

Virginia Free Press.

CHARLESTOWN, JEFFERSON COUNTY

PRINTED AND PUBLISHED WEEKLY

BY JOHN S. & H. N. GALLAHER.

VOL. 30.

THURSDAY MORNING, NOVEMBER 9, 1837.

NO. 41.

FREE PRESS OFFICE.

A Splendid and Exclusive Advertisement of

NEW PLAIN and FANCY

JOB TYPE.

Has just been added to the former supplies of

This Office.

HANDBILLS, BLANKS
AND EVERY DESCRIPTION OF

JOB PRINTING,

WILL NOW BE EXECUTED

IN A STYLE not to be COMPARED

In any town or city in the Union.

OFFICE over the MarketHouse,

Near the Court-House,

CHARLESTOWN,

Virginia.

GENERAL INTELLIGENCE.

FROM FLORIDA.

CAPTURE OF THE CHIEF POWELL

AND HIS BAND.

OFFICE OF THE GEORGIAN,

Savannah, October 26, 1837.

Capt. Nock of the Steamboat Florida, who arrived last evening from St. Augustine, informs us that Powell and all his Warriors were safely lodged in the Fort.

Extract of a letter from a gentleman at St. Augustine, to one in this city, dated Oct. 22.

We made a glorious haul yesterday.

Powell, and all the war chiefs except three, are now lodged in the Fort, with eighty of their warriors—the bone and sinew of their nation. Seventy negroes came in a day or two since, and a large number are now at Volusia, whether a Steamboat goes this morning to get them.

Powell and his band came with the avowed intent to subdue the country, but probably with the real ones of endeavoring to rescue Philip who fell into our hands some days ago, as all were armed. Yesterday they arrived about 9 miles from here, and sent a messenger to Gen. HERNANDEZ, who went out to see them. Gen. Jesus also proceeded to the vicinity of their Camp; and while they were talking, with Gen. H., they were suddenly surrounded by two hundred horse, so suddenly that they had not time to raise a single ride, though all had one by their sides. They were marched to town, and are now safely under lock and key, and there they will be kept, it watchfulness and a strong guard can keep them there.

The writer says he does "not think that this will immediately end the war, but we have drawn the fangs from the reptile so that he can no longer bite."

RESUMPTION OF SPECIE PAYMENTS.

The following document, a copy of which was addressed to each of our Banks, indicates a disposition to do something decisive in the way of a resumption of specie payments.

Many unsound institutions must of necessity "go by the board."

New York, October 20, 1837.

Sir: At a general meeting of the officers of the Banks of the City of N. York, held on the 19th of this month, the Committee appointed on the 10th of August last before the meeting the communications received from the Banks in the several States, in answer to the Circular of the committee of the 18th of August last.

Whereupon it was unanimously

Resolved, That the Banks in the several States be respectfully invited to appoint delegates to meet on the 27th day of November next, in the city of New York, for the purpose of conferring on the time when specie payments may be resumed with safety, and on the measures necessary to effect that purpose.

We pray you to communicate this letter to such other Banks in your State as you may deem proper, and leaving the number of Delegates entirely to yourselves, we only beg leave to urge the importance of having every State represented.

We have the honor to be,

Respectfully, Sir,

Your most obedient servants,

ALBERT GALLAHER,

GEO. NEWBOLD,

C. W. LAWRENCE,

Committee.

The objections raised by the Philadelphia Banks, induced us to wait till after Congress adjourned before we called the proposed Convention. We were indifferent as to the place of meeting, a preference for Baltimore was expressed by no other Banks than those of Virginia; and the doubt, whether those of that city would unite with us, rendered it inexpedient, in our opinion, to select it for the seat of the Convention.

A. G.

To the President of the Bank of Virginia.

The Pennsylvania Convention have adopted the following article in relation to the performance of military duty, by the citizens of that State:

The freemen of this Commonwealth shall be armed and organized for its defense when and in such manner as may be directed by law. Those who conscientiously refuse to bear arms, shall not be compelled to do so, but shall pay an equivalent for such personal service.

There are now 1000 newspapers printed in the United States.

