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WASHINGTON, January 18.

About sufficient time has elapsed to ascertain the impression made on the public mind by the embargo. As far as this impression has been ascertained, the sentiments we expressed at the time it was imposed have been completely verifyed. Among the agricultural and manufacturing classes of the community it has excited no dissatisfaction. It has rather been hailed as a just claim, upon their patriotism and fortitude, as one of those severe and strong measures to which true friendship does not hesitate to resort in extraordinary cases. No state in the Union will sustain so much temporary inconvenience from it as that of Virginia; and no equal number, perhaps, of individuals in the nation feel these evils more sensibly, than those who compose her legislature. For no state in the Union raises so great a surplus of productions which depend so entirely on a foreign market for their disposition; and it is probable that the stake which the members of her legislature have in such disposition is greater than that of the same number of men in any other state. Yet we perceive, to their honor, that in a crisis of national danger, they spurn the idea of allowing any competition either between their personal interests and the public safety, or of enjoying, for a moment, the benefits of an exposed commerce at the risque of the ultimate prosperity of their country. Their vote of approbation, by its near approach to unanimity, shews that a hostile party spirit either does not exist at all, or that it is too small to excite the smallest uneasiness.

It is true that as a party, the federalists opposed this measure. But of whom does this party consists? Of a few leaders as they have heretofore justly been called; but who for a considerable time past have forfeited all pretensions to the name by the desertions of almost the whole of that portion of the people who once had confidence in them. They yet remain the vain prerogative of clamouring against every measure of the government; but as to influence with the people it is gone. They enjoy the right, and riot in its exercise, of ascribing motives, which they know to be untrue, to those who administer the government; but the people have long since looked upon them with the same indifference, though not equal curiosity, with which they behold the ledgerdemain of the juggler, or gaudy pageant of the showman. Of this we have recently had an illustrious proof.

Certain communications were made by the President to Congress, on which the embargo was laid. Of these a part were confidential. It was known that they could not therefore in honour be disclosed. Hence the occasion was seized with eagerness to calumniate the motives which dictated the measure, and to delude the people. French influence, without a shadow of reason, was rung through the Union, by men who one day will blush at the detection of their falsehood. But what has been the effect? A few party prints have made a racket, but the temper of the nation remains unruffled and undismayed. It reposes in confidence on the virtue of the government, on that patriotism which has never been found wanting.

If this measure is satisfactory to the agricultural and manufacturing interest, we have the strongest, the most conclusive proofs of its propriety. For, however, clamourous a certain set of men may be whenever the topic of commerce is introduced it is nevertheless most certain, that whatever in the highest degree secures and promotes agriculture must likewise in the highest degree advance the interest of every other class of men. For agriculture is the fountain-head of all our prosperity & strength, and it is only so far as commerce, aids it that it is worthy of encouragement.—No honest trader, who understands his business, will deny this.

It is true, that the clamour which has been raised against the measure has sprung up in commercial towns. But it should be recollected that it is there that most foreign influence resides, and consequently the greatest portion of systematic opposition to the measures of a government in collision with those nations from which this foreign influence emanated. Who will pretend to say what part of the commercial capital in those towns is foreign capital? And who will undertake to say whether those who hold this capital have not a guarantee of their property against those imminent dangers that would overwhelm the fair American trader? Further, who will pretend to estimate the benefits which such an exemption from risque in the foreign capitalist would give him over the bona fide American merchant in a period when the rates of insurance might be expected to rise to 20 or 30 per cent. The benefits would be incalculable.—They would, however, be not merely those of the individual traders, but would in fact go to swell the treasures and increase the resources of an enemy—For it requires no extraordinary sagacity to see that, if owing to an arrangement of such capitalists with the foreign power to which they are wedded, their risques on the ocean should be merely *nominal*, while those of *bona fide* American traders were *real*, they would in fact put into their pockets the full amount of insurance saved by being spared the necessity of resorting to such a step. It is to this foreign influence then that this clamour is principally to be ascribed; and consequently, so far as it proves any thing, it is an argument in favor of the measure.

VERMONT.

