

Communications.

We freely insert the following communication, regretting at the same time our inability to comply with the request to give some "remarks on the different queries"—this would inevitably lead us into an investigation of the general merits of the Presidential controversy, which we some time since declined, and stated our reasons for so doing. If any of our "subscribers" desire some remarks on any particular point in agitation, whether embraced in the following queries or not, and will direct our attention to it, we will unhesitatingly give our opinion on the subject. The mechanical part of our profession necessarily occupies such a considerable portion of our time, that we scarcely have leisure to bestow an occasional remark on passing tidings, much less to engage in a discussion which will no doubt be continued the ensuing twelvemonths with increased heat and asperity. Perhaps some of our correspondents may answer the queries in a satisfactory manner.

FOR THE FREE PRESS.

Mr. Howard: The subjoined queries were inserted some days since in the Charleston Courier, and have not to my knowledge been replied to—consequently, I solicit the favor to have them inserted in your paper, and also to have your remarks on the different queries as they stand in order—your compliance will infinitely oblige one of your subscribers.

1st. What advantage will result to the United States, by the election of Gen. Jackson over Mr. Adams, supposing this to happen? Will the General's talents, wisdom and foresight give us greater plenty, greater trade, or more revenue than we now have?

2d. Should Gen. Jackson succeed to the Presidency, will there not exist, throughout the whole U. States, a very strong and vehement party opposed to him, as has existed towards the present incumbent?

3d. Is this government in any situation of peril which would call advantageously, the talents of a military ruler, to regulate and direct efficiently her interests, councils, and safety?

4th. Is it not at all times, a dangerous and dubious policy to elect military men to civil offices of the highest trust; and that at a time, too, when civilians of the highest integrity, and most profound and statesman-like abilities, are to be found, ready and willing, to serve the country?

5th. As most of the friends of Mr. Crawford are now said to be the friends of Gen. Jackson, will they have the goodness to tell the people, how it comes to pass that they, in Congress, voted for Mr. Crawford, to the number of four States, when he had but 41 votes, and yet condemn the election of Mr. Adams, who had 84, because the General had 99, boldly proclaiming, that a plurality of votes, in such cases, should establish the criterion of election?

6th. If there be any thing worthy of consideration in the second query, would it not be wise in the people to withhold their support altogether from both of the now contending candidates, and select some other person, of equal talent, who perhaps may be less obnoxious to the contending parties?

We are not destitute of statesmen—Langdon Cheves, Jno. C. Calhoun, and De Witt Clinton, are yet spared to us. Let the public pause, reflect well, and consider if it would not be as well, in the present state of things to have a third candidate.

7th. If Gen. Jackson succeeds to the Presidency, ought not General Gaines to have the Vice-Presidency?

8th. Can any body tell the people, for many there are who would like to know, what is to be done with Generals McComb, Scott, Brown, Ripley, McArthur, Cass, &c. are their services to sleep with the shade of Pike, near the borders of Yorktown? Or, are they successively to become Secretaries and Presidents?

A Free Thinker in Politics.

Political.

We this day give place to the letter from Dr. Drake, which in connexion with Mr. Clay's denial, is confidently relied on by the advocates of the Administration, to outweigh the direct and circumstantial evidence produced against him. Notwithstanding Mr. Clay's secret determination, it appears from his own speech at Lexington, that his first public declaration of his intention, was contained in his letter to Judge Brooke, dated 28th Jan. 1825, in which he said: "I interrogated my conscience as to what I ought to do, and that faithful guide tells me I ought to vote for Mr. Adams." Until within a few days of the date of this letter, it is admitted even by the official administration paper at Washington, that Mr. Clay was on friendly and sociable terms with Gen. Jackson, and visited him at his lodgings; nor is this all—at the identical period alluded to by the Doctor, Mr. Clay wrote a letter to Gen. Jackson, inviting him to pass through Lexington on his way to Washington, that they might travel together. Why this mysterious conduct on the part of Mr. Clay—we say mysterious, because immediately after his public declaration the intercourse ceased. If, as Dr. Drake says, Mr. Clay stated to him before leaving Kentucky, that "no state of things could arise that would justify him in preferring Gen. J. to Mr. Adams," why did Mr. C. subsequently give the Resolutions of the Kentucky Legislature such a "full and anxious consideration"—the Doctor says that at his last interview with Mr. C. it was not ascertained that "he would not be among the number returned" to the House; directly in the teeth of the Doctor, Mr. Clay in a subsequent letter to his constituents says, "I found myself transformed from a candidate before the people to an elector for the people; I deliberately examined the duties incident to this new attitude, and weighed all the facts before me upon which my judgment was to be formed or reviewed." It won't do, Doctor, there must have been some condition attached to Mr. Clay's declaration, which you have overlooked.

