

# Communications.

FOR THE FREE PRESS.

## To Sampson Snakeroot.

Sir: You say you "do not believe" that the proposal made to Gen. Jackson, by some honorable incognito, "was with Mr. Clay's privity or consent"—and you likewise say you do not believe that Mr. Clay had any knowledge of any such a proposal. "On the contrary," you "believe Mr. Clay to be a high-minded, honest and independent man, who asks nothing from the hand of power." Now, Sir, permit me to ask you if these your several "beliefs" and "non-beliefs" are offered as so many proofs in behalf of Mr. Clay's innocency of the charge alleged against him by more than nine-tenths of the republican sages of the country? Are the friends of Gen. Jackson to receive these "beliefs" and "non-beliefs" as an indubitable evidence that Mr. Clay is that pure, immaculate, "high-minded and independent man," into which you have presumptuously attempted to metamorphose him by the novel process of bare "beliefs" and "non-beliefs?" If so, Sir, you will at least have the kindness, we hope, to favor us with a microscope or some other optic instrument, that we may view the hidden grounds on which you have founded these incontrovertible "beliefs" and "non-beliefs," which it seems you would if possible palm upon us, without so much as satisfying us that they possess the least particle of authenticity. Until you do this, Sir, we shall continue to "believe" with the knowing ones, as we have heretofore believed, that your friend Mr. Clay was privy to the "proposal" of bargain and sale made to Gen. Jackson; and moreover, that the said "proposal" of bargain and sale came from Mr. Clay, and consequently was made with his "privity and consent."

You, I confess, have a right to "believe" what you please and when you please, about matters of any sort; but, Sir, is there not some degree of inconsistency in a man's coming out before the public with the mere assertion that he "does not believe," or he "does believe" this, that and the other, without stating wherefore he "does not believe," or he "does believe" this, that and the other? You, Sir, deem it proper to ridicule "A Voice from North-Carolina" for debility of lungs and imbecility of mind; but, Sir, are you certain that you have aught to boast of in point of strong lungs and potency of mind? If you think him such an imbecile, (and as you say "unworthy of notice") wherefore did so powerful a writer as "Sampson" condescend to notice this weak, debilitated and consumptive scribbler; and wherefore does he promise to notice him again, "should he find his lungs sufficiently intonated to sound another blast?" If, Sir, you have no other arguments to offer in support of Mr. Clay's innocence and purity, than your bare "beliefs" and "non-beliefs," your ridicule, sarcasm, and medical gibberish, we "believe" you

will never effect a reformation in the minds of those who "believe" the reverse of what you "believe," as it respects your unfortunate friend Mr. Clay. But, should your arguments have the contrary effect from what we now "believe" they will, we will not only acknowledge that you are more potent than "A Voice from North-Carolina," but will likewise confess that you are more powerful with your "Snakeroot," than was your namesake of yore with the jaw bone of an ass, notwithstanding he slew a legion, and performed a number of other feats no less astonishing to the world. A.



## Tarborough,

SATURDAY, AUGUST 25, 1827.

[P] This number commences the fourth volume of the "Free Press"—we have been attentive and punctual to our weekly engagement with our Patrons, and as this is the commencement of another volume, we trust that those residing in this vicinity who are in arrears for the last, will not fail to speak a word of encouragement to us at the ensuing Courts. We call the attention of our patrons particularly to our terms of publication:

### THE "FREE PRESS,"

By Geo. Howard,

Is published weekly, (every Saturday,) at TWO DOLLARS per year, (or 52 numbers,) if paid within one month after Subscribers commence receiving their papers—Two Dollars & Fifty Cents, if paid within six months—and Three Dollars at the expiration of the year. Subscribers at liberty to discontinue at any time on paying arrears.

[P] We tender our grateful acknowledgments to our patrons in Halifax, and assure them that we feel as we ought for their friendly assurances of support, and the determination so generally expressed to us in our visit this week, to continue their aid in sustaining our establishment. We hope the day is not distant when we shall be enabled to present the Free Press to its patrons, in form and feature worthy the united support of this and the adjacent counties.

**Congressional Elections.**—The following is the official statement of the polls of the Congressional election in this district, compared at Washington, the 16th inst. It will be seen that Dr. Thos. H. Hall is elected by a majority of 310 votes, over Richard Hines, Esq. the late member:

|             | Hall. | Hines. |
|-------------|-------|--------|
| Edgecombe,  | 924   | 312    |
| Pitt,       | 394   | 664    |
| Washington, | 247   | 182    |
| Tyrrell,    | 243   | 165    |
| Beaufort,   | 611   | 603    |
| Hyde,       | 267   | 450    |
|             | 2686  | 2376   |

Majority, 310

The following was the state of the poll in 1825, the same gentlemen being candidates:

|             | Hall. | Hines. |
|-------------|-------|--------|
| Edgecombe,  | 968   | 349    |
| Pitt,       | 326   | 705    |
| Washington, | 198   | 264    |
| Tyrrell,    | 206   | 218    |
| Beaufort,   | 489   | 580    |
| Hyde,       | 156   | 491    |
|             | 2343  | 2607   |
|             |       | 2343   |

