

Communications.

FOR THE FREE PRESS.

Mr. Howard: For the information of your correspondent of the 4th inst. in relation to the privilege of Franking, I request you to publish the following section of the act of Congress passed the 2d March, 1827.

Section 4. And be it further enacted, That the Commissioners of the Navy Board, the Adjutant General, Inspectors General, Commissary General, Quartermasters General, Paymaster General, the Secretary of the Senate, Clerk of the House of Representatives, and the Superintendent of the Patent Office, be authorized to frank, and to receive letters and packets by post free of postage and that no other persons or Officers, excepting those enumerated herein, and in the act to "reduce into one the several acts establishing and regulating the Post Office Department," passed on the 3d March, 1825, shall be authorized to frank or to receive letters through the mail, free of postage.

P. S. The only limit of the franking privilege of the Clerk of the House of Representatives is, that he cannot frank a package weighing more than three pounds, because, by law, any package over that weight is not to be carried in the mail.

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The removal of the Public Deposites, &c.

Mr. Howard: I am a friend to the President of the United States—my vote has twice contributed to elevate him, to the exalted station he now occupies, his patriotism, his noble bearing on the field of battle, has long since won my unqualified admiration; as have much of the foreign and domestic policy of his administration—But these are "trifles light as air" when placed as offsets to his encroachments on our Constitution—I have a pious veneration for that instrument, far more intense, than for the splendor of any man's career, for whenever the mutilation of our Constitution is accomplished, our freedom, our civil liberty will cease to exist. The passing events of our political history, admonish us to be vigilant sentinels on the watchtower—the removal of the depositories from the Bank of the U. States, the substitution of local Banks as the proper depository for the public funds, upon the authority of the President of the United States are dangerous, very dangerous assumptions of power. What right has the President to loan out the public money, can any gentleman put his finger on the clause, either in our Constitution or laws which gives him that prerogative? I fancy he cannot—but he can give us a precedent, he can go back to the period when Mr. Crawford was Secretary of the Treasury. It is the precedent, on which a portion of the friends of Gen. Jackson, justify the removal of the depositories. But to use the exact words of a distinguished Senator in Congress, (Mr. Leigh) it will be perceived that "Mr. Crawford was not appointed to succeed another officer, displaced for refusing, in the exercise of a discretion confided to him, to withdraw the public depositories from the Bank of the United States, at the President's bidding. So that, at most, the only question, which his conduct presented, was a question upon the construction of the charter of the Bank, as to the reasons for which the Secretary might withdraw the depositories, neither did Mr. Crawford withdraw any money from the Bank, which had been deposited there; he only omitted to transfer to it moneys which had been previously deposited in some of the State Banks, consisting of balances of which the Bank of the United States was as unwilling to receive, as he was to make, the transfer—and the transaction was of so little consideration in his mind, that he forgot to report the proceeding, and the reasons for it, to Congress, neither was it ever approved or sanctioned." It is my opinion that Gen. Jackson, has become too popular, and that if he is much more idolized, he will be totally unfit for public service. I wish the old gentleman, a speedy deliverance from his present dilemma—from many of his friends, I mean his *right or wrong* friends.

It is very obvious, that a man of extreme popularity, is of all other beings,

the greatest compound of mysteries in the universe. You will find concentrated in his proper person, all the elements of ambition, self-promotion, and self-idolatry—these are dangerous associates for his honor, his political integrity, his patriotism, and the many other virtues, which ennoble his heart; this being the fact, I am totally opposed to the delusive solecism that a popular man cannot err; for to admit it, would be assuming an infallibility incompatible with the moral code of civilization. Our admiration for any man, whether as a statesman or a warrior, should never so far bewitch us, that in our personal or political predilection for the man, we should hazard the destruction of our institutions, our civil liberty and our long cherished constitutional Union. It is my humble opinion, that if the liberties of our country be ever subverted it will be, by the popular influence of some man, coming in contact with our Constitution and laws. We have been all taught, by our love of freedom, to detest oppression and to vindicate the truth, that man is "capable of self government"—and that oppression, whether by a tariff of duties, the monopoly of a powerful monied aristocracy, or the popular sway of an individual, is fatal to the vital principles of constitutional liberty. The preservation of the Constitution of our country, should be next to the preservation of our natural or physical constitutions; for the stability of our political constitution, bears the same relation to our civil and religious freedom, that the enjoyment of health and strength do, to the constitution of our bodies.

