



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.

FOR THE FREE PRESS.

To the members of the METHODIST CHURCH.

WHEREAS many of the members, preachers and friends of the Methodist Church have been for some time past conscious of the inequitable state of the government of said church in several respects, but particularly in the total deprivation of the lay members and local preachers of representation in the General Conference—the legislative department of the Church. This Conference is composed entirely of travelling preachers, who claim for themselves the power to make all the rules for the government of the lay members, travelling and local preachers, both on moral subjects and pecuniary affairs, and to enforce them, requiring unconditional submission on pain of expulsion for forfeiture of character—of all the members and preachers.

Deeming united effort superior to individual exertion, all the people and preachers are therefore invited to unite themselves under the title of "THE UNION for the promotion of equal rights among the members and all classes of preachers in the Methodist Church." That by precept and example others may be induced to follow them in different parts of the country in forming similar associations, which shall correspond with each other, who also shall pledge themselves to propagate the principles of equal rights to the utmost of their ability, in a deliberate, firm and peaceable manner, among the members, preachers and friends of the aforesaid church.

To facilitate the above designs, the following gentlemen will please to use their efforts and influence to the utmost. In Brunswick, Va. Rev. Ed. Drumgold, jr. Rev. Wm. Jones, Maj. Wm. Gholson, Matthew Harrison, Esq. In Greensville, Va. Col. Wm. Wright. In Murfreesboro', N. C. Rev. Daniel Southall. In Northampton, Rev. H. Peebles, Rev. J. T. Weaver, Rev. T. Moore, Rev. Wm. Barrett, Rev. C. Jones, Rev. Mr. Britton, James Barrett, Esq. Sterling Boykin, Esq. James Grant, Esq. Maj. Crump. In Warren, Rev. H. Fitz, Rev. C. Drake, Rev. G. Dye, Rev. Mr. Cottrell, R. Boyd, Esq. H. G. Williams, Esq. In Franklin, Rev. C. A. Hill. In Nash, Rev. Wm. Bellamy, Jas. Hilliard, Esq. In Halifax, Rev. Henry Bradford, Rev. Jas. Hunter, Rev. E. B. Whitaker, Rev. M. Nash, Rev. C. Hines, Rev. M. Smith, Rev. Mr. Price, Rev. B. Nevill, Rev. Thos. Harten, Rev. Dr. H. Hardy, J. R. Cary, Esq.

R. Jones, Esq. Col. C. Edmonds, B. Edmonds, Esq. J. Turner, Esq. N. Pierce, Esq. M. T. Penton, Esq. H. Doggett, Esq. H. Whitaker, Esq. Wilson Whitaker, Esq. J. Whitaker, Esq. A. Whitaker, Esq. As soon as the above named persons can possibly make it convenient, they with any others who may favor such designs will please to meet in some convenient and central place, giving three weeks previous notice thereof in the *Halifax Free Press*, and all possible notice otherwise, for the purpose of drafting Rules to govern "THE UNION," after which the Rules so adopted shall be submitted to the people for their approval or alteration.

LIBERTY.

[BY REQUEST.]

GEN. JACKSON.

We have seen many labored articles in defence of General Jackson's conduct at New Orleans, during the late war; but the following, from his own pen, addressed to the Orleans troops, on that eventful occasion, so triumphantly vindicates his conduct before and after his splendid and unparalleled victory over the British on the glorious 8th of Jan. 1815, that it should satisfy even scepticism itself of the necessity,—nay, the propriety, of the course he pursued. To use the language of one of Mr. Adams' friends, "It is a piece of splendid eloquence and conclusive argument."

Petersburg Rep.

*Fellow-soldiers:* Although born and bred in a land of freedom, popular favor has always been with me a secondary object. My first wish, in political life, has been to be useful to my country. Yet, I am not insensible to the good opinion of my fellow citizens; I would do much to obtain it; but I cannot, for this purpose, sacrifice my own conscience, or what I conceive to be the interests of my country.

These principles have prepared me to receive with just satisfaction, the address you have presented. The first wish of my heart, the safety of my country, has been accomplished; and it affords me the greatest happiness to know, that the means taken to secure this object, have met the approbation of those who have had the best opportunities of judging of their propriety, and who, from their various relations, might be supposed the most ready to censure any which had been improperly resorted to. The distinction you draw, gentlemen, between those who only declaim about civil rights, and those who fight to maintain them, shows how just and practical a knowledge you have of the true principles of liberty—without such knowledge, all theory is useless or mischievous.

Whenever the invaluable rights which we enjoy under our happy constitution, are threatened by invasion; privileges the most dear, and which, in ordinary times, ought to be regarded as the most sacred, may be required to be infringed for their security. At such a crisis, we have only to determine whether we will suspend,

for a time, the exercise of the latter, that we may secure the permanent enjoyment of the former. Is it wise, in such a moment, to sacrifice the spirit of the laws to the letter, and, by adhering too strictly to the letter, lose the substance forever, in order that we may, for an instant, preserve the shadow? It is not to be imagined, that the express provisions of any written law can fully embrace emergencies, which suppose and occasion the suspension of all law, but the highest and the last, that of self-preservation. No right is more precious to a freeman than that of suffrage; but had your election taken place on the 8th of January, would your declaimers have advised you to abandon the defence of your country, in order to exercise this inestimable privilege at the polls? Is it to be supposed that your general, if he regarded the important trust committed to his charge, would have permitted you to preserve the constitution by an act which would have involved constitution, country and honor, in one distinguished ruin?

What is more justly important than personal liberty? yet, how can the civil enjoyment of this privilege be made to consist with the order, subordination and discipline of a camp? Let the sentinel be removed by *subpena* from his post; let writs of *habeas corpus* carry away the officers from the lines, and the enemy may conquer your country, by only employing lawyers to defend your constitution.