The following patriotic sentiments were unanimously adopted by the General Assembly of Vermont at their late session at Woodstock.

WE, the Governor, Council and House of Representatives of the state of Vermont, viewing with indignation and abhorrence the violent and unjustifiable conduct of the cruisers of his Britannic majesty, in the impressment and murder of American citizens and the plunder of their property upon the high seas, and, even in the very entrance of our harbors, and more especially in the late hostile attack made with circumstances of unparelleled malignity upon the American national frigate *Chesapeake* by the British ship of war *Leopard*.

Do *Resolve*, That at this awful crisis, when our national honor and independence are insulted by a nation with whom we, forgetful of former injuries, have not only endeavored to cultivate harmony, by preserving a strict and perfect neutrality, but to conciliate their friendship by every act of benevolence, humanity and assistance, compatible with justice due to ourselves and to others, it is the duty of every American to rally around the constituted authorities of his country and to support them with his life and fortune, in resisting any encroachments on our national and individual rights, by any foreign power whatever, and in procuring redress for the many injuries we have sustained, and which our patient and friendly forbearance has suffered too long—injuries, commited in a manner unusually barbarous, and calculated to fix an indelible disgrace upon the British character.

And be it further Resolved, That we do accord our warmest approbation to the measures adopted by the President of the United States on this trying occasion, and that we have the most perfect confidence in his wisdom, integrity and ability so to direct the energies of the government as to preserve our honor as a nation free from taint or reproach, and our liberties as individuals, secure from violation.—And we do farther, for ourselves and our constituents, declare—that, fearless of the dangers to which we may be exposed as a frontier state, we shall be ever ready to obey the call of our common country, whenever it shall be necessary either for the purposes of redress or vengeance.

And Resolved, That a copy of the foregoing resolution be made and immediately transmitted to the President of the United States.

A true Copy,
ATTEST,
TH: LEVERETT, *Sec'ry of State.*

To the foregoing the President has made the following

REPLY.

Washington, Dec. 1, 1807.

SIR,

The Secretary of State has communicated to me your letter to him of the 14th of November, covering the resolutions of the General Assembly of Vermont on the 4th of the same month.

The sentiments expressed by the General assembly of Vermont on the late hostile attack on the Chesapeake, by the Leopard ship of war, as well as on other violations of our maritime and territorial rights, are worthy of their known patriotism; and their readiness to rally round the constituted authorities of the country, and to support its rights with their lives and fortunes is the more honorable to them as exposed by their position, in front of the contest. The issue of the present misunderstandings cannot now be foreseen; but the measures adopted for their settlement have been sincerely directed to maintain the rights, the honor, and the peace of our country; and the approbation of them expressed by the General Assembly of Vermont is to me a confirmation of their correctness.

The confidence they are pleased to declare in my personal care of the public interests, is highly gratifying to me, and gives a new claim to every thing, which zeal can effect for their service.

I beg leave to render to the General Assembly of Vermont, and to yourself the assurances of my high consideration and respect.

TH: JEFFERSON.

His Excellency
GOVERNOR SMITH.

FROM THE VIRGINIAN.

*The case of John Randolph, esq. and General James Wilkinson, re-considered.**

"Audi et alteram partem."

"Hear also the other side."

The character of General James Wilkinson has been assailed with an unusual degree of asperity at a time when *truth and justice* demanded that we should have suspended our opinions, and even *Rusticity* itself ought to have respected the feelings of the accused.—Two essays appeared in the fourth number of this paper; one under the signature of *Veritas et Justitia*, the other of *Rusticus*; both of which are evidently addressed to those "prejudices and passions," against which the authors profess to guard. Whilst we admire the elegance of the style in which those pieces are written, we have to lament that they should be so little calculated to produce that calm investigation which the nature of the subject requires.