The removal of the depositories, the rechartering of the Bank of the United States, the substitution of local Banks as the proper depository for the public money, &c. are subjects which embrace many important considerations & involve high and vital constitutional principles. Our country is agitated and convulsed throughout all its ramifications—the steed frets—our political harness needs mending—something is amiss; it may be the collar, the saddle, the curb or the crupper, it is something—it may be the spurs of the rider—many opposite causes are alleged for the distress prevailing in this country:—one party confident of its own purity and political sagacity see the worm which has caused all this distress—another the same and so on—But the real cause is this—the bank wished a recharter and opposed Gen. Jackson's elevation; Gen. Jackson wished to be re-elected and opposed the rechartering of the Bank. This struggle for the mastery, deranged the currency of the country and has thrown the whole prosperity of commerce in confusion—and by the way, the removal of the public money, from the United States Bank, to the vaults of favorite State Banks, has added much to disturb public tranquility as regards the safety of our Constitution. And whether the mere removal of the public depositories to local Banks, has had any agency in producing the loss of confidence in the commercial community and the decline of the products of the soil, or not, I present the following resolutions, for the consideration of such persons, as feel a veneration for the laws and Constitution of their country—

Resolved, That the removal of the public depositories, from the Bank of the U. States, by the Secretary of the Treasury, under the authority of the President of the U. States, to certain favorite local Banks, is unconstitutional, inexpedient and meets with my decided disapprobation, in as much as there is no clause, either in our Constitution or laws, which authorizes the President to loan out the people's money, either to favored or unfavored State Banks.

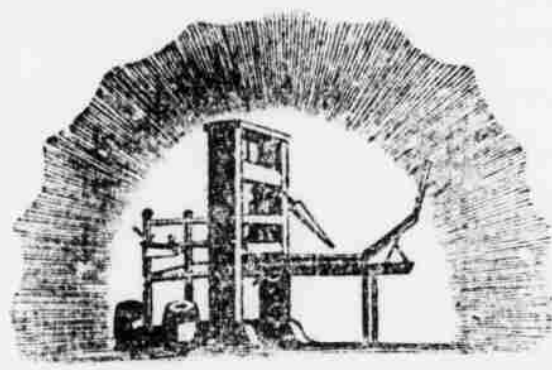
Resolved, That the union of the Purse with the Sword, is a political connection of dangerous import—and should be un-animously opposed by the American people.

Resolved, That the Bank of the United States, whether unconstitutional or not, is dangerous to our liberties, and should be permitted to expire in peace.

Resolved, That the public depositories, ought to be restored to the Bank of the United States—and if done, it fails to restore prosperity and tranquility, it will

nevertheless make some amends for the violation of our Constitution and laws.

A Citizen of Edgecombe.



TARBOROUGH:

FRIDAY, APRIL 18, 1834.

[We subjoin the remarks of the Hon. W. P. Mangum, on the presentation to the Senate of the resolutions recently adopted by the citizens of this place and vicinity. It will be seen, also, on perusing the article which follows the Hon. Senator's remarks, that a correspondent has kindly relieved us from the task of taking a special notice of them.

Mr. MANGUM said, it was matter of regret to him, that any portion of his constituents should regard his opposition here to the recent measures of the Administration as marked with "captiousness and asperity," and that feeling was increased by such an opinion being entertained in the old patriotic and republican county of Edgecombe. He was not surprised, however. That county was not more remarkable for its republican principles than for throwing almost its entire mass in the same direction upon every great question. He had had the pleasure of regarding its citizens heretofore, as being as friendly to him in all his political enterprises as any in the State, so far from his residence. He entertained a profound respect for their opinions, and received a rebuke from that quarter with all humility. They were old friends, honest in their purposes, and entitled to, as they possessed, his entire respect.

In the great campaign of 1824, when all the political elements throughout the entire South, were in active commotion, he had the honor to stand shoulder to shoulder with the citizens of Edgecombe. They, as well as he, were then thoroughly anti-Jackson. They went through that contest with manly firmness, deserving, though they could not command, success. During the succeeding administration, they separated for a moment. He, Mr. M. believed he was in advance of them, in his assaults upon that administration. He soon had the pleasure to find that the people of Edgecombe went gallantly into that contest, and they were again side by side throughout the struggle which terminated in the election of the present Chief Magistrate.