Private property is held sacred in all good governments, and particularly in our own; yet, shall the fear of invading it prevent a general from marching his army over a corn-field, or burning a house which protects an enemy?

These and a thousand other instances might be cited, to show that laws must sometimes be silent, when necessity speaks. The only question with the friend of his country will be, have these been made to be silent, wantonly & unnecessarily? If necessity dictated the measure; if a resort to it was important for the preservation of those rights which we esteem so dear, and in defence of which we had so willingly taken up arms,—surely it would not have been becoming in the commander-in-chief to have shrunk from the responsibility which it involved. He did not shrink from it. In declaring martial law, his object, and his only object, was to embody the whole resources of the country for its defence. That law, while it existed, necessarily suspended all rights and privileges inconsistent with its provisions. It is a matter of surprise, that they who boast themselves the champions of those rights and privileges, should not, when they were first put in danger by the proclamation of martial law, have manifested that lively sensibility of which they have since made so ostentatious a display. So far, however, was this from being the case, that this measure not only met, then, the open support of those who when their country was invaded, thought resistance a virtue, and the si-

lent approbation of all, but even the particular recommendation and encouragement of many who now inveigh the most bitterly against it. It was not until a victory, secured by that very measure, had lessened the danger which occasioned a resort to it, that the present feeling guardians of our rights discovered that the commanding general ought to have suffered his post to be abandoned through the interference of a foreign agent—his ranks to be thinned by desertion, and his whole army to be broken to pieces by mutiny; while yet a powerful force of the enemy remained on your coast, and within a few hours sail off your city.

I thought and acted differently. It was not until I discovered that the civil power stood no longer in need of the military for its support, that I restored to it its usual functions; and the restoration was not delayed a moment after that period had arrived.

Under these circumstances, fellow-soldiers, your resolution to let others declaim about privileges and constitutional rights, will never draw upon you the charge of being indifferent to those inestimable blessings; your attachment to them has been proved by a stronger title—that of having nobly fought to preserve them. You, who have thus supported them against the open pretensions of a powerful enemy, will never, I trust, surrender them to the underhand machinations of men who stand aloof in the hour of peril, and who, when the danger is gone, claim to be the "defenders of your constitution." An honorable peace has dissolved our military connection; and, in a few days, I shall quit a country endeared to me by the most pleasing recollections. Among the most prominent of these, gentlemen, are those I shall even entertain of the distinguished bravery, the exact discipline, the ardent zeal, and the important services of your corps. The offered friendship of each individual composing it, I receive with pleasure, and with sincerity reciprocate. I shall always pride myself on a fraternity with such men, created in such a cause.

ANDREW JACKSON.

For the Free Press.

Mr. Editor:

It has frequently been asserted by the Radical prints, altho' they have not, and we may reasonably suppose they cannot, produce any evidence to substantiate it, that Mr. Jefferson and Mr. Madison are friendly to the election of Mr. CRAWFORD as President. It is an undeniable fact that Mr. Jefferson expressed in public the following sentiment in favor of Gen. JACKSON: "honor to him who hath filled the measure of his country's honor;" this expression, associated with the following letter, and the known hostility of Mr. Crawford to the prominent measures of the administrations of those patriarchs of the republican family, undoubtedly settles the question of their preference for Mr. C. It is well known that Mr. Madison's sentiments, on this subject, are in unison

with those of the illustrious Sage of Monticello:

"Monticello, April 30.

"Sir—I must beg to be excused from answering the question proposed to me in your favor of the 11th inst. on the subject of candidates named for the next Presidency. I law it down as a law to take no part in that election. Advice on such an occasion, even were I qualified to give it, would incur a fearful responsibility. I shall be perfectly contented with any choice my fellow-citizens shall make; hoping always it will be of a character friendly to peace, to economy, to the republican principles of our constitution, and to its salutary distribution of power between the two co-ordinate branches of government, foreign and domestic. Accept the assurance of my great respect."

TH. JEFFERSON.

It may not, perhaps, be improper to remark, that this letter was written in answer to an application, by a gentleman in New-York, who expected to favor the views of Mr. Crawford in that state by an open avowal of Mr. J.'s predilection for Mr. C. As Virginians had frequently asserted this as a fact, and it had been echoed in every direction by the supporters of Mr. C., I presume the New-York writer did not imagine that the truth of it could be questioned; the probability of attaining the object, however, was worth the experiment, as it might be confidently relied on that Mr. Jefferson would not openly oppose the Virginia candidate.

B.

FOR THE FREE PRESS.

Mr. Howard:

The Presidential question having excited very uncommon interest, and the period of electing Electors to vote for President and Vice-President of the United States fast approaching, it becomes the duty of every freeman deliberately to examine the subject for himself, and form his opinion on the real merits of the pretensions of each candidate, that as a freeman he may think for himself, and have an opinion of his own, to avoid the disgrace of himself and the insult of his government by being a mere whining sycophant at the footstool of an abhorrent tribe of insidious office-hunters, who daringly sport with the liberties of freemen, and hazard the independence of the country to see themselves in power, preying upon the vitals of the people's earnings, disbursing the coffers of the treasury, to sustain idleness and luxury. The sovereign people and their Constitution never designed by creating the treasury to support the badges of royalty or nobility, but to establish the utility of a plain democratic republican government. That the people might not be burdened with taxes, the government was so organized that the principal part of the revenue should arise from duties on imported articles generally consumed in the nation, which are ultimately principally paid by the agricultural part of the community. The late change of the Tariff must be regarded by this part of the community as an approximation to monarchy, inasmuch as they are compelled to pay a higher duty on some articles and are deprived of others, for the purpose of creating manufacturing monop-