



THE "FREE PRESS,"

By Geo. Howard,

Is published weekly, (every Friday,) at FIVE 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. New Subscribers residing at a distance must invariably pay in advance, or give a responsible reference in this vicinity. No subscription discontinued unless a notification to that effect is given.

Advertisements not exceeding 16 lines will be inserted at 50 cents the first insertion, and 25 cents each continuance. Longer ones at that rate for every 16 lines.

Letters addressed to the Editor must be paid for.

Communications.

FOR THE FREE PRESS.

The Celebration of the fifty-third Anniversary of American Independence at Halifax, N.C.—The citizens of Halifax and its vicinity, united in celebration of the day, which gave birth to their freedom as a nation, their happiness as a people. The day was ushered in by the discharge of artillery from dawn to sunrise—at 7 o'clock, the military paraded and went through various evolutions, as street-firing, &c. &c. At 10 o'clock, the citizens of the town and its vicinity, assembled at Academy Square, where a procession was formed, and thence proceeded to St. Mark's church. The ceremonies at the church were introduced with an appropriate prayer, by the Rev. Sidney Weller—after which, Edmund B. Freeman, Esq. in an impressive and forcible manner, read the Declaration of American Independence: the instrument which recalled our wrongs and led to the redress of our grievances. This was succeeded by a pertinent and eloquent Oration, by Jesse A. Bynum, Esq. a copy of which, at the request of the Committee of Arrangement, was furnished for publication. During the ceremonies at the church, appropriate music was interspersed, by a band of amateurs, giving zest to the occasion. At 2 o'clock, the company sat down to an excellent dinner, prepared by Col. Jesse H. Simmons, where the following toasts were drunk, accompanied by patriotic songs, glees, &c... Edmund B. Freeman, Esq. acting as President of the Day, and Col. Spier Whitaker as Vice-President.

REGULAR TOASTS.

1. *The Day*: May each return of it, find us in the continued enjoyment of Freedom, Peace and Prosperity. Three Cheers.
2. *WASHINGTON*. Drank Standing.
3. *The Declaration of Independence*: A terrific instrument to kings and tyrants; it breathes forth the language of a nation resolved to be free or perish in its cause. Three Cheers.
4. *The President of the U. States and Heads of Departments*. Three Cheers.
5. *The Constitution of the United States*: The palladium of American Freedom, achieved by the blood of patri-

ots; let its construction be literal, and its duration commensurate with time.

6. *The Continental Congress*: An unexampled assemblage of the virtuous, the brave, and the wise; their memories are embalmed in the hearts of their countrymen. Three Cheers.

7. *La Fayette*: "The eloquence of gratitude is silence." Three Cheers.

8. *Constitutional Freedom*: It emancipates the mind and opens the field for true greatness; without it no nation can be truly wise or truly great.

9. *The Governor of the State of North-Carolina*. Three Cheers.

10. *The University at Chapel-Hill*: Rome, from her seven hills, boasted the diffusion of knowledge and power; from the hill just named, North-Carolina and many of her sister States, have seen and felt the rays of science and useful knowledge. Three Cheers.

11. *The Navy of the United States*: Its "stripes and stars" are known and respected in every sea. Five Cheers.

12. *The Judiciary of North-Carolina*: "May it uphold the laws, and keep them ever, Above the proud man's violence, and within The poor man's reach." Five Cheers.

13. *The American Fair*: Here all language fails. "Come then expressive silence muse their praise."

Before proceeding to the volunteer toasts which were given, it is deemed proper to advert to the fact, that the Hon. John Branch and the Hon. Willis Alston were invited guests upon this occasion. The following letter was addressed to each of the above named gentlemen.

Halifax, July 1, 1828.

SIR: A manifestation of respect for the character of public men, who have devoted their time and talents to the service of their country, is an essential means in sustaining the public welfare. In accordance with this sentiment, you are respectfully invited by the citizens of Halifax, to participate with them in the proposed Celebration of their country's natal day on the ensuing occasion. With much respect, &c.

I have the honor to be your obt. servt.

D. C. FENNER, Chairman, &c.

To which the following replies were received:

Enfield, July 2, 1828.

GENTLEMEN: I have had the honor to receive the invitation of the citizens of Halifax, to participate with them in the Celebration of the approaching Anniversary of American Independence. With feelings which every generous bosom can better imagine than I can describe, I cheerfully and with pleasure accept. Truly and unfeignedly yours, &c.

JOHN BRANCH.

To D. C. FENNER, Esq. Ch'n of the Com. of Arrangement. Butterwood, July 2, 1828.

SIR: I accept with pleasure your polite invitation in behalf of the Committee of Arrangement for celebrating the 4th of July, by the citizens of Halifax. For this additional mark of the politeness and attention of my fellow citizens, please accept for them my sincere regard and esteem; and for yourself the same, for the polite manner in which you have communicated their wish.

WILLIS ALSTON.

To D. C. FENNER, Esq. Ch'n of the Com. of Arrangement.

VOLUNTEERS.

By J. A. Bynum, Esq. Our esteemed guest and distinguished fellow citizen, the Hon. John Branch: we most highly appreciate the devotion of his time and talents in the service of his country. Nine Cheers.

[On the announcement of this toast, Mr. Branch addressed the company at some length—we will perhaps be enabled to insert his remarks in our next paper, as well as those of Mr. Alston, uttered subsequent to the following toast.]

