

# N. CAROLINA FREE PRESS.

Whole No. 427.

Tarborough, (Edgecombe County, N. C.) Tuesday, November 6, 1832.

Vol. IX—No 11.

The "North Carolina Free Press,"

BY GEORGE HOWARD,

Is published weekly, at *Two Dollars and Fifty Cents* per year, if paid in advance—or, *Three Dollars*, at the expiration of the subscription year. For any period less than a year, *Twenty-five Cents* per month. Subscribers are at liberty to discontinue at any time, on giving notice thereof and paying arrears—those residing at a distance must invariably pay in advance, or give a responsible reference in this vicinity. 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. Advertisements must be marked the number of insertions required, or they will be continued until otherwise ordered, and charged accordingly. Letters addressed to the Editor must be post paid, or they may not be attended to.

## DOMESTIC.

### AN ADDRESS

To the friends of Gen. JACKSON in North Carolina, and to the supporters of his Administration of the affairs of the General Government.

(continued from our last.)

It is objected to Mr. Van Buren, 1st. that the Baltimore Convention was got up with the design of securing his nomination and dictating to the people in the choice of their officers. 2d. That the State Meeting, which sent Delegates from North Carolina, was a Van Buren Caucus. 3d. That Mr. Van Buren is an intriguer. 4th. That he opposed the South in the memorable Missouri Question. 5th. That he is in favor of the Tariff and Internal Improvements by the General Government. 6th. That he was nominated at the dictation of Gen. Jackson.

It is due to you, and to the cause we espouse, that we should meet these objections with candor, and we are greatly deceived, if a very brief exposition of their injustice do not place Mr. Van Buren before you, as one of those rare men, whose character has defied the assaults of his enemies.

1. The design of the Baltimore Convention, tis said, was to nominate Mr. Van Buren and dictate to the people!

Fellow citizens, we have fairly stated to you in this address, the causes, which led to that Convention—the purpose was honorable, was openly avowed, and the invitation was held forth to *all the friends of Gen. Jackson*, as well those who favored one, as another, for the Vice President. Many friends of Judge Barbour attended and voted: the gentlemen who composed it were, many of them, distinguished citizens of our country; all of them are believed to be honorable; those who preferred Judge Barbour, were as active in its favor, as those who did not; at the time the Convention was recommended, Mr. Van Buren had received the appointment of Minister to England—had retired for a season from the turmoils of party, and did not desire, or intend to be a candidate for Vice President. The Senate of the United States refused to confirm his nomination *after* he had arrived in England, and began the duties of his mission, long after most of the delegates had been appointed. With those facts before you, what candid man will entertain without proof, a charge which reflects severely on the conduct and motives of our friends? Where too were these exclusively honest patriots, up to May 1832, that they did not sooner warn the people against this deep design on their rights? Or it *may be*, that they were willing, the people should be dictated to, if the Hon. Judge Barbour could be the choice of your dictators.

Whether their disappointment shall now be visited on us by a division, remains to be determined by a people, who can have no interest beyond the public good. Dictate to the people!! How has it been attempted! Is that the more exceptionable method of uniting public sentiment, in favor of one candidate, where all are invited to come, and test the strength of each candidate, or that, in which the partizans of a single one are convoked? The former was the Baltimore Convention; the latter was the

North Carolina Barbour Convention!—Whatever else may be said, by interested opponents, against the Baltimore Convention, it was undoubtedly composed of men, who are *sincere* advocates of the present administration—of men, who give General Jackson's re-election no cold and questionable support. And when such men win reproach, it will be expected of their friends to search, with vigilance, into the probable motives of those, who have volunteered the duty of abusing them. At least, it may be counted a most singular office, for the *friends of Gen. Jackson!* That Mr. Van Buren received in the Convention, so large a majority, and could ultimately unite the whole vote in his favor, will furnish to unprejudiced minds, the clearest evidence of his greater popularity—and it requires the influence of a most determined jealousy to pervert this into a proof of intrigue among those who made the nomination.

