For the Easton Gazette.

MR. EDITOR,

I am a plain, blunt man and much inclined to express my opinion upon passing topics, and I hope I may not offend by my candour, when I frankly advance it upon a subject, that has so much agitated our county,—you will, no doubt, readily guess my intimation and it will be scarcely necessary for me to add, that I allude to that incoherent and inconcocted system of disseminating knowledge among the people—the Primary Schools. In the course of an attentive perusal of your columns, several essays, couched in terms, which betokened the most inveterate opposition to this illegitimate system, have arrested my attention, this first put me on the alert, and first caused that mist, of unaccountable and contemptible credulity in the infallibility of its eloquent advocate, to disperse and a novel atmosphere of strange reality made its appearance? I then, though not without some degree of reluctance, began to think that he could err as grossly as other men. From the very unwelcome reception, this illusory school bill appears to have met with among those, who have thought it expedient to attest their disapprobation to the world, through the medium of the press—from the concurring opinion of the discreet and judicial part of our Community—together with the result of a very careful and scrutinous examination into its various tendencies and operations—I am constrained to believe that, its alledged advantages and beneficial consequences, exist rather in the imagination of the theorist, than in reality.—further so well am I convinced of its moral impracticability, its deleterious, baneful and ruinous effects that, I am compelled zealously, to exert every nerve, sinue and faculty within me, to effect its total overthrow. "To err is human, to forgive divine;" but has this noble, generous and philanthropic sentiment any application here? Is an heedless error of such magnitude in a politician to be overlooked and forgiven? But to impute the introduction of this school bill, to the authors erroneous conceptions concerning its baneful consequences would be but to ascribe it too honorable an origin. We must therefore necessarily believe it to be the result of designed and wilful imposition—What then are his deserts who has acted thus? But do we live in such an age of bigotry & superstition; that Mr. Teackle thinks, with the wildest absurdities his fathomless imagination can invent, to bewilder our senses and blind our judgments. If our condition be that of the grossest ignorance and *his* that of enlightened erudition—practical knowledge and experimental information—we heartily congratulate ourselves upon our humble destiny, since we immersed in all the barbarick stupidity that Mr. T. in the plenitude of his mercy, would have us to be,—possess magnanimity enough to repress the risings of corrupted ambition—candour enough to discard vain and empty pretensions to greatness—sagacity enough to discern the interest of country—energy and boldness enough to discountenance wily speculators and those home-spun politicians who seem to think that their own personal aggrandizement is the object of their delegated power—& accuteness of intellect enough to perceive clearly, this complex teaching bill to be a mere sinecure. Whilst observing the commotion that this olio of ingenuity—artifice—electioneering policy—vanity and folly has given rise to, we are naturally induced to enquire who it is that can thus stir us up—and like a menacing meteor threaten us with certain ruin? "Upon what meat has this our Cesar fed? that he's grown so great." Why should we attend to? why should we listen to? his groundless assertions? Can we for a moment credit them? if so, then—

"O judgment thou art fled to brutish beasts,
And men have lost their reason."

But thank Heaven it is otherwise: Mr. T. and his inexplicable system of Instruction, which has been matured in folly and brought forth in vanity, have been duly considered and are duly appreciated by our patriotic citizens—indeed deserted as he is by his most active and zealous friends—abandoned by those whom the ties of nature should link most firmly to him, bereft of, and almost discarded by all he can now but exclaim in the words of the poet—

"Farewell a long farewell to all my greatness!
I have ventur'd, like little wanton boys that swim on bladders,
These many summers in a sea of Glory;
But far beyond my depth: my high-blown pride
At length broke under me; and now has left me,
Weary and old with service, to the mercy
Of a rude stream, that must forever chide me."

Mr. Editor, I must now conclude, having given you my opinion as frankly—as freely—and as unreservedly as I well knew how, concerning these Primary (or as they are more commonly and perhaps more properly called Primmer) Schools, with a request that you will give it an insertion in your excellent paper. If it should obtain an admittance, I shall have attained the height of my ambition. "For I have neither wit, nor words nor worth, nor power of speech, to stir men's blood; I only speak right on." I have given that opinion to which the heart of every patriotic citizen will respond, and "Who's here so vile, that will not love his country? If any, speak; for him have I offended.—I pause for a reply.

CATO.

A letter of the 30th ult. from Lisbon, states that the important documents from Rio Janeiro, viz. the act of amnesty, the constitution, and the act of abdication, had been received with great joy by the Portuguese people, and, after expressing the attachment of Portugal to the Emperor Don Pedro, it adds:—"The condition fixed by the Emperor will be eagerly fulfilled; for the public joy demonstrates in the most evident manner that the oaths to the constitution will be the noble object of patriotic emulation.