By Dr. A. S. H. Burges. The Hon. Willis Alston, the Representative of our district in Congress: His services have been long and valuable, we greet him as an acceptable and highly respected guest.

By E. B. Freeman, Esq. The Tariff: a policy to enrich a few at the expence of many—every opposition to it, not inconsistent with the duties of a good citizen.

By Geo. E. Spruill, Esq. North-Carolina: the first to promulgate to the world a Declaration of Independence—may she be the last to surrender the glorious truths which it announced.

By Dr. M. A. Willeox. The Hon. Nathaniel Macon, the American Phocion: His occupation the plough, his principles identified with the Constitution.

By Mr. Robert Martin, of Rockingham. The great men of the nation: public property—a cables length from shore to all detractors.

By Wm. E. Webb, Esq. The citizens of the ancient county and corporation of Halifax: May they as heretofore, always be distinguished for liberality of sentiment and urbanity of manners.

By Dr. R. S. Stubbs. The Presidency: magnum populi donum—let it not be perverted.

By Mr. B. F. Halsey. Gen. Andrew Jackson: a soldier in war, in peace a statesman.

By R. A. Jones, Esq. The memory of Thomas Jefferson: may his monument be the eternal duration of those free principles so ably expressed by him in the Declaration of Independence.

By Col. J. H. Simmons. May the spirit of '76, and the wisdom of '87, be felt and enjoyed by us and posterity until time shall be no more.

By Dr. R. H. Wilson. Agriculture, Commerce, and Manufactures: the three great sources of national prosperity—freedom to all, shackles to none.

By A. A. B. Stith, Esq. Gen. Andrew Jackson: may he continue to maintain the esteem he now holds in the breast of every true American.

By J. L. Simmons, Esq. The Hon. John M'Lean, Postmaster General: faithful and indefatigable in the discharge of his duties.

By J. L. Noble, Esq. of Petersburg, Va. Gen. Andrew Jackson: to whom the people of the United States owe a debt of gratitude, but God forbid that the debt should be paid by placing him at the head of the nation.

By Geo. R. Reese, Esq. Gen. Andrew Jackson: when brass and marble shall have mouldered into dust, the remembrance of his virtues, passing in proud review to remotest ages, will endure forever.

The interest of the ceremony was much enhanced in consequence of the citizens uniting in procession of the "Halifax Philodomick Association," dressed in appropriate badges. The order of arrangement, as respects the procession, management of the military, &c. &c. was conducted by Col. D. C. Fenner, Marshal of the Day. The utmost harmony and hilarity prevailed, and the evening gun sounded when all was mirth, all was peace, and all was gladness.

Halifax, July 6, 1828.

SIR: A wish having been expressed by a large portion of the citizens of Halifax and its vicinity, that your Oration on the late Anniversary occasion should be published: In consideration of which I have addressed you this note, with a request that you furnish us with a copy for publication.

I have the honor to be, &c.

D. C. FENNER,

Chairman of the Committee of Arrangement.

J. A. BYNUM Esq.

Halifax, July 8, 1828.

SIR: I received yours of the 6th inst. requesting a copy of the remarks delivered by me on the fifty-third Anniversary of our National Independence, with an intent to publish them. Altho' they were not originally intended for publication, I feel it my duty to comply with your request in behalf of the citizens of Halifax and its vicinity, and herewith enclose you a copy of the same. Most respectfully your obt. servt.

J. A. BYNUM.

Col. D. C. FENNER, Ch'n of the Com. of Arrangement.

ORATION.

FELLOW-CITIZENS: The fifty-second year has passed away since the promulgation of our National Independence to the kingdoms of the earth; during which time, we have enjoyed all the blessings of liberty "in the full tide of successful experiments"—the Anniversary of that glorious event, we have this day convened to celebrate. Nor is it with a delusive hope of doing justice to the subject, that I rise to comment on the transactions, which followed in quick succession, that eventful period.

No! Fellow-citizens: No pen can paint, no language can describe, no tongue can tell, the various difficulties, persecutions and oppressions, experienced by our stern and invincible ancestors, in accomplishing the great work of Freedom.

But before we proceed further, permit me to call your attention to some few of the causes, which induced our forefathers to separate from the mother country, and to assume the attitude of Freedom, amongst the nations of the earth.

Great Britain, the hive from which our colonial predecessors had emigrated, became intoxicated with her own power—inflated with the vastness of her own dominion—forgetful of the obligations due by the governors, to the governed, passed repeated acts, by her parliament, totally repugnant to every principle of justice, of liberty and equality, and without the consent of the American people, upon whom they were to operate; and in the teeth of every principle of right, pertinaciously persisted in her efforts to force to submission those whom she could not overcome by her paralogical arguments.

She passed her stamp act without the consent of the provinces, and incompatible with their claims to the liberties of Englishmen, as defined and pledged by the British Constitution. Her revenue acts, her restraining acts, her starving acts, her Boston port acts, and acts for disfranchising our legislatures, were equally obnoxious, tyrannical and oppressive.

Not content with these usurpations, she passed laws to, and actually did, quarter ten thousand troops of standing armies amongst us, to tyrannise over our peaceable citizens; to compel us, at an enormous expence, to support those foreign mercenaries, to hold our brethren in subjection. "She seized on our commerce, and burnt our towns; withheld from us the trial by jury, and for frivolous offences dragged our citizens beyond the seas, to be tried." She denied to us the right of representation, and claimed to herself the right of taxation, and voted away our Charters and our property, under the idea of the supreme authority of British