



THE "FREE PRESS,"

By George Howard,

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COMMUNICATIONS.

FOR THE FREE PRESS.

Mr. Howard:

I saw a printed Address to the People of Louisiana, by the friends of Gen. Jackson at Orleans. I suppose they are apprehensive Jackson will lose the state of Louisiana: they admit that Clay is the favorite. If he should resign, they are very apprehensive Crawford will get the vote of that state; to prevent it, as much as in them lay, the aforementioned Address was published, and is now circulated in this district. After examining the Address, and taking the fustian and declamation from it, I can discover not an argument why Jackson should be the President, except he commanded the army which chastised the Indians, and that he was commander of the army that fought the battle of New-Orleans: not a syllable of his learning, not a word of those qualifications necessary to make a civil magistrate, the chief of which he is now aiming at. Gen. Macomb, when he repulsed the British, fourteen thousand strong, at Plattsburg, did this nation as much service as did the army under Jackson at Orleans. If Provost had penetrated to Albany with his army, and New-York had been blockaded by sea, would there not have been, under the then excitement in New-England, a strong probability that a portion of those states would have revolted? Macomb drove the British back, and the dreadful calamity was avoided; yet no person ever thought Gen. Macomb was to be made President because he done his duty. The people of Louisiana are French and Spaniards, we would prefer the advice of other people. Mr. Crawford has been recommended by large bodies of intelligent Americans, and we will support him, because he has learning, honesty, and abilities. He will take care of the people's money; he has no use for a direct tax, stamp tax, still tax, alien laws nor sedition laws. The Constitution will be preserved, and the people live free and happy, without war's alarms. Let Adams be elected and all his father's politics and prejudices will be brought into action. If you elect Jackson, he necessarily will long for those scenes where he obtained his glory—wars. Let those who wish their sons to be slaughtered to raise the name of Jackson with that of Napoleon, vote for him; but those who love peace, liberty, and security of property, without any oppressive taxes, vote for Crawford.

A.

For the Free Press.

Mr. GALLATIN was a soldier of the Revolution; he was a long time a Member of Congress, and by his efforts dethroned John Adams. He is accused by the ignorant of stirring up rebellion, when the still stax was laid to maintain a standing army in time of peace; but does judge Marshall say so in his history of that transaction? Do the prosecutors of Fries say so in his trial? No. Would not Mr. Gallatin have been prosecuted if it had been true? He would. Mr. Gallatin was Secretary of the Treasury during the eight years Mr. Jefferson was President, with a salary of \$5000 per annum. He has just resigned the office of Ambassador, which he held for several years, with a salary of \$9000 per annum. Those were offices where great talents and much industry were necessary. The office of Vice-President is next to a sinecure, and the salary is \$5000, which Mr. Gallatin would be no gainer by accepting. He has been always willing to perform any office the people conferred on him, and if elected would perform it, although his expenses will amount to the salary.

A.

FOR THE FREE PRESS.

Mr. Editor:

The distinguishing characteristic of the American people is their ability to investigate the merits of those who aspire to rule over them; this qualification, connected with the unrestricted freedom of the press, the palladium of liberty, elevates them in comparison with other nations to a station proudly pre-eminent. Possessing these advantages, it becomes incumbent on them to exercise due vigilance that their real interests may not be subverted, and their privileges remain unfettered. This appears to be peculiarly necessary at the present moment; a successor to our venerable Chief Magistrate must soon be selected, and the claims of the individuals who are presented for that distinguished office, are advocated by their adherents with a zeal and pertinacity that clearly indicates the anxious solicitude of the parties concerned.

An article in your last paper, signed *Cicero*, urges the claims of Mr. CRAWFORD in a manner that, in my estimation, requires a critical examination. The panegyric strains that are so profusely scattered through his production, will no doubt be duly appreciated; as however, he has adduced specified claims in support of his favorite, which may perhaps have some weight with our citizens, I deem it necessary to strip them of the glare and tinsel in which they are enshrouded, and exhibit them in the nakedness of truth to the public.

