Easton, Md.

Tuesday Morning, Sept. 20.

Whether we view the bloody convulsions of Europe as the dispensations of providence for the fulness of their national and individual sins, or as mere effects of human ambition and avarice, between the lords of the two elements, which has fermented by degrees, to madness and disregard of all laws, human and divine —it was certainly wise in the government of the United States, to prefer withdrawing for a time, all commerce and connexion from both, to becoming a party in a conflict, which must terminate in the extinction of the national power of one or the other; and can only close the scene, and stop the mad career of the victor. It is with pain therefore, every sober man must see a faction, composed of the enemies of our national independence, united with the hungry expectants of office, availing themselves of this embarrassment to commerce, created by the tyrants of the ocean, and continued from the encouragement given by their friends, here, to force the government from this wise and peaceful attitude, into the field of war; for to accept such an ignominious trade as that, which the belligerents would admit, is such a prostration of national honor and national independence, as we believe no honest American will ever accept—because it would be an abandonment of independence and a return to vassalage.

While our external and internal enemies are thus forging manacles for that liberty we inherit from our fathers, and that right to traverse the ocean we derive from its maker, we feel it a duty we owe to our government to declare our numbers undiminished, our confidence unshaken, our cordial approbation of their measures, and our abhorrence of the insidious measures of the enemies of our independence; and that we consider those of them who are Americans by birth, most unworthy sons of such fathers as laid the foundation of our free government, in the rejection of a three penny tribute per pound on tea! Oh, worthless, mean spirited sons, to sell for a mess of pottage that glorious birth right, your fathers purchased with their lives and fortunes.

We believe a few months patience would have extorted a respect for our flag from the British, such as would render the French decrees "null and a-void" *as to us*, and secured us the richest trade ever enjoyed by a neutral nation —while the removal of the embargo *would* rivet upon *us British tribute*, and our *seamen slavery* little short of Algerine; and this commerce so disgraced no object of profit; for without a free flag, we shall be limited to England and the West Indies, which will be 'till our produce will not bear the freight. It is therefore in sailor language a golden chain or wooden leg that lies before us, and unhappily great part of the community in our maratime places, would seem to prefer the wooden leg.

We feel ourselves likewise called upon at this important crisis, to express our hearty approbation of the nomination of a presidential candidate, to succeed the present most worthy incumbent, and notwithstanding the childishly weak and devilishly wicked measures of a few factious protesters, associated with the enemies of our independence, to divide the friends of government; we do most highly approve both the *manner* and the *man* of the nomination at Washington. As to the *manner*, we believe it not only the best practicable, but the only mode which can produce union. And as to the *man*, we believe James Madison second to none but Thomas Jefferson, as the latter is superior to all but the immortal Washington. With regard to the venerable George Clinton, as vice president we have no objection unless he should lend his name and influence (as the protesters pretend) to confound his friends, and make sport like Aaron Burr for his enemies.

FIVE MILLIONS OF AMERICANS.

FROM THE SALEM GAZETTE.

MR. CUSHING,

I observe in your paper of Tuesday last, an assertion that I was not perfectly correct in the statement I made, "that "out of seven vessels which sailed from "this district for the continent of Eu-"rope in the month preceding the com-"mencement of the Embargo, not one "even reached her destined port in safe-"ty."

When I applied at the custom-house for information on this subject, a list was given me of all the vessels which had been cleared for the continent of Europe in December, the month preceding the commencement of the embargo.—In this list the ship Augustus was not included, as she was cleared at the custom house in November, although she did not leave the harbor until early in December; and even this vessel, either before, or immediately upon her entering the harbor of Leghorn, was taken possession of by the French, and the consignee was not permitted to receive her cargo, until he gave bonds for the amount, which remained in force against him or the owners for several months, and then about two thousand dollars were paid as a compensation for those bonds being given up. Is this arriving in safety!—I now add, and I am ready to prove, that out of *eight* vessels, which sailed from this district for the continent of Europe in the month of December last, not one even reached her destined port *in safety*. WILLIAM GRAY.