An enquiry into the conduct of General Wilkinson has been instituted at his own request. His invitation to Mr. Randolph was not dictated by a wish to "stifle investigation" as has been erroneously supposed, but to obtain redress for the wrongs which he had suffered. If we will compare dates we shall find the correspondence between Mr. Randolph and General Wilkinson commenced on the 24th December; on the 31st General Wilkinson *posted* Mr. Randolph, in a handbill which was stuck up in various parts of the city of Washington, and on the same day Mr. Randolph denounced he General on the floor of congress, an Spanish pensioner. What is the infeence. It is plainly this—that it becam necessary for Mr. Randolph to denonce the character of General Wilkinson to shew that he was not a man of hono, in order to form an apology for not meting him in the field.

*Accusations of every kind should be tested *ad hominem*. No man has a higher opinion of the incorruptibility of Mr. Randolph by gold, than the writer of this note; but is it as c tain, that he is vulnerable to the wiles of specious and wicked men, through the medium of his peculiar cast of mind and temperament; which have proved very pernicious to his political influence, and rendered him as a public man almo a non-effective representative. Suppose that Mr. Randolph were treated in congress as he has treated general Wkinson. Suppose a member of that hse should rise and say that he had information from such a man as Matthew Lyon, or general Adair, or Thomas Powe, or Daniel Clark, that he, Randolph had been a pensioner of Great Britain, nt all the reports about the influence Mrs. Merry, with which the federal prints of the day abounded, were foded in facts, that Matthew Lyon w ready to swear to it and to produce lets of Mrs. Merry or Mr. Merry, whic though they might appear to be card of invitation to dinner, were neverthss to be considered as demonstration ad entitled to the institution of a comittee of enuqiry. What would Mr. andolph think of the understanding of t man who should rely upon such *vouchs?* This parallel case, the man of sense, n apply and extend.

Aurora.

Mr. Randolph had been a grand juror on the trial of Burr, at Richmond: he had imbibed strong prejudices against the character of General Wilkinson long before, which he had uttered in congress; he went to the city of Washing with these unfavorable impressions, leaving behind him his *humble echo*, who with the garrulity of an old woman, was constantly resounding insinuations against the general, not, perhaps, knowing that he was at the same time vibrating to the wishes and feelings of those who had incessantly laboured to identify General Wilkinson with the administration: congress met on the 26th of October; Mr. Randolph and his informant Mr. Clark of New Orleans, and who had also been at [Richmond during the latter stages of Burr's trial] were among the first members who took their seats; and yet during all this time, this "representative of the people," this "guardian of our rights," this "centinel who was equally bound to watch over the delinquincy of a judge, the encroachments of the executive, and the transgressions of every other officer of the government," was unmindful of his duty to his constituents, was unfaithful to his word, and asleep upon his post, 'till he was roused from his slumbers by the sound of "*Hector Unmasked.*"

"Look at *this side* of the picture and then at *that*." Who is Mr. Randolph? and who is gen. Wilkinson? Mr. Randolph is a representative of the people, and enjoys in a high degree the confidence of his constituents, by whom, it is presumed, he is best known. Gen. Wilkinson is commander in chief of the armies of the United States, has retained that appointment during three successive administrations, and still stands high in the estimation of the president, who is bound to scrutinize, with an eagles eye, every part of his conduct, and would be unpardonably negligent were he to continue him in command if he deserved the epithets which have been appropriat to him by his enemies. They are both gentlemen who occupy exalted stations, and are engaged in honorable pursuits. Mr. Randolph has been accused of a direliction of principle in order to gratify a personal resentment; he has been charged with having abandoned the republican cause, in support of which he acquired his political reputation; the whole weight of his talents and influence has been thrown into the scale of our most inveterate enemy; his speeches in congress have been republished in England, with commentaries by the author of "War in Disguise"† and have been read by the people of that country with as much enthusiasm as if they were inspirations from Heaven; and we have been told by a British ministerial writer, "that they are instructed by the able and interesting speech (of Mr. Randolph) in the principles and views of the American opposition, and that a war with that country would be *most powerfully opposed*, even in a case of strong and acknowleged provocation." On the other hand gen. Wilkinson has long been accused of being a Spanish pensioner, of having been a *particeps criminis* in Burr's treason, and after having obtained from him a full developement of his views, he becomes a double traitor, by denouncing his friend to the government. Still, however, Mr. Randolph retained the confidence of his constituents, and gen. Wilkinson that of the administration. Under existing circumstances, how far was it necessary for Mr. Randolph to "*descend*" before he came to the "level" of gen. Wilkinson? This will be the subject of future enquiry.

