

Communications.

FOR THE FREE PRESS.

Mr. Editor—As you have so politely invited a free and fair discussion of the Presidential question through the medium of your columns—having extended the privilege to the friends of the present Administration, as well as to those of Gen. Jackson, of expressing their opinions as to the comparative merits of the two distinguished gentlemen—permit me to offer a few remarks on the subject, to the consideration of your readers, by way of review, in reply to a communication, which appeared in the "Free Press" of the 23th ult. over the signature of "A voice from North-Carolina."

The writer, after acquainting us of his long silence on the subject, and expressing his indignation and abhorrence at the idea of attacking the character of an *innocent* female, (and here I concur with him,) bursts forth in a passion, and invokes the "Ghost of Washington," and the "departed Sages of the Revolution," to pour out their wrath on all who dare oppose *his man*. Surely, he must either have the weak side of the question, or he must be at a great loss for arguments to support his cause, since it appears that he is under the necessity of imploring supernatural aid; and, judging from the general impulse of his style, he is certainly an enthusiast in the cause; and as enthusiasm and superstition are links in the same chain, though not immediately connected, we will leave him here to entangle himself, whilst we proceed to notice something, *perhaps*, of a little more importance.

This "Voice from North-Carolina" is evidently in a state of *indirect debility*; and is *predisposed*, perhaps, to phthisis pulmonalis, as the doctors say—as appears from the weak and wheezing sound, manifested in an attempt to decry the respectable editors of the National Intelligencer. The characters of these gentlemen are too well known to the people of the United States, and are fixed on too solid a foundation to suffer the least jar from the breath of such debilitated lungs. Conscious of his inability to *blow* a hair off the heads of either of these respectable editors, I will leave the "Voice" here to catch his breath, while I take a view of what *he* considers, "something of more importance."

After propounding one or two interrogatories, which I deem unworthy of notice, he asks the question, "What can ye say to Gen. Jackson's letter to Carter Beverly?" And here he anticipates his readers—he answers the question himself; and by the bye, very correctly too: but I will not go so far as to accuse Gen. Jackson of being a wilful and malicious liar—I will make use of a softer word towards the General—I will only say that he is mistaken. Moreover, I do not deny that the proposal, spoken of by Gen. Jackson in his letter to Mr. Beverly, was made to the General or some of his friends; but I do not believe that it was done with Mr. Clay's

"privity or consent"—I do not believe that Mr. Clay had any knowledge of any such a proposal—on the contrary, I believe Mr. Clay to be a high-minded, honest, and independent man, who asks and wants nothing from the hand of power. These are my sentiments of Mr. Clay; what they are in respect to Mr. Adams, may be inferred from what has been said.

I will now bid the "Voice" a farewell, while I *blow* a little myself; and should he find his lungs sufficiently *intonated* to sound another blast, I will open my ears to his "Voice" and give it a re-echo; at which time I propose to give my views of the present Administration more fully.

Sampson Snakeroot.



Tarborough,

SATURDAY, AUGUST 11, 1837.

The next number will close the third volume of the "Free Press"—the first of its publication in this place. We embrace this opportunity to render to its patrons our unfeigned thanks for the encouragement which it has received, and to assure them of our determination to exert to the utmost the slender abilities we possess, to render it worthy of their support. The enquiry has frequently been made, whether an enlargement of our paper would not ensure it a greater extent of patronage—when we look at the difficulties with which similar establishments in this section of the State are confessedly struggling, and their occasional transfers and suspensions, we cannot but hesitate to increase our expenses with the prospect merely of a *probable* increase of income. We have to exercise at present the most rigid economy to avoid embarrassment—we have but little to lose, and feel no inclination to jeopardize the property of others, well knowing that a failure in such cases is generally attributed to "extravagance, incapacity, or indiscretion." In common with the generality of mankind, we are anxious to extend our business to the utmost limit, and could be much gratified to see the Free Press make its appearance on a sheet of superior dimensions—from the support already extended to us, which we trust will be continued and increased, we feel assured that at the close of the ensuing volume we will be enabled to present the Free Press to its patrons in an enlarged and improved form.

We would suggest to those unacquainted with newspaper usages, that it is not customary to renew subscriptions at the expiration of the year—it is presumed that they will continue, unless a notification to the contrary is given, which can be effected personally at the ensuing Courts, or through the medium of the Postmaster at whose office they receive their papers.

¶ We expect to attend Halifax County Court, on Monday week, anticipating renewed assurances of support from our old friends and patrons in that that vicinity.

ELECTION RETURNS.

Beaufort County—For Congress—T. H. Hall, 606—R. Hines, 594. **Senate**, J. O. K. Williams. **Commons**, Wm. A. Blount and Tho. W. Blackledge.

Nash—W. W. Boddie, 685—J. W. Bryan, 68—C. A. Hill, 37—D. Turner, 3. **W. Sneed**, 0, **Congress**. Nicholas J. Drake, **Senate**. James N. Mann and Fred. Battle, **Commons**.

Craven—John H. Bryan, no opposition, **Congress**. Richard D. Spaight, **Senate**. Charles J. Nelson and Lucas

Benner, **Commons**. John Stanly, member for the town of Newbern.