Salem, August 25th, 1808.

PRESIDENT'S ANSWER

To the Boston petition.

The following answer to the petition of the inhabitants of this town, from the president of the United States as received yesterday by the Selectmen, and is now presented to the public by their order.

WILLIAM COOPER, Town clerk.

Boston Sept. 6, 1808.

August 26, 1808.

SIR,

I beg leave to communicate through you the inclosed answer to the representation which came to me under cover from you, and to add the assurances of my respect.

TH: JEFFERSON.

Charles Bulfinch, Esq. of the Selectment of Boston.

To the inhabitants of the Town of Boston, in legal Town meeting assembled.

Your representation and request were received on the 22d inst. and have been considered with the attention due to every expression of the sentiments and feelings of so respectable a body of my fellow citizens. No person has seen, with more concern than myself, the inconveniences brought on our country in general, by the circumstances of the times in which we happen to live; times to which the history of nations presents no parallel. For years we have been looking as spectators on our brethren of Europe, afflicted with all those evils which necessarily follow an abandonment of the moral rules which bind men and nations together.—Connected with them in friendship and commerce, we have happily so far kept aloof from their calamitous conflicts, by a steady observance of justice towards all, by much forbearance, and multiplied sacrifices.—At length however, all regard to the rights of others having been thrown aside the belligerent powers have beset the highway of commercial intercourse with edicts, which taken together, expose our commerce and mariners, under almost every destination, a prey to their fleets and armies.—Each party indeed would admit our commerce with themselves, with the view of associating us in their war against the other. But we have wished war with neither. Under these circumstances were passed the laws of which you complain, by those delegated to exercise the powers of legislation for you, with every sympathy of a common interest in exercising them faithfully. In reviewing these measures therefore we should advert to the difficulties out of which a choice was of necessity to be made. To have submitted our rightful commerce to prohibitions, and tributary exactions from others would have been to surrender our independence. To resist them by arms was war, without consulting the state of things or the choice of the nation. The alternative preferred by the legislature of suspending a commerce placed under such unexampled difficulties, besides saving to our citizens their property, and our mariners to their country, has the belligerent nations to revise a conduct as contrary to their interest as it is to our rights.

"In the event of such peace, or suspension of hostilities between the belligerent powers of Europe, or of such change in their measures affecting neutral commerce, as may render that of the United States sufficiently safe, in the judgment of the president," he is authorised to suspend the embargo. But no peace or suspension of hostilities, no change of measures affecting neutral commerce, is known to have taken place. The orders of England, and the decrees of France and Spain existing at the date of these laws, are still unrepealed, so far as we know. In Spain indeed a contest for the government appears to have arisen; but of its course or prospects, we have no information on which prudence would undertake a hasty change in our policy, even were the authority of the executive competent to such a decision.

You desire, that, in this defect of power, Congress may be specially convened. It is unnecessary to examine the evidence or the character of the facts which are supposed to dictate such a call: Because you will be sensible, on an attention to dates, that the legal period of their meeting is as early as, in this extensive country, they could be fully convened by a special call.

I should with great willingness, have executed the wishes of the inhabitants of the town of Boston, had peace, or, a repeal of the obnoxious edicts, or other changes, produced the case in which alone the laws have given me that authority; and so many motives of justice and interest lead to such changes, that we ought continually to expect them. But while these edicts remain, the legislature alone can prescribe the course to be pursued. TH: JEFFERSON.

Aug. 26, 1808.

FOR THE STAR.

MR. SMITH.