For the Easton Gazette.

MR. GRAHAM,

It is a source of patriotic congratulation with every enlightened citizen of the state, who has witnessed the alternate rise and fall of the two great political parties, under the denominations of Federalists & Democrats, to see the old boundary between them crumble into decay and a bright prospect presented of a real union of the people in the pursuit of their *own* interests.

This glorious consummation of the true objects of our republican system has been heretofore prevented only by the deceptive arts of interested, "self-seeking" *leaders*. The happiness and prosperity of the people and the glory of the nation became lost to the view of contending factions and 'stick to your party' was the cherished maxim and the motto inscribed on every political banner.

Time and circumstance and the experience of the people have almost entirely cleared away this delusion and laid bare and naked to view the selfish objects of those, who have been working and plotting to keep alive the bitter feelings of party for the sole purpose of their own aggrandisement. With the exception of this single class of men, all seem now willing to adopt the comprehensive and truly republican criterion, in relation to elections and appointments to office,—'Is he honest—is he qualified—is he faithful to the constitution?' All classes and denominations of citizens have manifested, in signal instances, their desire for the spread of this doctrine and the results of our elections for the last two years, have proved its prevalence amongst the people. It may now be affirmed that the old party distinction between federalists & democrats has sunk to rise no more, and with it have fallen into the deep bosom of the subsiding waters the *hopes* of those, who can *'swim'* only when upheld by the bouyant hand of *party*. But, it seems, the busy, restless and aspiring crew of strutting—vapouring puppets, who, by dint of *party puffs* and their own cunning and hypocritical pretences, had gotta taste of high honours and of the bread of office, must again find *a way to rise in!*—This sudden breaking up of the great political deep has overwhelmed many a scheme of ambition and destroyed those bright visions of preferment, which an empty and idle vanity is constantly raising up to itself.—The fatal independence of mind, which could break the trammels of party dictation and rest itself on the free will of the people can never—never be forgiven; and the issue of the experiment and the exertions of those, who have been bold enough to begin the work of real and fair amalgamation will be ever remembered by some with bitterness and hatred.

This new doctrine of independent suffrage upon the principle of individual merit and the *liking of the people* does not comport with the views of those who have never been able to command their immediate confidence & have only been accepted by them under the influence of some temporary effervescence of the public mind, *raised for the occasion*, or elevated by favouritism and party management; nor of men, whose principles & sincerity, do & say what they will, have ever been the objects of suspicion and distrust. Such men as these were the eternal curse and the incubus, that weighed down the federal party, as long as it existed, and finally produced its dissolution. They and their pony whipsters must have every thing that party could bestow; and there was always a *league* of them ready formed, in the true spirit of aristocracy, to occupy public places without being competent to fill them; & to seize upon all honours without meriting them. In the midst of the high sensations of party triumph and the ardent professions usual in such associations, the courtly, dashing, pleasant little favourites of the social hour were allowed and encouraged to brag lustily of their mighty deeds in *electioneering* and of the ruinous sums they had spent for the good cause, and in the very sport of jocularity they sometimes found themselves invested with the 'giant's robes' of the most important political trusts. The *real* giants and the *disinterested* champions of the faith would often cast around them a smile of contempt, & at last retired from the field in sullen—moody silence.

By such men and by similar means the Democratic party also was split up and divided so that it lost its principle of cohesion and could no longer hang together. In this state of things the presidential canvass came on and men, who had been long separated by the political collisions of former days were seen firmly linked together in the support of one or another of the aspirants to the chief magistracy.

The *presidential caucus* was set up as a distinctive line of party and a large portion of the people were rallied under the standards of *caucus* and *anti-caucus*. The contest resulted in the election of Mr. Adams; but no sooner had he taken the presidential chair than he invested with the high cabinet office of Secretary of War. the Honorable James Barbour, who had been the first man in the *caucus* to rise and move to proceed to business!—He has since also appointed the Honorable Albert Gallatin, the *caucus candidate* for the Vice-Presidency, as Minister to Great Britain, in the place of Mr. King, who resigned. These appointments are not mentioned in the slightest degree to impeach the propriety of them, but with a sole view to what shall presently follow. All these remarks have been induced by the sentiments expressed by a writer in the last Gazette, under the signature of 'Common Sense,' who, in the most insiduous form and, as has been suggested by some, for a purpose so base and malignant that nothing but a vain supposition of the searchless cunning with which it was wrapped up, could have encouraged its promulgation, has put forth a test of qualification for 'all gentlemen candidates, great and small, cunning and smart, grave and drowsy,' to wit.—'Are you *decidedly* a friend to the present administration of the general government?'—And to this question, it seems, it is no answer to say,—'that you are *disposed* to do so and so—that you cant and that no honest man can pledge himself to be a friend to any administration, but that you will support it when right and oppose it when you think it wrong.'—Take the whole context of this insidious production and, if it means any thing, the sense of it must be that every candidate for an office in the gift of the people must previously pledge himself for the support of the *ruling administration*, whether its measures be *right* or *wrong*.