MR. KING, of Georgia.
The measure alluded to by Senator King of Georgia, as opposed by an unanimous vote of the Senate, except one, was the specific policy of the President. His enforcement by the President, in spite of its repudiation by both Houses of Congress, is aptly styled an "Executive triumph over the legislative authority"; and Mr. King justly pourtrays the plausibility of those who are willing to "surrender up" their own judgments, and consider one man the party, and another man the government. Nor did I know that my constituents required me "to lick the hand" that plundered them,—and applaud the very measures that I know to have been taken from their mouths—the bread which their honest industry has earned. If I have mistaken the great principles of the party in this particular, it is obvious that I am not a fit representative for it. I shall, therefore, return home with all the ardor of youth, and surrender a trust you say I cannot honorably hold. I have from our friends many written evidences that they still consider democracy to mean the will of the people. But it is enough for me know, that some of my friends are disengaged; and I wish it understood that I shall not embarrass them by bringing a candidate for re-election. By the kindness of my friends, I came into office without trouble to myself—I intend to go out without trouble to them. That they can select a successor who will serve them with more ability, I readily admit—that they can select one who will be a more honest devotion to their interest; I will confidence, deny.

[Richard Whig.
From the Milledgeville Recorder.
Senator King's Letter.

Although we have not been Mr. Senator King's political advocate, yet still we have admired some of his acts, and none more than the manliness and candor which he displays in the following letter, attributing the embarrassment and distress of the times to the true cause. His letter, however, explains itself, and we bespeak for it an attentive perusal.

It would now, doubtless, afford Van Burenites much gratification in having him superseded by some more supine tool; but they should keep in recollection the fact that the people of Georgia, in every instance within the last two or three years where they have had a direct opportunity to do so, have proscribed Van Burenism; and, we assert, they now only wait a further opportunity to more fully cleanse the Augean stable.

[From the Augusta Constitutionalist.
SENATE CHAMBER, Oct. 9, 1837.

Dear Sir—Justice to myself compels me reluctantly to notice an article in the Constitutional of the 3d inst.—In that article, you do me great injustice. You assail me where I am most sensitive, but at the same time most invulnerable. If I have any pride as a politician, it is the pride of consistency; if I have any claim to merit, it is an adherence to principle; if I have any benevolent feeling, it is a lasting gratitude to my friends; and I wish no other distinction than that of an honest devotion to the interests of my constituents. My claims and pretensions being humble, I assert them with the more resolution; and hope you will neither mistake my temper nor my object, if I call on you to retract or proscribe some of the charges you bring against me.

I ask, then, what are the great principles which the democratic party profess? which I have abandoned; and what changes of sentiment? I have undergone which place me in opposition to that party, or the solemn declaration of the Legislature?—It imports that I should know this, for it is perfectly true that I was twice elected by the party to the exalted station I hold; and with the destiny of that party I have unified my own, and shall stand or fall with it. Reminding me of this generous confidence, was great and unnecessary. It can neither increase my gratitude, nor add to my obligations. No one knows better than you, sir, that if my honors were unmerited, they were also unsolicited, and have always been at the disposal of those who so generously conferred them.

But what solemn declarations of the Legislature! have I disregarded? Do you refer to my uniform opinion on the subject of the U. S. Bank? My opinions on that subject have never been concealed or "changed," and were well known to the Legislature at the time they elected me. So were those of my then gifted colleagues whose opinions were in accordance with my own. What "change," then, have I undergone on this subject that merits your animadversion? I have done nothing farther than to defend myself from unmerited denunciations, and these, too, frequently from the mere pojumous of power, who most injuriously changed their opinions. I am not yet converted to the modern doctrine (of some democrats) of forcing blessings upon the people, and I have neither given nor threatened any vote at all calculated to alarm them on this subject, or which throws me in opposition to these "solemn declarations."