Mr. Mangum said, he again found himself separated from that county, but he had a strong belief, it would turn out now as before, only a temporary separation—that he was only a little in advance, combatting the unwarrantable encroachments of Executive power. For in the light of encroachments, he was compelled to regard the late Executive measures in reference to the depositories. Time is an essential element in the rectification of error and in the testing of sound opinion. Upon that issue he put his conduct with due humility, but in candor he was bound to say with undoubting confidence; he might be in error, but upon the developments of time, he rested with a full and confiding faith. If those developments shall exhibit his error, he trusted he should not be deficient in a due share of magnanimity to avow the error freely and unqualifiedly. If, on the contrary, the error shall be found on the side of his constituents of Edgecombe, their former history gives assurance of a prompt acknowledgment of it, and an ample reparation.

He was glad to hear their opinions, as he should be to hear the opinions of every county in the State. He should be enlightened by them in his course, and aided in the discharge of his duties. So far as he had heard, or had reason to believe, the opinions of the State were as he had represented them on a former occasion. He believed that a large, a very large majority of the State, was opposed to the

late measures of the administration. He might be in error, but time will tell. At all events, judging from information received from every quarter of the State, he could not doubt it. He should be sorry to know, that he had indulged a spirit of "captiousness," or had spoken heretofore with feelings of undue "asperity." He received the rebuke, however, in a spirit of candor, and with no feeling of unkindness. Yet he must believe, that, in the discharge of his duties, he had been deficient in nothing but in the vigor of the arm that aimed the blow at bold and lawless Executive encroachment.

FOR THE FREE PRESS.

Senator Mangum.—For the first time I have learned from the remarks of Mr. Mangum, upon the resolutions adopted at a public meeting held in this place, that at any period, the county of Edgecombe supported the administration of Mr. Adams; and I confess myself at some loss to know upon what facts such a declaration was predicated. In the Presidential election of 1824, the county of Edgecombe gave a larger vote to Mr. Crawford than was obtained by the combined ticket upon which the opposition to Mr. Crawford united. The election of Mr. Adams by the House of Representatives in the January of the succeeding year, it is well remembered, produced general dissatisfaction throughout the entire South; and as soon as the principles, upon which the new administration would be conducted, were indicated in the first annual Message of Mr. Adams, the county of Edgecombe was among the first to raise the standard of opposition. So universal was this feeling that at the election in 1828, there were but two individuals in the town of Tarborough who voted the Adams ticket. Mr. Mangum must have bottomed his assertion upon the fact that at the election in 1825, the then and present Representative from the district was superseded. The successful candidate though resident in the county, was not its favorite and obtained but little more than one-fifth of its votes. That election turned mainly upon the caucus question, and the friends of the famous "People's Ticket," by unfair and heated appeals to the honest prejudices of the people, succeeded in driving for a season more than one honest man from the service of the country.

Edgecombe, I believe, has never faltered in her course. From the adoption of the Federal Constitution down to the period from which the Hon. Senator essays to sketch her history, she has maintained and supported the principles for which she contended at the birth of the great political parties that for so long a time divided the country. In the great civil revolution, which was accomplished in 1801, by the election of Mr. Jefferson, then as now, Edgecombe was ranged on the side of the people. Through the stormy conflicts of party that preceded and followed the war of 1812, she still adhered to the principles to which she had pledged herself in 1801.

How the course of the Hon. Senator will abide so close a scrutiny, let impartial history tell. I think it was about the close of the war, that Senator Mangum came into life and his first appearance upon the political arena, was signalized by a most violent and determined support of the federal candidate for Congress, in the district of which himself was afterwards the representative. Mr. Mangum continued in full communion with that party, up to a certain period, about which, a vacancy occurred upon the Circuit Court Bench. Then, for the first time, if I have been correctly informed, his first love was abandoned and new political attachments formed. In alluding to this incident of the early history of Mr. Mangum, it is not my intention to impute improper motives to the Hon. Senator, in having thus suddenly changed his position. The necessity so often occurs to every man, of reviewing his opinions, and correcting such as time may have shown to be unsound, that to do so, would be to prefer a charge of general corruption, in the existence of which I do not believe. I advert to it with no other view than to remind others, as well as the Hon. gentleman himself, that those who