Newspapers are things that can be dispensed with, as costing money which might be saved. So is the schooling of our children—so indeed, are nine-tenths of what it costs us to live. Almost every man might lay up money every year, if he would live on bread and water, and clothe himself in the cheapest manner he could. But what of that? who would live like a brute and die like a beggar, for the mere pleasure of saving money which he cannot carry hence with him—tho' like a dead weight, it may hang upon his soul at the last moment of his mortal existence! there are a few such—five or ten in a million, and what wretched creatures are they!—Most men, sensible that they must die, are disposed to enjoy a little of the fruits of their toils; and nothing is perhaps more necessary to the enjoyment of society or self-satisfaction in retirement, than a well-informed and virtuous mind: it gives a zest to all things in prosperity, and is the best resource in adversity. Newspapers, tho' not always conducted with talents and respectability, are the best possible channels for obtaining acquaintance with the affairs of the world, and to implant desires in the heart of youth for more solid reading as he goes on to maturity. In truth, they are the great engine that moves the moral and political world, and are infinitely powerful to establish the character of a people as well as to preserve their liberties....*Niles*.

Mr. Adams.—A few months since, a libel suit was instituted at Philadelphia by Mr. Leavitt Harris, formerly U. S. Consul at St. Petersburg, against a gentleman who had publicly charged him with misconduct in the discharge of his official duties—the damages were laid at \$100,000; the Jury awarded the prosecutor only \$100. On the trial a mass of evidence was introduced, part of which was from the pen of Mr. John Quincy Adams—the following *extraordinary* letter to Mr. Harris was among these documents—extracts from it having been given in several newspapers, the National Journal has given the following as a *correct copy*. We invite the attention of the candid and considerate reader to a close examination of the contents of this letter, and ask what would have been thought, at that momentous crisis in our national affairs, a few weeks previous to the battle of New Orleans, when "the whole colossal power of Great Britain" was "collected to crush us at a blow"—when Jackson in the South, and Brown in the North, were marshalling their respective quotas of our "five efficient regiments," to protect the *booty and beauty* of the Union—what would *then* have been thought of the patriotism of any individual who committed to paper, with the probable chance of its falling into the hands of the enemy, sentiments like the following—yet Mr. Adams, then holding the double appointment of Minister to St. Petersburg, and Commissioner at Ghent to negotiate a treaty of peace, sends a letter several hundred miles through a country where British influence predominated, and thus expresses himself in relation to the people and the government whose agent he is:—"Divided among ourselves, more in passions than interest, with half the nation sold by their prejudice and their ignorance to our enemy, with a feeble and penurious government, with five frigates for a navy, and scarcely five efficient regiments for an army, how can it be expected that we should resist the mass of force which that gigantic power

has collected to crush us at a blow!" Mr. Clay was also one of the Commissioners at Ghent, and as he has become the expounder and promulgator of Mr. Adams's opinions, we trust that he will consider this a favorable opportunity to present to the public, his promised disclosures respecting certain events which occurred at Ghent—and will also inform the people whether that "*half of the nation*," which was sold to the enemy during the late war, now advocates or opposes Mr. A.'s claims to the Chief Magistracy of our "*feeble and penurious government*."

"Ghent, 16th Nov. 1814.

"The occurrences of the war in America have been of a diversified nature. Success and defeat have alternately attended the army of both belligerents, and hitherto have left them nearly where they were, at the commencement of the campaign. It has been, on our part, merely defensive, with the single exception of the taking of Fort Erie, with which it began. The battles of Chippewa and of Bridgewater, the defence of Fort Erie on the 15th August, and the naval action on Lake Champlain on the 11th of September, have redounded to our glory as much as to our advantage; while the loss of Washington, the capitulations of Alexandria and of Washington county, Massachusetts, and Nantucket, have been more disgraceful to us than injurious. The defence of Baltimore has given us little more to be proud of than the demonstrations against it had afforded to our enemy. Prevost's retreat from Plattsburg has been more disgraceful to them than honorable to us; and Wellington's veterans, the fire-eater Brisbane, and the fire-brand Cockburn, have kept the rank of our militia in countenance by their expertness in the art of running away.

"The general issue of the campaign is yet to come, and there is too much reason to apprehend that it will be unfavorable to our side. Left by a concurrence of circumstances unexampled in the annals of the world, to struggle alone and friendless, against the whole Colossal power of Great Britain; fighting in reality against her for the cause of all Europe, with all Europe coldly looking on, basely bound not to raise in our favor a helping hand, secretly wishing us success, and not daring so much as to cheer us in the strife, what could be expected from the first furies of this unequal conflict, but disaster and discomfiture to us? Divided among ourselves, more in passions than interest, with half the nation sold by their prejudice and their ignorance to our enemy, with a feeble and penurious government, with five frigates for a navy, and scarcely five efficient regiments for an army, how can it be expected that we should resist the mass of force which that gigantic power has collected to crush us at a blow! This, too, in the moment which she has chosen to break through all the laws of war, acknowledged and respected by civilized nations. Under the false pretence of retaliation, Cockburn has formally declared the determination to destroy and lay waste all the towns on the sea coast which may be assailable. The ordinary horrors of war are mildness and mercy in comparison with what British vengeance