

TO THE PEOPLE OF MISSISSIPPI.

On November next you will be called upon, in electing a large number of public agents, to elect one for the purpose of transacting your business and representing you in the Congress of the United States. I am one of the candidates for that high and important trust; and both reason and custom make it incumbent on me in the position I occupy, to make known to you my political principles, so that they may have any bearing on the action of a representative. This duty I should have performed long since but for indispensable absence from the State, to which I have just returned. Though my name was before you at the recent election, I was wholly ignorant when I left the State that a special election was contemplated, and was not aware of the fact that such an election would be held until a few days before it occurred, too late to have communicated with you either personally or by letter.

I will now give you as succinctly as possible some of my political views as I deem you will feel any interest in knowing.

The most important question which now agitates the public mind arises out of the distressed condition of the country. To the actual existence of great distress; to the utter derangement of commerce, foreign and domestic; to the diminution in both the price and demand for labor; to the prostration of business in the mechanic arts; to the depreciation of property; to the universal distrust and foreboding which prevades the community in every part of the Union, all men bear witness:—on this subject there is but one party. The immediate cause of the evils above enumerated, is by all correctly attributed to the derangement of the currency of the country. It seems also to be admitted that the only adequate remedy is a restoration of the currency to a sound state. The people look to Congress for this restoration, and they demand that it be speedily made.

I believe that not merely the best, but the only mode of restoring the currency of this country to a sound condition, and keeping it so, is the establishment of a NATIONAL BANK. I believe we cannot have a currency in the United States adequate to carry on the business of the country, without such an institution. We certainly cannot have an exclusive metallic currency, though there is a party who hold the proposition that we can. All wise politicians, however, repudiate the monstrous absurdity. Even the Globe denies that either the Administration or any prominent member of the party ever advanced so foolish a doctrine. Indeed, sensible men all join in scouting it, and it is now the peculiar property of the *Loco Focos*. I look upon the theory of a currency purely metallic in a country like this, as one of the most unpleasant specimens of human imbecility ever exhibited.

I believe the State Banks, alone, incapable of furnishing a sound currency. Having their origin under different systems of legislation, with dissimilar charters totally powerless beyond the limits of the State in which they originated, each eager to furnish as large a portion as possible of the circulation of the country: these rival and hostile institutions are continually pressing forth their paper, until public confidence becomes shaken; their issues are returned upon them,—suspension of specie payments is the consequence, and seven years of pecuniary famine succeed the seven years of plenty. The same course will then be pursued again, and thus the country will be alternately gorged and starved. With a National Bank in operation, such a state of things cannot occur. The undue issues of State institutions will be immediately thrown back, before they have reached an injurious accumulation; and the State Banks, kept in continued and equal check by this great regulator, will harmoniously perform their legitimate function of furnishing a currency for all the domestic business of the State to which they respectively belong. This is the extent to which State banking can be carried,—furnishing a local, but not a general currency.—Experience has shewn, and reason demonstrates the inability of the State Banks to carry the exchanges of the country, and their unfitness to act as the fiscal agents of the Government, in the safe keeping and disbursement

of its revenues. These offices, I believe, can be successfully performed only by a National Bank. By the establishment of such an institution, our currency would soon become what it once was, the best in the world. With gold and silver for a basis; the issues of sound State Banks for all local purposes; a National Bank to check the undue action of the State Banks, to regulate exchanges and to act as the agent of the Government in the collection and disbursement of its revenues; and then we have a mixed currency, which experience has twice proven to us is sound, regular, and fully adequate to all the wants of the people and the Government, and the only one I believe fitted to the political, commercial and geographical character of our country.

In the establishment of a National Bank, we can easily obviate the objectionable features which have been urged against the charter of the old institution.

If, then, I am elected your Representative, I shall vote for the immediate establishment of a National Bank:

1st. For the purpose of furnishing the Government with a competent fiscal agent. 2d. Because it will furnish a currency of equal and uniform value throughout the Union; 3d. Because it will restore the exchanges of the country, and relieve the community from the immense sacrifices which are now made in the transmission of funds from one State to another. 4th. Because it will keep in check the State Banks, repress undue and inordinate issues of local paper, and by that means, in all likelihood, prevent a recurrence to the desperate remedy of suspension of specie payments. There is still another reason why I am in favor of a National Bank, arising out of the developments every day making in relation to a project, which, if carried into effect, will, I believe, prove fatal to the liberties of the country. That project is the establishment of a Treasury or Exchequer Bank, under the control of the Executive. The establishment of such an institution would give to the President the control of the currency of the country, and enable him by the breath of his nostrils to raise or depress the value of property and the prices of labor, at any moment in any part of the Union.

I am too much of a Democrat, in the good old meaning of the term, to be willing to see such power placed in the hands of any President. I would esteem the establishment of a standing army of a hundred thousand soldiers, less dangerous to the liberties of the country, than a Treasury Bank under the control of the Executive.

I believe if a National Bank is not established, a Treasury Bank will be; and I have no doubt that the true and only issue upon this subject which can be fairly presented to the people of Mississippi, is not Bank or no Bank, but National Bank or Treasury Bank—the People's Bank or the President's Bank. To this complexion must the question come at last.

I never heard an objection to the old U. States Bank which cannot be easily obviated in chartering a new one, except the constitutional objection. I know that as honest politicians as any in the country have denied the constitutional power of Congress upon this subject. I have myself, however, always entertained a different opinion, and believe Congress have under the present Constitutional power to charter a Bank.

1st. Because I believe a Bank absolutely necessary for a uniform collection and disbursement of the public revenues.