Majority for Hines in 1825, 264

**Halifax Election.**—Isham Matthews, no opposition, *Senate*. Geo. E. Spruill and Wm. E. Shine, *Commons*. [J. A. Bynum was elected, without opposi-

tion, for the town.] State of the poll for the Commons, A. A. Wyche being also a candidate....195 scattering votes were taken, in addition to the following:

|               | Spruill. | Shine. | Wyche. |
|---------------|----------|--------|--------|
| At Halifax,   | 143      | 150    | 63     |
| Enfield,      | 81       | 4      | 46     |
| Faulcon's,    | 6        | 28     | 24     |
| Haile's,      | 68       | 106    | 32     |
| Scotland N'k, | 160      | 22     | 67     |
| Harvey's,     | 34       | 3      | 9      |
| Webb's,       | 32       | 19     | 36     |
| Brinkley's,   | 38       | 11     | 52     |
|               | 562      | 343    | 329    |

Hyde....Benj. Sanderson, S. John B. Jasper and Wallace Styron, C.  
Washington....Samuel Davenport, S. Wm. A. Bozman and A. N. Vail, C.  
Tyrrell....Davenport, S. Dan'l Bateman and John Beasley, C.  
Greene....Jesse Speight, S. R. Harper and Joseph Ellis, C.  
Wayne....G. Sherrard, S. R. Washington and Joshua Hastings, C.  
Franklin....James House, S. Joel King and H. I. J. Ruffin, C.  
Warren....M. T. Hawkins, S. Rob't H. Jones and Ransom Walker, C.

**Lamentable Occurrence.**—We understand that Mr. Bythal Hardy, aged about 22 years, residing in this county, came to his death on the 10th inst. in the following manner: he had been unwell a few days previous, had taken medicine, and was advised to take some salts...unfortunately there happened to be some salt petre in the house also, and his mother through mistake gave him some of the salt petre, which terminated his existence in a few hours.

**Sickness.**—We learn with regret that in the lower part of Halifax county, the bilious fever is prevailing to a considerable extent, and frequently with a fatal termination. The following persons have recently become victims to this distressing disease...William Pope, William Webb, Mrs. Priscilla Dukes, and Mrs. Sally Mangrum, all residents of Scotland Neck.

[P] The Rev. WM. E. BELLAMY will preach at Hardaway's meeting-house, in this county, on the fourth Sunday (26th) of this month.—Com.

**Another change.**—About two months since we noticed the transfer of the "Edenton Gazette," from Mrs. Sarah Wills to Nath'l Bruer & D. H. Goodman—that paper is now published "by J. H. Barchift for N. Bruer, Proprietor."

**Mr. Buchanan.**—We will insert in our next paper this gentleman's statement relative to the supposed proposition made to Gen. Jackson. Mr. B. substantially confirms the conversation as related by Gen. J. but says he acted upon his own "individual responsibility, and not as the agent of Mr. Clay or any other person." The matter will probably rest here, unless Mr. C. should present to the public some comments on the several statements which have appeared. The only effectual way to remove the doubt and mystery in which this complicated business is enveloped, will be to bring it before a Congressional Committee fully empowered to sift the subject in any and every form in which it may be presented.

**Mr. Clay.**—It appears that this gentleman will not "rejoice" in vain, "that a specific accusation by a responsible accuser, has at length appeared," altho' Gen. Jackson declines the honor conferred on him by Mr. C. Mr. McDuffie, in a public speech, has become Mr. C.'s voluntary accuser, and his reputation is pledged to substantiate charges to a greater extent than has yet appeared....these require no construction or interpretation, they are adapted to the dullest comprehension, and are as follows:

"Now I assert, and pledge my reputation upon the truth of the assertion, that John Q. Adams was elected against the will of a majority of the American people, and of a majority of the States,

by a minority of the representatives in Congress, a considerable proportion of which minority, including Henry Clay, voted against their avowed principles, and against what they knew to be the known will of a large majority of their constituents.

"I also assert, and am willing to stake my humble stock of political reputation upon the truth of the assertion, that the circumstances of the extraordinary coalition between Mr. Adams and Mr. Clay, furnish as strong evidence of an abandonment of political principle on the part of Mr. Clay, and a corrupt political bargain between him and Mr. Adams, as is ordinarily required in courts of justice, to establish the guilt of those who are charged with the highest crimes known to the law."

**Casualty.**—On the 1st inst. a seaman named Thomas Franklin, belonging on board the sloop Nestor, Smith, lying at the wharf of Messrs. Havens & Smith, fell overboard and was drowned; his body was found in nearly the same place about twenty-four hours after. Franklin was a native of Maryland.—*Washington Herald*.

**New Post-Office.**—A Post-Office has recently been established at Davis' Store, in Martin county, on the road leading from Williamston to Tarborough; of which Jesse J. Davis, Esq. is Post-Master.—ib.

**Electioneering.**—It appears from the following remarks in the Washington Herald of the 8th inst. that our professional brethren at that place have met with rubbers during the present Congressional election in this district:

"When we commenced our editorial labors in this place, we marked out what we supposed to be a correct line of conduct to govern us in our political career—we at once determined to take no part whatever in any county or district election; from this course of policy, we have never deviated in the least particular. We have always been aware that editors of newspapers in small communities, who take a decided stand, either for or against any particular candidate for public favor, stand on very precarious grounds: but notwithstanding our extreme caution in these matters, and our great anxiety to guard against public censure, we regret to say, we have not entirely escaped. We privately expressed our preference for one of the candidates now before the people of this district, for a seat in Congress, and voted for the man that best suited us. We conceive, if we are printers we are free men, and have an unquestionable right to enjoy our own opinions in these matters, and we hope as long as we live, to exercise them freely, regardless of any apprehensions of lessening our patronage. Conscious, however, of having pursued a correct course of conduct during the whole election, we feel assured that no liberal minded man, would withdraw from us his patronage on this account—to those who have done so, we can only say, we are sorry we cannot regret their loss. We do not make these remarks for the purpose of exciting the sym-