### THE STATE MEETING.

2. It has been more than once insinuated since the commencement of this contest, that the State Meeting, which nominated our Delegates to the Baltimore Convention, was a Van Buren Caucus. This charge is not less gratuitous than the former. If North Carolina had sent no delegates to that Convention, we do not perceive that the omission would excuse the real friends of the administration from the duty of uniting. But we were invited to send delegates, and by a meeting held at Raleigh during the Assembly, a respectable individual, in each electoral district, was nominated, subject to his being displaced, if at any meeting of the *people of the district*, another should be named. Of these, only five attended; four of them were *elected by the people*, and the other *voted for Judge Barbour!* An intelligent people want nothing but these facts to dissipate the prejudice, which it was hoped to enlist by such a charge. Justice to these respectable individuals, who are held up to execration for this pretended usurpation, compels us to put before you, other facts, that may well shame our accusers.—Would not a Van Buren Caucus have taken care to nominate a Central Committee of Van Buren men? Yet of the seven who were designated, two are now ranked upon the Barbour Central Committee—a third was one of the delegates to the Barbour Convention, and was placed on their ticket as an elector, but has lately abandoned Jackson's cause entirely—and the four, whose names are attached to this address, did not *all* then prefer Mr. Van Buren as Vice President; did not *then* believe, that he would be a candidate, but fairly intended to unite in the nomination of the Baltimore Convention. Would not a "Van Buren Caucus" have been careful to nominate delegates, who were known to be his partizans? Yet some of these are opposed to him, we believe, a *majority* of them did not *then* prefer him, and we confidently state, that, if their preferences were enquired into at that meeting, we, who were present, did not know it, and did not suspect it. Would the *friends of Judge Barbour*, and the *focs of Mr. Van Buren* have countenanced by their presence, and aided by their co-operation, a Van Buren caucus? Yet, it is most true, that gentlemen, who were partizans of Judge Barbour, attended that meeting, voted for the resolutions, which were adopted, and the nomination of delegates. Nay more; the meeting was earnestly recommended, and the mode of its proceedings substantially suggested and approved by some, who are now associated with its revilers.

### INTRIGUE.

3. Ambitious rivals, whose vanity has taught them to believe, that whoever excels them, in the race to honorable distinction, is outstripping them by unfair means, have denounced Mr. Van Buren, as an intriguer.—This is alike an act

of the accomplished partizan, who seldom scorns to practice the fault, he may yet profess to despise.

If success crown not the labors of a public servant, he is too often denounced by his opponents, as incompetent for his station; while if he be prosperous in promoting the good of his country, he is frequently charged with intrigue, that the alarm of prejudice may awake into vigilance the jealousy of the people, and stop up the avenue to their affections and confidence. We should remember, that such is the lot of human *greatness*, and that, while we condemn the vice, justice forbids us to confound it with the accused, by assuming the charge, as proof of its truth. The friends of Mr. Van Buren confidently repel it, as alike unsupported by evidence, and unfounded in fact. No man, who was able to *know*, and speak of the *fact*, from personal knowledge, has ever ventured to give to such an accusation the sanction of his name. Suspicions have been put forth for facts, and the utmost ingenuity has been set at work to torture his conduct into some shape of dishonor. *Proof there is none.* How many other instances can be found, in which a distinguished man, for more than thirty years engaged in political life, has been violently assailed by his rivals, by the press, and by his opponents, yet not one *act of dishonorable cunning* shall be proved against him. This imputation against Mr. Van Buren, is not only without proof to support it, but many great men have honored his name, by bearing testimony to his magnanimity and candor. The page of history records more, than one instance, in which *he* proudly rejected the opportunity, which his public station gave him, for visiting his rivals with the mean triumph of personal revenge. His public life has furnished us evidence of his having made open resistance to a *dominant* faction against that party, which he knew to be in power, and not scrupulous in its exercise on himself. He has thus refused to sacrifice his principles for the sake of office. Indeed the reward of *intrigue* is contempt, that of greatness is jealousy. Let the contest, that is now going on, determine, which has fallen to the lot of Mr. Van Buren, and you may thence learn whether he is *great* or only *cunning*.