2d. Congress has express power by the Constitution to regulate commerce among the States; and I believe a National Bank absolutely necessary for the purposes of successful commerce among the States.

All politicians admit that if a National Bank is necessary to carry into effect an express constitutional power, it is constitutional to establish one. I do not believe that the word "necessary" as used in the Constitution in relation to incidental powers, was intended to preclude a choice of means, and to import absolute necessity; though even if such a construction is the true one, I believe a National Bank absolutely necessary, and I think

the experience of the country has been sufficient to prove it to the satisfaction of the most sceptical.

I would, however, out of respect for those who differ from me on this point, be glad to see the Constitution so amended as to leave no doubt upon the subject.

I have thus, fellow citizens, frankly given you my views on the Bank question—a question upon which my opponents, Messrs. Calhorne and Ghosson, entertain, I am informed opinions diametrically opposite to my own. Indeed I should never have placed my humble pretensions in opposition to theirs, had it not been for the opinion which they avow in relation to this all important subject. They are both gentlemen whose personal qualifications to represent the people of Mississippi, no one can doubt. There is no personal rivalry in this canvass—it is as it ought to be, a question of principle.

In relation to other political questions, I do not deem it necessary at present to go into detail. A large portion of my fellow citizens know something of my political character, and I shall visit most of the Counties before November, I shall have a better opportunity than the limits of this address will afford, of explaining my views on other matters. I will, however, state one or two points of my political creed:

I believe a tariff beyond what is necessary for raising revenue, to be unconstitutional.

On the subject of slavery, as it exist in the South. I believe it to be an institution sanctioned by the laws both of God and man. I believe it to be one of the best institutions of the country, equally beneficial to the slave and master. I deny any power in Congress to abolish slavery in the District of Columbia, or to agitate the subject at all;—and had I been a member of Congress at the time, I would not have voted for Pinkney's resolution, because I conceive it conceded too much.

I have been ten years a citizen of the State of Mississippi, and feel myself as much identified with her interest and welfare as any member of the community.

Should I be elected one of your Representatives, I will serve you independently and honestly—

Your obedient servant,
S. S. PRENTISS.

Vicksburg, Aug. 28, 1837.

To the Citizens of Tippah County.

FELLOW CITIZENS:
My name has been announced as a candidate, to fill the office of County Treasurer, at the next November Election. At the commencement of the canvass I intended to visit the different portions of the County, that the people might have an opportunity of becoming acquainted with me and that they might be able to judge of my qualifications to fill the office to which I aspire: But the hand of providence has disqualified me to perform that duty: For the most part of last month I was confined to my bed by a severe attack of fever, from which I am yet scarcely recovered: By reason of the consequent debility of so severe an attack, I shall, in all probability, be unable to cultivate any further acquaintance with the people of this county before the election.

Fellow Citizens: You will, I have no doubt, pardon me for laying you under any obligation to accept this communication as an apology for not making myself personally known to each of you; than which nothing would have given me greater satisfaction. And Gentlemen let me assure you, that nothing would have induced me to make you a written communication on the present occasion but that necessity which confines me at home; to which we are all alike liable.

In conclusion, then; I can but re-

quest that each Gentleman will examine for himself, as touching my pretensions of whatever character, to the office of County Treasurer: If I shall be your choice, Gentlemen I will discharge the duties of the office with all the fidelity and ability that I possess and shall feel myself under peculiar obligations to my fellow citizens for a favor, which must, under all the circumstances that surround me, be so disinterestedly bestowed: But if not elected, your will & not mine be done: for with the will of the majority I shall be content.

GEO. W. RAGAN.

Ripley, Oct. 17, 1837.

THE LAND PIRATES.

The following letter from captain McIntosh will explain the movements of the U. S. ship *St. Louis* which now lies at anchor in the Bay. We stated on Monday, that the *Constellation* had sailed from Pensacola—which proves to have been an error. We learn that it is the intention of commander Payne to drive the gang on shore where they are to be met and disposed of by Major Hall and his company of armed volunteers. There is now, we think a fair prospect of bringing these vagabonds and outlaws to merited punishment, and ridding our vicinity of their depredations.

United States Frigate Constellation,
Pensacola Bay, Aug. 26th 1837.

My Dear Sir—I have the pleasure to inform you that immediately on receipt of your letter with the accompanying papers I was directed by Commodore Dallas to order the United States ship *St. Louis* to Mobile Bay to aid the civil authorities in bringing to punishment the individuals complained of; and I have the further satisfaction to inform you that the *St. Louis* has at this moment a signal for pilot, and Commander Payne informs me he will be ready to proceed at early daylight to-morrow morning.

With very great respect,

Your most obd't serv't.
JAMES MCINTOSH,
Flag captain,
To JOHN B. HOGAN Esq.
Collector, Mobile.

MOBILE Aug. 25.

LAND PIRATES.—We learn that a gang of land pirates about 30 in number has for some time been prowling about in the vicinity of Fish River. They have within a few days, broken open several houses abducted a woman and her children and committed various depredations and outrages. The citizens have armed themselves and sent to Pensacola for co-operation of a government vessel in driving the villains from their quarters. The gang are in possession of a small schooner and by their conduct seem to defy opposition. We hope they will be speedily and effectually extirpated.—*Mer. Adv.*

Mr Van Buren attributes the pecuniary distresses of the country in his message to overtrading and the great fire in New York. "A mountain labored and brought forth a mouse," but never before did a mouse labor and bring forth a mountain.—*Vicksburg Register.*