A doctrine so base, slavish and intolerant cannot fail to arouse the indignation of every American freeman. It is no less than an avowal of the principles of 'passive obedience and non-resistance' to Executive power and to invest the President of the United States with the attribute of popish infallibility and the divine right of royal authority. No equivocation of 'Common Sense' can let him out of his own toils. Although his main object was, doubtless, to insinuate, a question of the *sincerity* of some candidate, who has professed himself a friend to the administration, I have no doubt that the principle is intended to be pursued & that this is the beginning of a series of acts of mean servility, on his part, to the powers that be, for which he will in due season claim his reward. Indeed, I should not be surprised, if the truth were ferreted out, that his name is, at this very moment enrolled, in one of the departments at Washington, as a supplicant for office, and that, in order to accelerate their tardy favour, he hopes by some contrivance to have it known there that he is a *thorough going* stickler for executive infallibility. The style, in which he demands this *test*,—of *'all* candidates *great* and *small'*—is suited to the office he has assumed and in the true spirit of a political bully shrouded in the mantle of a fictitious signature. The pretext cunningly devised,—that an opposition-test has been set up here by others—is paltry, affected and false, and is fully up to the character of 'equivocation' and 'cutting and screwing,' which the pursuit of such cold blooded, base and malignant schemes demands.—But I call upon the people to look to this matter and to stifle in its birth a doctrine fraught with so much danger to their liberties. You may talk of the high handed career of a military chieftain; you may deprecate the baleful influence of a congressional caucus or of 'a great central power,' but there is no scheme so effectual for overturning the liberties of this people as the doctrine now broached. The misfortune is that this miserable writer in your paper is not even now its only advocate. I have heard it uttered in other parts of Maryland and have been prompted to check, with the strongest expressions of indignation and contempt, the propagation of principles so incompatible with every safeguard which the constitution has provided for the freedom and happiness of the people.—What sir, will be the consequence of the doctrine?—If your electors of the Senate and delegates to the General Assembly be selected expressly to subserve the views of the existing administration or the President in place, your senators in Congress will necessarily also be the sworn tools and instruments of executive power and instead of representing the state and guarding its rights, they may lend themselves to the consolidation of all power in the general government; and, if your immediate representatives in Congress must also take the *test*, instead of going forth as the independent representatives of a free and enlightened people, unshackled by pledges to any co-ordinate branch of the government, much less to the executive power, you have no security left for life, liberty or property.

I, sir, am a friend— in the just, constitutional sense—a true and fair friend to Mr. Adams's administration; and I am as little disposed as any man at present to join in the opposition to him; but if I believed that he maintained the doctrine which I have stated, or sought to perpetuate his power by the treasonable requisition of such a test, as a passport to office, I would instantly disavow all confidence in him or his cabinet and raise my feeble voice in favor of any honest and patriotic competitor. I have mentioned the fact of Mr. Adams having appointed to the highest places men who were notoriously hostile to him and decidedly opposed to his advancement to the chief magistracy of the nation; and I did so for the purpose of bringing home to the writer of 'Common Sense' the gross inconsistency of his own principles. He doubtless remembers the high sounding denunciations which were uttered by a writer in your paper, some time after the Presidential election, against all 'caucus men—their aiders and abettors'—and when *'the red right arm of vengeance'* was waved aloft against them. Believing as I do that he was himself the furious denouncer of that day, I should be glad now to know how he afterwards swallowed the bitter pill of the appointment of James Barbour—the head and front of *caucus*? And how,—I pray his high mightiness of *consistency* to say—how did he sit down under the appointment of Mr. Gallatin, the odious caucus candidate for the Vice Presidency? Will *he* support the administration when right and oppose it when wrong, or will he still *go the whole* and swear *allegiance* to Mr. Adams, for good and for evil?—This subject might be still further gravely pursued, but it is unnecessary at this time. The people, thank God! are growing daily in intelligence and I will not distrust their discernment of those paltry tricks and artifices. They will watch well the advocates of these slavish doctrines & bestow on them their merited contempt.