In reviewing the statements exhibited by all the parties, we doubt not but that those who do not willingly shut their eyes to the light, cannot fail in arriving at the conclusion, that when interrogated, Mr. Clay's conscience must have pointed to the second office in the government, having failed to obtain the first—and that Mr. Clay must have been satisfied, previous to the election, that in voting for Mr. Adams he embraced, as his confidential friend declared in a printed circular, the "only chance of obtaining equal weight and influence in the Cabinet and Presidential Councils."

Extract of a letter from Dr. D. Drake to the Editors of the National Intelligencer, dated "Lexington, (Ken.) March 21, 1825: "Gentlemen: At different times before Mr. Clay left this place for

Washington, last fall, I had conversations with him on the subject of the choice of a President by the House of Representatives. In all of them, he expressed himself as having long before, decided in favor of Mr. Adams, in case the contest should lie between that gentleman and Gen. Jackson. My last interview with him was, I think, the day before his departure, when he was still more explicit; it was then certain that the election would be transferred to that tribunal, and highly probable that he would not be among the number returned. In the course of this conversation, I took occasion to express my sentiments with respect to the delicate and difficult circumstances under which he would be placed—on which he remarked, that I could not more fully apprehend them than he did himself, but that nothing should deter him from the duty of giving his vote, and that no state of things could arise that would justify him in preferring Gen. Jackson to Mr. Adams, or induce him to support the former. So decisive indeed, were his declarations on this subject, that had he voted otherwise than he did, I would have been compelled to regard him as deserving that species of censure which has been cast upon him for consistently adhering to an early and determined resolution."

A Grand Sign.—The Grand Jury, during its late setting in this town, (says the Wilmington Herald) took a vote on the Presidency, of which the following is the result—Jackson, 17—Adams, 1.

Mr. Madison.—We have received a second communication from this gentleman, from which we learn, that, in disapproving of the "proceedings of the General Assembly of the State, which would limit the power of Congress over trade to regulations having revenue alone for their object," he designed to give it as his opinion that Congress has a right to impose a tariff of duties "having for its object the protection and encouragement of domestic manufactures."—*Lynchburg Virginian.*

We requested a friend to wait upon Mr. Madison, for the purpose of understanding from him directly, whether he could possibly have been the author of the essays signed "A Farmer." Our friend writes that "he promptly denied being the author of them, and expressed great astonishment that they were imputed to him." Yet these who were in a situation to know the fact, saw the absurd rumor circulate without contradiction—willing to avail themselves of the advantage, which Mr. M.'s great name was expected to render to their cause. Our correspondent further informs us, that Mr. M. declared as we have all along understood, "that he did not wish to mingle in the party strife of the day, and therefore avoided expressing opinions of that character; but upon other subjects, and abstract political principles, he did not wish to wrap himself up in mystery."

Richmond Enq.



Tarborough,

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 10, 1827.

A due regard for our own interest, and consequently the stability of our establishment, compels us to add an item or two to our terms of publication. Three years experience has fully convinced us of the inutility of crediting distant Subscribers without a responsible reference in this or the adjacent counties—and we also wish our Subscribers distinctly to understand, that in case they intend to discontinue taking the paper, it is necessary for them to notify us of their intention. We therefore make the following addition to our terms of publication:

New Subscribers residing at a distance invariably pay in advance, or give a responsible reference in this vicinity. No subscription discontinued unless a notification to the effect is given.

We will continue sending the paper to distant Subscribers until their current year expires, and will continue it thereafter after provided arrearages are paid—but new Subscribers must observe the above regulations. The following paragraph from the last Raleigh Register, will perhaps illustrate our views on this subject:

"The Editor of the Warrenton Reporter, states in his last paper, that he has stricken from his subscription list, some dozen or fifteen persons, who from their remissness, seem to be insensible, that "punctuality is the soul of business." Really, the conduct of some who call themselves honorable men, is shameful, in regard to debts of this description. We have known instances, not of very rare occurrence either, where a man after regularly receiving a paper for years, pleaded that he only intended to take it for one year and would not pay for a longer period; and we have known others to plead the statute of limitation in bar of a just claim. There is no money more hardily earned, than the subscriptions to newspapers, and it is disgraceful for any one who has the ability, to hesitate to discharge his account when demanded."

(COMMUNICATED.)

Worthy of Record.—There is now living in Greene county, in this State, a man named *Anthony Van Pelt*, aged 118 years. He still retains many customs practiced by him in early life—he rides on horseback, walks about his farm, converses rationally on any subject, is sprightly in conversation, frequently talks about getting married, &c. Such a circumstance is of rare occurrence, and certainly worthy of being recorded.

Incendiarics.—An attempt was made on the night of the 15th ult. to burn the dwelling-house of Dr. William J. Polk, about three miles from Charlotte. The Doctor and his family were preparing to go to bed, when providentially stepping into a closet, he discovered the flames, which had already reached the second story, and the fire was extinguished without material damage. The fire was kindled by setting fire to pieces of lightwood inserted between the weatherboarding and the ceiling; and had