### THE MISSOURI QUESTION.

4. It was to us a matter of surprise, when we found among the charges preferred against Mr. Van Buren, that of having been opposed to the South in the memorable Missouri Question. We could not believe it, so far as to invite inquiry, until we found it embodied in the address of the very respectable committee of the Barbour Convention. We could scarcely be persuaded, that these gentlemen would yield their minds to the influence of a blind credulity, and yet it seemed strange that this charge had never reached our State, until Mr. Van Buren had been placed before the people, as a candidate for their favor. A fair enquiry, honestly made, and most satisfactorily answered, leaves us no room to doubt, that those who have charged Mr. Van Buren with this offence against our constitutional rights, have been grossly deceived. No public act of his life has warranted this charge, and his 'public acts' are all, that our opponents will admit, to prove his virtues. But more than this, we have it from the highest sources, that, on that occasion, so far from opposing the South, Mr. Van Buren was foremost among those in New York, who early and strenuously opposed the agitation of the question, and that he was constant and fearless in his efforts to do so. Says one, who was himself an active politician of that day, and whose statement is entitled to the fullest credit, "the party of which Mr. Van Buren was the alleged head, I well remember was charged, (in New York,) at that time with being the friends of Slavery, and of being in league

with the South in relation to the *Missouri Question.*" Shall the present day find leading men of the South denouncing him, who for his fearless maintenance of our cause and our rights, was at home, condemned by a party, as the friend of slavery? *Is this generous?* The answer is ready, even in the breast of those, who have hastily inflicted the injury. If any one among them doubt or yet cling to his suspicions, we are ready to convince such a one in spite of his will. The compass of this address will not allow the publication of the entire proof, nor would it be consistent with propriety to drag before the public the names of individuals.

### THE TARIFF & INTERNAL IMPROVEMENTS.

5. The opinions of Mr. Van Buren, on the Tariff and Internal Improvements by the General Government, have not been concealed by him, and, (if we had the wish,) there is no motive, which could induce us to deceive you about them. He was, about eight years, a member of the Senate of the United States, during which period, the nation was greatly agitated in the regulation of the former, and in the discussion of the latter question. *The sentiments of Mr. Van Buren agree with those of General Jackson on these subjects.*—As a large majority of the State, which Mr. Van Buren represented, were favorable to the Tariff bills of 1824, and 1828, (and with him it is a cardinal maxim in politics to obey the known wishes of his constituents,) his votes were doubtless governed in a great degree by their *instructions*. We have reason for believing that he has not failed to urge on the manufacturers, the necessity and justice, of a moderate protection only—such a protection, as would not oppress other great interests in the country—in a word, such a Tariff as shall be judiciously accommodated to the acknowledged rights of a minority, as well as the wishes of a patriotic majority. Are we answered by his recorded votes in favor of the Tariffs of 1824 and 1828? We reply:—That Mr. Van Buren's *liberal* views on this subject, were (in 1827) made the ground of a charge against him in New York—that he was opposed to *all* protection, and he availed himself of a fit opportunity to declare his views and opinions, by a public speech, which *then* gained the highest admiration even in the South, for patriotic liberality. And his course is known to have moderated the Tariff party in New York; the proof of which is clearly derived from the fact, that her members during the last Congress supported a *reduction of duties*. We reply further: That Mr. Van Buren gave his vote in 1828, under *instructions* from his constituents, and these emanated probably from a jealousy, which his known liberality had created in the minds of the New York Legislators. Again, we reply further: That he is now most violently opposed by the *Clay* party as an anti-Tariff politician, and one who will be disposed to yield too much to the South.

We believe that Mr. Van Buren would bring into the sphere of his administration a spirit of liberal concession on this subject, that is calculated to effect more, than the election of any other man in our country. The advocates of an extravagant Tariff see this, and hence they are consistently resisting his election.

If we, fellow citizens, mean to stand off, and refuse to accept any modification of the Tariff:—if we are proudly to reject all offers to *reduce* the duties, because the principle of protection is yet retained: if we of the South, who are in the minority on this question, are resolved at every hazard, to *demand* and *enforce* a total prostration of the whole system,—then indeed the result of this contest should be a matter of *perfect indifference*, our votes would be vain and idle ceremonies, and to persuade you to a choice of rulers would be a ridiculous effort. We are not to be cast by our opponents into the ranks of those, who advocate the system