



THE "FREE PRESS,"

By George Howard,

Is published every Friday, at THREE DOLLARS per year, consisting of 52 numbers, and in the same proportion for a shorter period. Subscribers at liberty to discontinue at any time, on paying arrearages.

Advertisements inserted at fifty cents per square, or less, for the first insertion, and twenty-five cents each continuance.

Letters addressed to the Editor must be *post paid*.

COMMUNICATIONS.

[BY REQUEST.]

The following is an ADDRESS expressive of the sense of a Democratic Republican meeting of the citizens of Fayette and Greene counties, Pa. friendly to the nomination of W. H. CRAWFORD for President, and A. GALLATIN for Vice-President, held on the 26th June 1824.

Fellow Citizens: Deeply impressed with the importance of the Presidential election, we sincerely regret to be compelled to differ from our friends and brother republicans who met in convention at Harrisburg.

The violence of party spirit may, for a time, be allayed. Men, long opposed to the republicans, may find it convenient to drop their name. But the difference of political opinion which distinguishes the two great parties of the United States, is founded in nature, and continues to exist. We deem it essential to preserve the ascendancy of the Republican party, not from personal attachment to any individual, but in order to maintain those principles of constitutional liberty, of respect for state rights, of wise economy, and of impartiality towards all foreign nations, on which that party was founded, and which it has uniformly supported.

The choice of a President, of similar opinions, is of primary importance to attain that object. Such a man will administer government in conformity with the principles we profess, and, for that purpose, will select men entertaining the same views for his confidential advisers, and to fill the principal offices. A President, or, indeed, a head of department, holding different opinions, must administer government contrary either to the principles of the republican party, or to his own.

It appears impossible to us that the election of a republican President can be secured, or that the republican party can be maintained, without union with republicans in other states, as has always heretofore been done and with success.—The state democratic conventions are useful, & can be binding only for state purposes, but, if used for the Presidential election, in opposition to the republicans of the other states, they must necessarily defeat every hope of general concert, and annihilate the republican party of the United States.

The immediate result, if there is no general concert, will be to throw the election into the House of Representatives, where Pennsylvania, and the other large states, or, to speak more properly, where the people will lose all their weight, where an ample field will be opened for bargains and corruption, and where

Members of Congress, whom you blame for having only proposed, will have the power to appoint the President. We have no doubt of the purity of the republican members who absented themselves from the meeting where nominations were made for President and Vice President, but we may be permitted to assert, that if those who attended, had been actuated by corrupt motives, they would have used every endeavor to produce a result which offered an opportunity to barter their votes for offices. Was it not patriotic in them to pursue a different course? Can any other mode be devised, has any other been suggested, to preserve the republican party entire, and to prevent the danger of an election by the House of Representatives, than what has been called a Congressional caucus? Has not this been uniformly resorted to, and placed at the head of the nation not only eminent and able patriots, but men who were emphatically the choice of the people? How can it be then asserted that it has a tendency to deprive them of their rights? And is there not some reason to suspect that this new clamor against Congressional nominations, originating, in the first instance, in exclusive and too pertinacious attachment to men, has been eagerly and too successfully encouraged by the political opponents of the republican party.

Nominations, either by Republican members of Congress, Delegates in State Conventions, or meetings of citizens anywhere, are only nominations submitted to the people, and not binding on them. All have a right thus to nominate, and none to dictate. Congressional nominations have been heretofore successful, by submitting to the people the man who enjoyed, not in any particular District, but thro'out the United States, the greatest share of public confidence? and by inducing the other candidates of the Republican party to withdraw their pretensions. That this was the ruling principle of the late nomination at Washington, we have no reason to doubt? but, since we have two distinct nominations, it is the duty and the right of the people to examine the qualifications, of the citizens proposed, and to decide accordingly.

The selection at Harrisburg of a person for Vice President, who a few days before was warmly supported for the office of President against Gen. Jackson, is as extraordinary as it was unexpected. The object of that sudden change of position was not certainly to promote Gen. Jackson's election, but ultimately to elevate another man to the Presidential chair. And in the meanwhile, from the manner in which the proceedings were conducted, and the electoral ticket was formed, the real friends of the General will be compelled to give their vote for the office of Vice President, to a person who probably would not have been the object of their choice.

None have valued the *military* services of Gen. Jackson more highly? and none have felt more gratitude towards him for his glorious victory at New

Orleans, than we have. His name has been always treated by us with that sincere respect we felt for him? this feeling in his favor, although in our opinion, carried to a dangerous excess was natural and honorable to the people: and it is a matter of much regret to us that he has been placed in a situation, which now forces us to canvass opinions of his, which we would otherwise have willingly covered with the veil of oblivion.

The opinions of Gen. Jackson, on the formation of a cabinet without regard to party, would not only tend to the extinction of the Republican party, or, in other words to the annihilation of those principles on which it is founded? but it appears to us, in fact, a declaration that political principles are of no importance in the administration of government—a doctrine contradicted by the general sense of mankind, as well as by the universal feelings and practice of the citizens of the United States? and which, if admitted, would substitute most dangerous sectional divisions, most corrupt personal factions, and most scandalous coalitions, to party distinctions, founded on honest differences of political opinion. But it was unnecessary to dwell on this topic. The Harrisburg Delegates were, it is said, all Republicans: the Federalists were, in most districts, avowedly excluded from any share in the election. The convention was presumed to be, and called itself, a Democratic convention, recognizing in its formation, and by its name, the existence of the party and the necessity of maintaining it. It is impossible, for a moment, to suppose that they should, notwithstanding his great personal merits, have nominated Gen. Jackson for President, had they known it to be his opinion that the first magistrate ought to appoint his cabinet, or in other words to administer government, without regard to party.