Whoever will undertake to read the Presidents answer to the Boston petition, for taking off, or suspension of the Embargo, will (if not blinded by prejudice) be convinced of the propriety of not only laying it on, but for its continuance, so long as the causes exist, for which the measure was adopted. Two evils laid before Congress, to wit, war, or an Embargo, in consequence of the orders in council, and French decrees. They chose the least. It is true the inconveniences are felt, but the inconveniences of war, would have been felt much more. The federalists now do all they can to prejudice the minds of the people against the government and administration, and no doubt they would have complained, had not the Embargo been laid on, so that it is impossible to please them, and the best way is to be regardless of frivolous complaints, and do right, they have done so.

Let it be observed, if the wounds received in the late administration are now healed the scars are still observable—Only view the unconstitutional alien and sedition laws, see the oppressive stamp act, and funding system law, behold the carriage tax, excise, and direct tax laws, all of which were inadequate to discharge the demands of government under that oppressive administration, and actually borrowed 5,000,000 dollars at 8 per cent. Then to quell the complaints of the good people of the United States, for such enormities, what exertions did we see, to raise an army, no doubt to force these oppressive laws on us.

The effects being powerfully felt, an enquiry was made of the cause, the cause being discovered, a change took place, the army was disbanded, taxes taken off, every thing flourished, the people happy, and all was well, till the belligerent powers, envying our happiness, acted as above to destroy our peace, and if possible to drag us into war, which is the cause of our present calamities.

Now comes on the election, the federals take every advantage to get into power again. They make a great bug-bar of the Embargo, as they know its effects are felt, (but never mention to the people, the effects of war which would be much more felt) much more might be said, but for the want of time, must quit, with one observation, and that is, it is better to trust to the firmness of a Brutus, than the wisdom of a Cicero. Hope therefore Mr. John Brown, of Nathan, will be the man of your choice. W.

FOR THE STAR.

To the Citizens of Caroline County.

FELLOW-CITIZENS,

Having seen in the Star of Tuesday last, a small publication, over the signature of "Another Voter," calling on the several candidates in this county, "to declare through the medium of the Star," their individual sentiments respecting the propriety of a speedy repeal of the laws laying an Embargo, or a further continuance of the same, so long as the general Government shall deem it necessary. Being one of the candidates alluded to in said call, and deeming it my duty, as an honest citizen, to make known my sentiments on the subject, whether called on publicly or privately, whether by one or more citizens; I answer, that having joined with a numerous collection of my fellow citizens of this county, no longer ago than the 21st day of July, 1807, to form an address expressive of the public opinion on the then recent outrage committed by the British ship Leopard, on our national ship Chesapeake; and well remembering that the citizens of this county by their address (which was unanimously agreed to, by a very large assemblage of the citizens) did pledge themselves to support with their lives, their fortunes and their sacred honours, any and every measure the wisdom of the general government should adopt calculated for either defence or retaliation; and inasmuch as no measure of retaliation were resorted to by the government but only measures of defence and those of the most pacific nature, calculated to avert a war with Great Britain, and considered as the last effort to prevent it: and believing it to be as essential to the well being of any community, that the government should not be deceived by its citizens, as that the citizens should not be deceived by their government, and knowing that the general government is now in possession of the address from this county, as well as thousands of others of the same import; and knowing also, that no address expressive of a change of opinion has been forwarded from this county to the President, I cannot, (without doing violence to my feelings, and violating that faith and sacred honor, "I joined with my fellow citi-"zens of this county in pledging) with-"draw my confidence from the general "government," by hazarding the assertion, REPEAL THE EMBARGO LAWS at all events, but still believe that the general government has the honor and welfare of the nation at heart. Therefore I must say that those unpleasant laws laying the Embargo shall continue until the government shall be satisfied that the same can be raised consistent with the safety, the honor, and the interest of their country, at the same time I will cheerfully join with my fellow citizens, at any time in an address to the executive expressive of the wishes of the people, and that in preference to putting a dastardly deception on my government no man wishes the Embargo raised more than I do upon proper principles.

JOHN BOON.

Caroline County, September 15, 1808.

FOR THE STAR.

FEDERAL TRAP.