PLAIN DEALER.

†See the "Enquirer" of the 22d of July, 1806, and the two succeeding numbers of that paper, in which extracts from this pamphlet are published.

FROM THE (N. Y.) ADVERTISER.

THE FEDERALIST.

AS a Federalist, and a friend to the United States, I think it my duty to come forward, in the support of my party, and endeavour, if possible, to preserve it from the contamination of those wolves, who, clothed in our garb, are insiduously endeavoring to undermine the constitution and government of this happy and exalted country. A genuine federalist is only opposed to the present administration and officers of government, and will conequently criticise and disagree with the administration on particulars, they will never degrade nor suffer to be degraded in the eyes of foreigners or foreign governments; they wish to change the officers of government and the administration, but never seek to destroy the constitution and country, because they are not numerous enough to gain the ascendency in political affairs; they are always, and particularly at the present awful crisis, ready to rally round the standard of their government, established according to the correct principles of our constitution, and defend it against all innovation, both external and internal. I glory in the name of a federal republican, but I also glory in publicly exposing and avowing my enmity to tories and traitors, who are hypocritically concealed under the cloak of federalism, and through that medium are daily issuing and disseminating poisonous principles through our country, calculated to excite rebellion discontent, and confusion through the land, and when our country is threatened by the all-devouring fangs of Emperors and kings. The receiver of the stolen goods is as bad as the thief, and the man who advocates the cause of the tory and traitor, can be no better than they, unless it is done through ignerance, which I hope, for the honor of our country, is the case with many of our party.

Let us have recourse to the Evening Post (as for Cheetham he has buried himself in the eyes of every honest man) and some other, improperly called federal papers. What have they aimed at; and what effect have they produced, though infinitely smaller than they intend? Is it not despicable for a man to paint the distresses of the poor, with a view to produce anarchy and confusion, and excite a contempt for the government at this important moment, when union and patriotism ought to be so generally promoted? Most certainly, can a friend to the United States be guilty of such conduct? Can any man be so lost to virtue and shame, as to call himself a friend to the Washington administration and our country, after having diffused such ideas?

The poorer class of inhabitants are excited into a belief that their poverty is altogether owing to the administration, who ought to provide for them, and that no exertion on their part is necessary to procure a livelihood. The sailors would not in my opinion, have been so troublesome, had not so many of those mischievous publications appeared in our papers.

Those disorganizing papers of late, have not only been calculated to destroy harmony and union within our country, but induce foreign powers to believe that our contempt for our own government, our dissention and our exalled opinions of other nations would render us an easy prey to them, and consequently treat us with that indifference and neglect which we would not view with impunity.

The present embargo has been so misconstrued as to endeavor to make Mr. Rose, minister from Great Britain, believe that its effect upon our own country was so ruinous that it would in a short time bring us to any terms with him—what unblushing patriotism.

To enter more minutely on the subject of those of our party, who have the consumate impudence to style themselves federalists would be unhappy friends to Washington &c.

Enough has been said to convince the honest of our party that they do not observe the appellation; they are enemies to our country, they disgrace our party, they speak not the language of citizens, who wish to charge the officers of government, and the administration, but the language of men who wish to destroy the existence of that nation and government which, when well administered, is only calculated to protect the rights of man.

I would therefore advise every genuine federalist to tare himself from the embraces and society of those adhesive traitors, foreigners and tories, who through the medium of our names, sting our country; as the time in my opinion, is not for distant when the friends and enemies of our nation shall be separated, and the latter receive the punishment from the former which their crimes so justly merit.

A FEDERAL REPUBLICAN.

Notice is hereby given,

TO all those who have any claims against the estate of *Edward O. Clarke*, late of Caroline county, deceased, that they produce their accounts, legally authenticated—And all those indebted to the said estate are requested to come and pay off their respective accounts, otherwise suits will be commenced by

J. LOOCKERMAN, Ex'r of Edward O. Clarke.

Easton, February 2, 1808. 3