In what else have I recently taken a stand in opposition to the great principles of the democratic party? Is it my opposition to the self-willed follies of

The Whig Sub-Treasury advocates are continually asserting that this scheme was a Whig measure in 1834. We deny it. Only 33 Whigs voted for Gen. Gordon's proposition—but Gen. G.'s proposition differs essentially from the project now before the public—in this, that it did not propose to make war upon the local banks by discrediting their notes; nor did it recognize Benton's "gold-humbug" in any shape. It was reserved for Mr. Calhoun to take the lead in this war upon State Institutions, under pretence of maintaining State Rights.—Lynchburg Virg.

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**SPEECH OF MR. MASON,
OF VIRGINIA.**
On the Bill imposing additional duties, and penalties in certain cases, on Public Officers. Delivered in the House of Representatives of the United States, October 11, 1837.

The bill being under consideration, Mr. Mason said—

"A reading, and I must so briefly do, in the several measures which have so far been presented by the committee of ways and means, for the consideration of this House, it is with the utmost reluctance, that I am now bound to differ with those with whom I have heretofore voted."

This difference, however, I am pleased to consider, is at last but one of mere expediency, and in itself contains nothing which should alarm those who are engaged elsewhere in the preservation and support of those great and lasting principles, which actuate political parties.

Differences of opinion necessarily pertain to deliberation—it is against the co-operation of our nature, that it should be otherwise—intelligence, reason, and sound judgment are alive neither to entire unanimity, nor would our representative government, in any thing more than a mere formal acquiescence in the will of some ordained superior, if the direction were allowed to hold, that party divine exacts an unconsidered sanction to every measure which brings a recommendation from the church."

Such is evidently but the spirit of our institutions; nor should it be the spirit of any party, that would act safely, and wisely, or even successfully, in the administration of the government committed to their charge.

Having thus promised, I will proceed at once to state my objections to the bill under consideration.

Those who have brought it in, address its claims to our favor, as a measure simply intended to provide for the safe-keeping of the public money. It is said that the former depositaries, the State Banks, having proved either inadequate to the duties required, or unable to fulfil them, it was necessary that government should take up all of its own interests; and that this will be most effectually done, by a return to what is called the legal currency of the country, and by confining the government to its charge.

The evils, sir, which are expected to follow, have hitherto, as far as I can learn, been

in the public mind, than any alleged insecurity of the public money—Evils for which no remedy is provided by this bill, but which will, in my judgment, be fastened upon the community by its passage—I mean the present deplorable condition of the currency.

What is now the currency of the country? I ask not what ought to be, but what actually now is the sole currency—the only medium having exchangeable value, by which the basis of the country is carried on? It consists entirely from one cause—the confederacy to the other, of a redeemable bank-paper.

Its paper is good, and it is made

to facilitate every kind of business, in every part of the country, and in every place where it has been issued by the State banks, and which they no longer redeem with gold or silver.—These metals have passed entirely out of circulation—they form no longer any portion of the mass of the community; treating money as that only, which, for the time being, serves as the symbol of exchange, of things having marketable value.

This condition of the currency is the true and great evil of the times, and affects the people, and all the departments of government, as it affects the government in the conduct of its affairs, and there can be no remedy, at all, except to relieve the government from its embarrassments, which shall not, at the same time, and to the same extent, relieve the people from them.

In considering this subject, as I propose to do, it is unnecessary to go at large into an examination of the causes which have operated to bring about this state of things. I do not know that I am, nor do I at all profess to be, equal to this duty. And yet were I to attempt it, I should certainly differ very widely from those who trace these causes to another than to a mere want of a due regard to the interest of the community, in this very thing: that banks of discount, organized as our American banks are, yield the facilities of credit too readily and easily to the demands of trade, without a power of discrimination between such as arise from the extension, or accident, of a vigorous healthy commerce, and such as have their origin in a wild and gambling spirit of speculation.

Commerce requires credit. From the day that man passed in this world beyond the first steps of his infant life, he has, in every stage of his existence, been compelled to conform, entered into, the affairs of trade. Its agency soon came to be understood, and the winds are not more active in circulating the common air, that credit now is, all over the world, in circulating through every land, the productions of every soil.

Trade and commerce, though becoming drunk w^t prosperity, have drawn too lavishly upon the credit offered them through the banks—or if you will have it otherwise expressed, the expansive character of bank credit has effected too great temptations to commercial enterprise, and we are now suffering under the consequences of over-action, as well on the part of those who used this credit, as of those who gave it.