Matthew Prior's *Merry Andrew*, traversing the stage with a neat's tongue in one hand and a black pudding in the other, presents an admirable image of one of this new sect of administration toad-eaters, who propose the test of absolute submission, under the polished phraseology of *a decided friend to the present administration of the general government!!!*—The admonition put by the poet into the mouth of the Scaramouch is, with the alteration of a word or two, a complete compend of the maxims of this new political philosophy—Supposing the *Scaramouch* to have been a great *fault-finder* with past administrations and now an *office-seeker* from the present, it will run thus;—(The mountbank addresses a brother droll—)

That busy fool I was, which thou art now;
Desirous to correct, not knowing how;
With very good design but little wit,
Blaming or praising things as I thought fit;
I for this conduct had what I deserv'd;
And dealing honestly was almost starv'd.
But, thanks to my indulgent stars! I eat,
Since I have found the secret to be great.
Go with the President, what e'er he says;
Sleep very much; think little; and talk less;
Mind neither good nor bad, nor *right* nor *wrong*;
But eat your pudding, slave, and hold your tongue.

I hope, Sir, you will take pains to ward off the odium of this *monarchial* sentiment from the heads of federalists. I know that the great body of them will disdain the infamous and treasonable doctrine; but public opinion is often fixed by surmises, industriously circulated, and, if not timely disabused, will settle into conviction. It is hard that the many should be branded with the baseness of the few. Had you lived a little longer amongst us you would have known that by such silly, destable sentiments, uttered in the wantonness and intemperate zeal of some hair brained partizan, filled with his own self-importance, the party was often brought to the brink of ruin. But instead of throwing such fellows overboard, as they ought to have done, they were content to keep them "below water line,"—safe from doing mischief, and whenever there was a great contest, to get out men of real sense and character and standing, who had secured the confidence and respect of the people. And yet, Sir, this very class of men would always afterwards strut into the political arena and impudently claim the prizes of every hard fought battle.—Did ever mortal fly upon the chariot wheel raise such a dust as they?

But, Sir, the insidious design of 'Common Sense' is too manifest to some for his own base purposes.

You are aware, sir, of the many anxious, bustling consultations and *little caucuses*, which have been held on the subject of our present representative in Congress. We have seen no formal declaration from him as a candidate, but it is understood every where that he desires to continue in his place. The people of the district, who, disregarding the old party divisions, generously united in his support, seem to be perfectly satisfied, and I believe there are but a few individuals, who have ever manifested a solicitude to see him disturbed. Though few in number they make up that deficiency in zeal. No word of reproach or charge or censure has been uttered openly against him; but the tongue of malice has been busy in secret, to whisper old refuted falsehoods and ambiguous insinuations. It has been the singular fate of this gentleman to have been assailed with the most contradictory charges, and when he first offered his services, in 1824, it was a matter of amusement to see the effrontery with which he was accused almost in the same breath and by the same persons, of having been brought forth by the old federal party and at the same time, by certain *leading democrats*. Happily for him the contest was then in the open field and he made his appeal before the people; boldly and frankly avowed his real sentiments and views and stifled his calumniators with their own reports.

He came forth then in truth *without a call*. He used no affectation in the matter—no bustling parade of *solicited solicitations*; but, without previous concert with any man or any set of men, of any party, he risked his pretentions upon the free will of his fellow citizens and received their generous approbation. I think I know him well and if he possess any good quality, it is a heart for gratitude; and I am sure that he feels most sensibly his obligations to the people for the honor they have conferred upon him.

It is, sir, this honorable testimony of the people's confidence, bestowed without distinction of party, upon the individual who now represents the district, which gives umbrage to a few ambitious spirits, who can never hope to rise but by the support of some sort of violent political division.—*Hinc illæ lachrymæ!* And this is the *crime* of our representative;—it hath this extent—no further. How else has he offended?—Is it because he declared openly to the people that he had abandoned all party views and laboured to convince them of the propriety of putting down party spirit? Had not the same sentiments been expressed by certain other federalists and *earnest appeals* made to the people, through the press, on this interesting subject? Were those, sir, the mere tricks of political jugglers to gull & to deceive? If our representative, in the fulness of sincerity, undertook to make an experiment of the real feelings of the people on this point, and was accepted, is it not rather a cause of triumph with every sincere advocate of the doctrine, than a ground of opposition to him? But perhaps his blundering honesty run foul of some deep laid political plot, with which he was not intrusted: or perhaps he ignorantly blew up a train laid for very different purposes from a peaceful union of the citizens, and with it the unhappy schemer himself:

"'Tis the sport to have the engineer
Hoist with his own *petard*."