Cicero's hyperbolic description of Mr. C.'s management of the Treasury department is marvellous in the extreme: after describing the "chaos and confusion," in which the monied concerns of this country has been involved during the last six years, and stating that Mr. C. "had to steer thro' this rough ocean of embarrassments, of

bankruptcies, and insolvencies," he concludes as follows:

"You have been told by the late President of the U. S. Bank, that whilst that institution acting with the utmost caution and under the guidance of some of our ablest men, has lost at least 5 or 10 per cent. upon its capital, Mr. Crawford acting alone and unassisted, has not lost to the U. S. more than 2½ per cent. and a good deal of this is in such a train as to be recovered for the government."

Was this 2½ per cent. lost on the capital of the government, on the collection of the revenue, or on what? *Cicero's* production leaves us in the dark in this respect: the recent investigation of the conduct of the Secretary dispels the mystery, and we find that the 2½ per cent. loss arose not from the collection of debts due the government, nor from the revenue, but from Mr. C.'s "great disposition to suffer the people to do as they please," by which means the money actually collected by the public Receivers for government lands was deposited in insolvent banks, by direction of the Secretary of the Treasury "alone and unassisted," in some instances in direct violation of existing laws, which resulted in a loss to the people of about half a million of dollars, and which had no reference whatever to the transactions of the U. S. Bank. The management of the Treasury department requires more industry than talent; and, notwithstanding this writer's fanciful description, is not so important in its nature nor of that variegated cast particularly calculated to qualify or entitle an individual to the Presidency. The editors of the National Intelligencer, whose official station as public printers afford a better opportunity to estimate the duties of this office, give the following description, which we may suppose is not *underrated*, as they are zealous supporters of Mr. C.'s pretensions:

"The administration of the Treasury in time of peace is necessarily almost entirely barren of incident and attraction: it presents a dry routine of duties, which, however necessary to be performed, do not, when best executed, afford eclat, or elicit popular applause."

The "magnanimity" displayed by Mr. Crawford in giving way to the pretensions of Mr. Monroe in 1816, is also produced by *Cicero* as evidence of his "possessing higher claims to this office than any other candidate." As I have noticed this circumstance in a previous communication, I shall now pass it with the single remark, that after the publication of Mr. C.'s sentiments, the Washington City Gazette, the only paper which advocated his claims at that place, said that it was *authorised* to state that nothing in that letter was intended to convey the idea that Mr. C. would not permit his name to be used, but that he would yield to the determination of his friends. If there is any *magnanimity* displayed in retiring from a contest, after a person is fairly beaten, Mr. C. is certainly entitled to credit for his conduct on that occasion.

Mr. Crawford's management of the Treasury department, connected with his "magnanimous" conduct in 1816, is relied on by *Cicero* to support him in the

assertion that "he has clearly proven to you that upon the score of *qualifications* Mr. C. is equal if not superior to any of his competitors:" of this, fellow-citizens, you are to be the judges. Desirous, however, that the people may become fully acquainted with the *peculiar* qualifications of Mr. C. I will notice a conspicuous feature in his political career, which has escaped the penetration of *Cicero*, & which is decidedly indicative of the boasted "originality of thought and vigor of intellect" of this "wise and able statesman." In one of his Reports to Congress Mr. Crawford recommended the *intermarriages of our citizens with the Indians*, as the most effectual mode of civilizing the savages. Feeling inadequate to do justice to this *original* proposition, I shall take the liberty to introduce the opinions of the able editor of the Philadelphia Democratic Press on this subject, whose sagacity and penetration will not be questioned, seeing he *now* advocates the claims of Mr. C.

