stability in any arrangement that may be made,) than Mr. Van Buren. The wise and temperate spirit so strikingly exhibited in his letters which have been recently given to the public, sustained by his well-known influence with his friends, and his own high and unquestioned character for frankness and decision, is a guarantee which no portion of the nation will lightly regard.

With respect to the *Bank*, if the country shall be reduced to a choice between the odious and grinding Sub-Treasury Scheme, and a National Institution of Finance, properly guarded against abuse by the jealous restrictions of its charter, as well as by a vigilant public supervision and control, I do not believe that the sober judgment of the people, under the pressure of such an alternative, would find any cause of quarrel against those who, free from constitutional difficulties on the subject, should go for the latter, in preference to the former. And as to the *Distribution* of the proceeds of the Public Lands, that stands necessarily and evidently adjourned, as a *practical* question, till the revenues of the nation, compared with its expenditures and engagements, shall be in a very different situation from that in which they now are, or are likely to be for years to come. My own individual opinions on these subjects, have been so often and fully stated, that I need not repeat them here. What I mean to say, at present, is, that these are issues either hypothetical and speculative, or neutralized by equal and opposing considerations on the other side, and should not divert the mind, for a moment, from those higher, and more urgent and vital questions, which are the true tests of a sound and correct decision in the pending Presidential Election. These tests I have already adverted to. They are such as are inseparably connected with the purity, character and preservation of the Govern-

ment itself, and in my humble judgment, are overwhelmingly conclusive against the pretensions of Mr. Van Buren.

As little shall we permit ourselves, I trust, to be "frightened from our propriety" by the old and hollow expedient of a senseless and arbitrary use of party names. Those who are so prone to *ring the changes* on the nomenclature of Federalist and Republican would do well to remember that they have *men*, reading and enquiring men, to deal with, and not children. Try Mr. Van Buren and Mr. Clay by any test derived from the authentic history of political parties in this country, or by the standard of those great principles which exist in the essential elements of our popular institutions, and Mr. Clay stands before the world the far better Republican of the two.

In that great array and struggle of the two parties of the country (among the most memorable in our history,) which arose out of the controversy and war with England in 1812, where was Mr. Clay and where was Mr. Van Buren? Mr. Clay gallantly leading the Republican hosts in the House of Representatives, and sustaining the administration of Mr. Madison, with all the energies of his patriotism and eloquence—Mr. Van Buren uniting with the Federalists to depose that illustrious man from power, and to supplant his administration! Try them again by that standard which Mr. Van Buren himself, in a most elaborate speech delivered in the Senate of the U. S. in 1828, declared to be the true and legitimate distinction between the Federal and Republican parties,—the one seeking to *extend*, the other to *restrain*, Executive power. The public have not forgotten the various schemes so sedulously devised or countenanced by Mr. Van Buren during the whole period of his administration, and fully exposed at the time, to augment Executive patronage, discretion and power; and nothing, surely, has more eminently distinguished the career of Mr. Clay than his constant and persevering efforts to restrain, and to provide new dikes and securities against the enlargement or abusive exercise of the powers of that department of the Government. Judging them, then, by Mr. Van Buren's own definition of political parties, as correctly laid down by him in 1828, but totally lost sight of in his subsequent practice, let the sober and impartial judgment of the country decide which is the Federalist and which the Republican.

It is impossible for any reflecting man to contemplate the actual and prospective condition of the country without seeing in it already the germ of new difficulties and troubles, which may, in their approaching development, agitate our glorious Union to its centre. The Oregon and Texas questions in our foreign relations—at home, a deficient revenue, with all its ordinary sources pressed up to their farthest *productive* limit, and some of them, there is reason to apprehend beyond, the *Tariff* controversy re-opened, with all the conflicting interests and passion which never fail to be awakened by it; and added to these, the rekindled fires of the Abolition excitement—each and all of them are questions which carry in their bosom the fearful elements of civil discord and intestine strife. The worst and most dangerous aspect they present, is that all of them bring into immediate and opposing array, if not into angry and hostile collision, the sectional interest and feelings of the different geographical divisions of the confederacy. Whose, at such a moment, is the master-spirit that may have power to still the rising tempest, before it sweeps with destructive fury over the face of our yet happy Union; or should this prove hopeless and impossible, whose the commanding genius, "to ride in the whirlwind and direct the storm?" To preside over the destinies of a great Republic, in a crisis of such complicated difficulty and peril, calls for something more than the acts of the mere party politician. It demands the highest moral and intellectual qualities of the statesman—courage, self-possession, elevation of character and elevation of views, a nobleness and generosity of nature that attracts confidence, and can inspire enthusiasm, the spirit of persuasion and the spirit of command combined. Let the annals of the country, in some of the darkest moments which have ever lowered upon its

*In the speech alluded to, (made on the 12th Feb. 1838, on the powers of the Vice-President as presiding officer of the Senate,) Mr. Van Buren comments on the "attempt" of Mr. Adams, in his inaugural address, "to trace the origin of the two great political parties," "which," he adds, "have divided the country from the adoption of the Constitution to the present day," and after rejecting Mr. Adams' theory, he gives his own in the following words: "They" (the two great political parties of Federalist and Republican) "arose from other and very different causes. They are, in truth, mainly to be ascribed to the struggle between two opposing principles that have been in active operation in this country from the closing scenes of the Revolutionary war to the present day—the one seeking to absorb, as far as practicable, all power from its legitimate sources and condense it into a single head; the other, an antagonist principle, labouring as assiduously to resist the encroachments and limit the extent of Executive authority."

fortunes, be consulted, and they will answer whether HENRY CLAY or MARTIN VAN BUREN is the man for such a crisis.