We have seen in Gen. Jackson's former conduct, sufficient evidence that his great energy of character, so highly serviceable in the field, had, in many instances, led him to acts which we could not approve. In his repeated collisions with the Judiciary authority—in his assuming, by the occupation of Pensacola, and by his contingent orders to occupy St. Augustine, the power of making war, which was not, and could not be delegated to him since, by the constitution, it belongs exclusively to Congress—a dangerous disposition was made apparent, to transcend the powers vested in him, and to pay little regard to the laws, or to the constitution, whenever they stood in the way of what the public good, in his opinion, required. But his avowal that he would, as General, have punished, by a court martial,* men presumed to be guilty of treasonable practices, whom it was not deemed proper or practicable to prosecute before the ordinary tribunals, and who, not acting in a military capacity, were however culpable, entitled at all events to a trial by jury, is subversive of the fundamental principles of our constitution, of civil liberty, and indeed of any government of laws.

The tried patriotism of Gen. Jackson, his sincerity, the purity of his motives, perhaps his military habits, may be an apology for many of his acts, and for the opinions he professes, but would not render those less dangerous in a civil officer. They appear indeed not to have been formed hastily, but to be generally the result of deliberate reflection and of perfect conviction. His contingent orders to seize St. Augustine were issued after he had left the field? and his determination to have tried, if in command, the leaders of the Hartford Convention by a court-martial* was expressed two years after the facts to which it refers had taken place. We consider, therefore, these opinions and avowed principles of Gen. Jackson, as incompatible with the qualifications required in the first magistrate of a free people, in an officer, whose primary duty it is to support the constitution and those fundamental principles of civil and political liberty, which are its basis, and to provide for the strict and faithful execution of the laws.

We have been compelled with reluctance to say so much of this distinguished citizen, because he was nominated by the Democratic convention of this State. We have not the same motive for comparing together the merits of the other candidates, and neither of them requires, in order to be extolled, that his competitors should be depreciated. We can only repeat the expression of our regret the Republican interest should be divided by a competition between men whose political opinions do not materially differ. We see no better mode of avoiding that evil than by supporting the nomination made at Washington: and we do it cheerfully, because in that nomination we see nothing to object and much to approve.

To long experience, undoubted talents, inflexible integrity, firmness and vigor of character, Mr. CRAWFORD unites an unshaken attachment to the Republican cause and principles, and in an eminent degree that most valuable of all qualifications in a President, a most sound and correct judgment. He gave a decisive proof of his disinterested patriotism, when yielding to the older and longer services of Mr. Monroe, and withdrawing from all competition for the office of President rather than to divide the Republican party. He has managed with as much skill as integrity the financial concerns of the nation, having, amidst many obstacles, notwithstanding the great pressure of the times, and without any increase of taxation, lessened the public debt near thirty millions of dollars. His opposition to unnecessary expenses, & abuses of any kind, has enlisted against him the whole host of intriguers and office hunters. For that same opposition which had uniformly characterized the Republican party, he and his friends have been designated by the supposed contemptuous name of Radicals? an appellation which we are willing to accept, if our political opponents think that it will promote their views, to give it to us, and

to assume our colors and name. Because he was the best hope of the Republican party, he has lately been assailed by charges not less frivolous than unfounded? charges which have been repelled and disproved in the most triumphant manner, and for which there was no color, but his having tried, at the same time, to collect the public dues, and to save the Western people from utter ruin, by affording them, as far as was consistent with law and duty, the facilities indispensable to enable them to pay for their purchases of public lands. A disciple and a friend of Jefferson and of Madison, he will, if elected, administer government in conformity with those same principles by which they were actuated.

Our fellow-citizen, ALBERT GALLATIN, is so well known to the people of Pennsylvania, that we do not think it necessary for us to remind you of his long services and political principles. You know that the Electors nominated by the Harrisburg Convention are bound to vote for another candidate.

Fellow-citizens, the decision rests with you. Remember that the People of the United States are the example and the hope of mankind? that to them, a kind Providence has entrusted the sacred duty of preserving, inviolate, that liberty, which alone in the world, they are permitted to enjoy in its fullest extent. Let it not be said, that *they*, above all that the Democratic citizens of Pennsylvania have, like so many now enslaved nations, sacrificed their principles and their rights at the shrine of military glory, and abandoned their political faith for the worship of man. Do not persist in a determination which you must now know to be founded in error. Do not desert the good old Republican cause? rally once more around its well-known banners, and once more it will triumph. Acting with concert, you will avert the danger of a military administration, prevent the election devolving on Congress, and defeat the expectations of the perpetual enemies of the rights of man, and of the government of the people, of those whose only hopes rest on your divisions, and on a temporary delusion.

*The trial of all crimes, except in cases of impeachment, shall be by jury. No person shall be held to answer for a capital or otherwise infamous crime, unless on a presentment, or indictment of a Grand Jury, except in cases arising in the land or naval forces or in the militia, when in actual service, in time of war or public danger.

*In all criminal prosecutions, the accused shall enjoy the right to a speedy and public trial by an impartial jury.—*Constitution U. S.*

Tennessee.—Gov. Carroll has issued his proclamation, calling an extra session of the legislature of Tennessee, at Murfreesborough, on the third Monday in September next, for the purpose of providing for the election of Electors of President and Vice-President of the United States, the legislature, at its last session, having, thro' mistake, fixed on a day for said election, different from that designated by the Constitution of the United States.