In this reasoning, I am borne out by the message of the President—he says : that our present condition is chiefly to be attributed to over action in all the departments of business; an over action, deriving perhaps, its first impulses from antecedent causes, but stimulated to its destructive consequences by excessive issues of bank paper, and by other facilities for the acquisition and enforcement of credit.

I have entered into this subject thus far, that I may invite you to a more enlarged view of the difficulties to be met, than are presented when our inquiry is confined simply to a consideration of the safest custody that we can provide for that portion of the people's money which is to pass into the public coffers.

My great objection to the measures proposed by this bill, are, that they are not at all commensurate with the exigencies of the times. They do not meet the real difficulty. The bill simply ordains that the Government, after a limited time, will receive nothing but gold and silver to pay off public dues, and will confine its keeping to its own officers and agents. Now, sir, this is not in accordance with our law; if this simple enactment the bank could be driven out of circulation, back whence it came, and the precious metals substituted in sufficient quantities to meet the wants of society, as well as the demands of the revenue, the chief ground of my opposition would be at once removed: I can well see, from the experience we have had, of the evil tendencies of the banks to excessive issues, and such, at present, are my decided impressions) that whenever the currency is placed in a condition to bear the tribute, the true policy of government may be found to be to exact its dues altogether in coin; and to withdraw its remittances while reserving its collection and its disbursement, from the new system of circulation.

But again, sir, there is in this bill an entire departure, from the great and leading principles of the late administration of the subject of the currency. It looks no farther, than to a supply of specie for the Government and its dependents. There is no account taken of the more important object of infusing specie into circulation for the convenience of the people. Then the great dif-

ference will be, to unlace the specie basis, by the suppression of small notes. The Government, as the greatest creditor of the banks, sought to effect this by the control incident to its large deposits. The banks were encouraged in every way to co-operate—and the States were induced to do the same, by a common duty of a reform in the currency.

Many of them, where there was a bank

under five dollars, met the capital at once,

by a direct prohibition to that extent.

But the State of Virginia went further.

She had long since realized the benefits of a

specie circulation below five dollars, by a

prohibition of all paper under that amount;

and on the very first occasion when the char-

ters of her banks would be reached, so re-

cently as during the last winter, the prohibi-

tion was extended to ten dollars, and to

take effect at an early date.

These were the measures then taken

for the safety of the currency, and began to be carried out by the powerful aid of State legislation. What upon the whole was the result?

"Why do you not now compel your rulers to

go into market and buy specie, in order to re-

plenish the Treasury?" So far from this we have

done nothing, but have sent a law, which

we are to obey, to do as we may."

How these northern demagogues may relish

the doctrine of their new ally, I need venture

no prediction. I doubt whether they can be

brought to rally around the standard of a

leader, who denies them any place, even in

the common scale of humanity.

It is upon principles such as these, that the

northern democracy is invoked, to lend their

aid to the measures contemplated by this bill!

These are they, I presume, who are appealed

to in the occasional address of certain news-

papers, as the "democracy of numbers," con-

trasted with us, as "independency and sound

doctrine, than are generally found in the

speeches of supporters of the Administration."

I lay down this position, (says Mr. Mason,) and defy any refutation : That the Govern-

ment must, as a personal enemy, deal in

that currency in which the people deal; it is

the law of its creation, and inseparable from

its condition: It must receive what the peo-

ple receive, and pay what they pay—a nec-

essity, from which Government cannot escape if it would—not out, if it could."

My sympathies are with the tax payers, and

with the tax gatherers, from whence I come.

There is no mystery in all this.

Imports are to be paid for, by the produce of

the importing nation, or by gold and sil-

ver, and the latter is to be paid in that paper

which gives the largest sum of value for

the smallest amount.

Now, sir, in all this, we have the

same result, as in the case of the

State Banks.

Having thus given my views upon this

subject, I will now call your attention to

the bill itself, let me inquire next, what will be

the probable operation of a law, that takes no ac-

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