I have thus, my dear sir, with the frankness due to our relations of friendship, personal and political, given you my views on a subject which is soon to absorb so large a portion of the public attention, and to which no good citizen can be indifferent. I flatter myself they will meet your concurrence, and that of our Republican friends who have acted with us in the trying scenes through which we have passed; but in any event, I am sure they will be received by you with the kindness and cordiality, in the spirit of which I pray you to believe me, most truly and faithfully, yours,

W. C. RIVES.

Col. EDMUND FONTAINE, Hanover.

REMEDIES FOR DISEASES OF CATTLE.

Redwater. Bleed (says Youatt) first, and then give a dose of 1 lb. of Epsom salts, and 1 lb. doses repeated every eight hours until the bowels are acted upon. In Hampshire they give 4 oz., bole armeniac, and 2 oz. spirits of turpentine in a pint of gruel.

Blackwater is the concluding and commonly fatal stage of redwater.

Cleansing Drink. 1 oz. of bayberry powdered, 1 oz. of brimstone powdered, 1 oz. of cummseed powdered, 1 oz. of diapente. Boil these together for ten minutes; give when cold, in gruel.

Colic. The best remedy is 1 pint of linseed oil, mixed with 1/2 oz. of laudenum.

A Cordial is easily made by 1 oz. of caraway seeds, 1 oz. of aniseeds, 4 oz. of ginger powdered, 2 oz. fenugreek seeds. Boil these in a pint and a half of beer for ten minutes, and administer when cold.

Diarrhoea. Give 1 1/2 oz. of powdered catechu, and ten grains of powdered opium, in a little gruel.

Dysentery. The same as for diarrhoea.

Fever. Bleed; and then, if the bowels are constipated, give 1 lb. of Epsom salts in three pints of water daily, in gruel.

Hoove, Hoven. Use the elastic tub. As a prevention, let them be well supplied with common salt, and restrained from rapid feeding on rank grass or clover.

Mango. 1/2 lb. of black brimstone, 1 pint of turpentine, 1 pint of train oil. Mix them together, and rub the mixture well in over the affected parts.

Milk Fever, or Gorget. 2 oz. of brimstone, 2 oz. diapente, 1 of cummseed powdered, 1 oz. of powdered nitre. Give this daily in a little gruel, and well rub the udder with a little goose grease.

Murrian. 1/2 lb. of salts, 2 oz. of bruised coriander seed, 1 oz. of gentian powder. Give these in a little water.

Poisons swallowed by oxen are commonly the yew, the water hemlock. 1 1/2 pint of linseed oil is the best remedy.

Purg, in Poisoning—either a lb. of salts in a quart of water gruel, or a pint to a pint and a half of linseed oil.

Sprains. Embrace; 8 oz. of sweet oil, 4 oz. of hartshorn, 1 1/2 oz. oil of thyme.

Sting of the Ader, or Slow Warm. Apply immediately the strong spirits of hartshorn, for sting of bees, apply chalk or whitenings, mixed with vinegar.

Worms. Bais: give 1 1/2 lb. of Epsom salts, with 2 oz. of coriander seed bruised, in a quart of water.

Yellows. 2 oz. of diapente, 1 oz. of cummseed powdered, 2 oz. of fenugreek powdered. Boil these for ten minutes in a quart of water, and give daily in a little gruel.

Johnson's Farm. Encyclopaedia.

TRANSPLANTING FRUIT TREES IN WINTER.—Nine times out of ten, fruit trees, put out in the winter, do not grow so freely as when transplanted in the spring. Therefore, we recommend such as intend to make or renew their orchards, if they have trees, to "heel them in" till the spring. We mean by heeling in, that a trench should be dug about a foot deep and wide; let the dirt be thrown on one side. Then put in the roots of the trees, seven or eight deep, sprinkle the soil well amongst the roots, and cover about half the body of the trees. This will preserve them till the proper season for planting out arrives.—*Agriculturist.*

This is a good season to make manure. If possible, have shelters for the manure heaps, and haul out in February and March.—*Id.*

MR. WEBSTER.—It is said that Mr. Webster is soon to address a letter to the public through the papers announcing his determination to abide the decision of the whig presidential convention, and his belief that the nominee will be Henry Clay, to whom he will give his support.