The miserable *lampoon* of "Common Sense" can have but but one effect,—the utter destruction of the character of any man to whom its authorship may be justly imputed. Although to some it will appear but an idle ebullition of impotent malice and the poisoned arrow directed against the principal object of it, has fallen hurtless at his feet, yet the baseness and unprovoked virulence of the writer has displayed to view the very image of the toad bloated with the long concocted venom of envy and hatred. Madness might, indeed, account for such an exhibition of moral deformity, but folly, with his cap and bells, could scarcely so fling away disguise.—Surely—surely he has been touched with the spear of Ithuriel and compelled to give out the secret workings of a miligant heart—bare and exposed, convicted and condemned!

Will any man pretend to say, even if the test of qualification to office proposed by "Common Sense" were a proper one, that the insulting style in which candidates are called upon to *swear their allegiance* to administration is such as an honest citizen, sincere & patriotic in his views, would resort to? Why should the *present* candidates be so treated? Had any one of them avowed that determined hostility to the administration of the general government which would justify such contemptuous language? No—no, sir! All the little idle tales which malice could invent to wear away the good name of our representative in Congress in the estimation of all who were suspected to be *doubtful* having failed of their desired effect the bold and impudent attempt has been made to excite a suspicion of his views in respect to the administration. Is it come to this, sir,—that a representative of an enlightened district, shall be called upon to pledge himself to the support of all measures that the administration may propose, when he has been elected by the people to guard their rights and interests and to check any encroachments of executive power? Such a doctrine strikes at the root of liberty—and makes slaves both of the representative and the people. To whom, sir, will that administration be responsible, when the people shall have once bound down their representatives to support it in all its views and the head that governs it?—The pernicious superstition of a party, founded on this principle, must soon sink into idolatry for men and set up a tyrant, notwithstanding the forms and provisions of the constitution.

But, Sir, no doubt is in truth entertained of the correctness of the views of our representative in congress, with regard to a fair and patriotic support of Mr. Adams's administration. His sentiments are well known now to comport with the principles upon which he obtained the suffrages of the people;—that he *never will regard party considerations or party views*, but *will support such measures of government as he thinks conducive to the welfare and happiness of the people & oppose any & every measure which he may consider dangerous to their peace and the security of their rights and freedom*. This I know to be his present creed and I believe it to be his conscientious determination. The contrary is an unfounded surmise.

His character for consistency cannot be affected by the mean artifices or misrepresentations of his enemies. He is aware of all the machinations against him and of the system of *espionage* that has been set even upon his *social intercourse*. But every intrigue has been baffled and exposed and the impudent attempts to seduce some of his *friends* has been met by them with deserved contempt. The unjust and illiberal treatment he receives adds daily to the number of his friends and I think he will have nothing to fear in any contest.

MARCUS.

For the Easton Gazette.

MR. GRAHAM,

It has been avowed by a worthy and intelligent gentleman, high in the confidence of opposition, well versed in the political topics and doings of the day, who was a candidate for congress but who has decisively declined, that a principal reason for his declining was, that the elections were from this time to turn upon the question, *Are you for Mr. Adams or General Jackson,?* and that all other considerations were to be absorbed in this. This gentleman is the confidential friend of the leader of the opposition to the administration, and he may be relied on in what he asserts.

The systematic course now pursued throughout this country to rally and organize a regular and effective opposition to the administration is known to every man at all acquainted with what is passing in the world, and whilst the friends of administration are quiet, disposed to let the government go on without being incumbered or hindered by popular excitement, the opposition have their meetings and their resolutions and are establishing a system of party opposition tests, by which they wish to have all men tryed who offer themselves for the popular voice, in order that they may fashion them to suit their own views. The boldness, the ardour, and the growing prevalence of this system begins to make the friends of administration believe, that it is necessary to resist this systematic plan, lest it produce an undue and improper effect upon public opinion when not prepared to combat it—whilst another class of persons, your timid creatures, your men of craving appetites and time serving propensities, are kept stewing over the coals of uncertainty, not knowing which side to take—such men, however, are prone to side with the babbling, furious men, who make the most noise and most show, and make up in excess of insolence and passion their lack of common sense.

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