"I appeal to the innate goodness of your heart, [addressing President Madison,] and I ask of you, did you ever know, in the whole compass of private or political life, a proposal so disgustingly demoralizing; I want words to express my profound abhorrence of such a proposition, and I should shudder at the official importance given to it, if I did not feel perfectly secure in its utter impracticability. No! Mr. Secretary CRAWFORD may stand forth the unfeeling, the unblushing advocate of bribery and prostitution, but he will find his filthy proposals treated with the execrations they deserve, by those whom he marks out as the victims of his flagrant want of sense, and his unnatural want of taste."

The "strenuous exertions made by intriguers & office hunters," so much dreaded by *Cicero*, having become apparent as noon-day to the people will receive merited treatment; and should the election unfortunately go to the House of Representatives, they can certainly be more effectually counteracted by that body in the public performance of a constitutional duty, than by a small unauthorised minority, composed of about one fourth of their number, "who met together in an *innocent* way," not to defeat the machinations of "intriguers and office-hunters," but for the purpose of giving their favorite an undue advantage over his competitors. I do not feel disposed to investigate the general merits of *Caucusing*: in this instance it is reduced to the simple proposition, Shall the majority govern? If so, by refraining from it they have unequivocally condemned the practice, and shown to the world that however expedient it might have proven in its adoption, experience has fully tested its utility. Our venerable Senator Nathaniel Macon, who has been emphatically styled the Cato of Republicanism, when this subject was introduced in the senate last winter, said, "I was, about twenty years past, taken in by a Caucus and said I would not attend another." Here we see, that however *innocent* a Caucus may be, the individuals who attend it may not, perhaps, be entirely free from the influence of "intriguers and office-hunters." The peo-

ple will readily determine whether the majority or minority are entitled to the epithet of a "new and aspiring set of politicians," and which is most likely to be controlled by individuals deserving the distinguishing appellations of "intriguers and office-hunters."

Cicero has been equally unfortunate in characterizing "men whose favorite policy it is to erect U. S. Banks, to appropriate money towards opening roads and canals, &c." as "wolves in sheep's clothing." He must have forgotten, or imagined that the people have forgotten, that Mr. Crawford, in 1811, voted with ALL the federalists in the Senate in favor of the renewal of the Charter of the old U. S. Bank, and that in his last Annual Treasury Report to Congress he recommended a revision of the Tariff, as it might, perhaps, be deemed advisable "to aid in objects of internal improvement."

Great stress is also laid by *Cicero* upon the *National Nomination*, as he is pleased to term the unauthorised expression of opinion of a few individuals—unauthorized, I say, by the Constitution, by the nation, by the national representation, by the party to which they profess to belong, and which has not even the merit of being sanctioned by precedent. The Constitution does not contain a sentence that by implication or construction would authorise such a meeting. The people never delegated the power to their representatives to anticipate the choice of the nation. The fundamental principle of Republican governments is, that the majority shall govern: a majority composed of three-fourths of the national representation discountenanced that proceeding. A large majority of the party, to which they profess to belong, objected to the measure. And it is not sanctioned by precedent, for in every other instance a majority of the Congressional members attended. And yet, God save the mark! this is termed a NATIONAL NOMINATION!!

Fellow-citizens, the superior qualifications ascribed to Mr. Crawford, are not evidenced in our records, nor can they be substantiated by facts of public notoriety; his elevation to the distinguished station he now occupies, can be principally attributed to the apathy of the South, in suffering public attention to be directed to him as a man of superior attainments, while the modest merit of a Macon, a Lowndes, and a Cheves, were suffered to remain in comparative obscurity. In his political life Mr. C. has not exhibited any distinguishing traits of character in a legislative, diplomatic, or financial capacity: as a senator he uniformly opposed the leading measures of the Republican party. His mission to France was a mere sinecure, as we were on amicable terms with that nation. The abuses which had crept into the War department during the war, were suffered to continue under his administration, and he left it in the utmost confusion, as has been fully evidenced in the improvements made by his successor, and the reduction of almost one half in the expenses. His con-