THIS moment I accidentally stumbled upon a bit of paper containing something *like* an address to the voters of Baltimore county, entitled, "The Embargo and Militia Law,"—and signed, "A Militia Man."—This piece never *was designed by* its author, to move in any circle but that which contains none others than those, whose means of information are few. A trap set by this lean and half-starved office hunter, to catch unwary and unfurnished minds.

Voters of Queen-Ann's & Kent counties,

BE UPON YOUR GUARD!

You are told in this weakest, but among the most subtle of all performances, "that no country was ever oppressed at the same time by two such ruinous and destructive measures as the embargo, and militia law. The former has proved destructive to commerce; the latter an oppressive tax compelling the poor man to lay out his little all, to buy arms to fight the rich man's battles." Now let me ask you, ye well meaning supporters of your present happy and envied government, would it not been more to the credit of this "Militia Man," to have told you, that before the contest between England and France became so fierce, we enjoyed an unequall'd quiet; and that it was the conduct of those contending powers in their measures of *retaliation*, that drove our government, the wisest and best that ever existed, to adopt the measure of the Embargo; and that unless the Embargo law had passed, we should unavoidably been driven into a war, the fatal and horrid consequences of which we are as yet strangers to?—But no: he rather chose to make an attempt at a triumph over your want of better information, by wishing you to believe that *that* act of our government was designed wholly and solely to injure all under its influence, and that *it could have been avoided*. You know better, fellow voters—and so does this "Militia Man," had he the honesty to acknowledge it. Well convinced am I, that you are not made of such pliable stuff, as to bend to the busy intrusions of such poor stuff as draggled after his pen, you well recollect the conduct of your Jefferson, as well before, as since his election to the presidential chair: *He is the same still*, and ever will, no doubt, remain the PEOPLE'S friend. Again: would not this militia man have given a more certain proof of his honesty of heart, and uprightness of intention, if instead of telling that unfortunate lie, viz. "that an oppressive tax compell'd, &c."—he had told you, that the poor were by that law exempted from the expence of buying arms?—And for the truth of this, I refer you to the 5th section of the law, wherein it is actually made the *duty* of commanding officers of each company, "to report to the commanders of each regiment, the number of persons in their respective companies who may be adjudged unable to arm themselves agreeable to the provisions of this act." And in the 42d section, you will find what monies are to be applied to the purchase of muskets and accoutrements, which when purchased, are to be "distributed by the field officers among such persons in their respective regiments and extra battalions, as are adjudged to be too indigent to purchase the same *at their own expence*."—And farther, you will find by adverting to the 4th section of said law, a provision made for the poor, both non-commissioned officer and private, in that he *cannot be fined* for appearing without such accoutrements, as this law requires. Now what do you think of this *poor man's* champion?—Turn him about—look at his inconsistency: your feigned friend to-day, and to-morrow your bitterest foe.

He asks with a boldness which is the inseparable companion of a man who is determined to carry his point, though opposed by the most piercing flashes of truth —"was there ever such a tyrannical and oppressive law existing in a free country?"—Does he not *know* there was?—Or however it may be, he has with other advocates for the poor, *these electioneering times*, forgot the gag law; the alien and sedition laws; the stamp-act; and above all as *a poor man's* friend, *the thirty pound law*. May we not now pass over as much rubbish as is already noticed, and come to that part where he in a particular manner addresses the "Freemen of Baltimore," and ask nearly in his own words—"Do you forget the noise which these deceitful men who *act* one way, and *talk* another, made" under Adams's administration "about the" thirty pound law, "and yet these men have" the effrontery to take the soft hand of delusion, and make a friendly attempt to wipe away "the sweat" from the poor man's "brow."

I pass on to where he "wishes it recorded in the hearts of all true Americans—that the people are marked out like so many head of cattle, and each one taxed, with a sum sufficient to furnish a firelock; great and small, rich and poor *all* pay the same." *Now have we not proved this to be false?* A long tooth this, in our miltia man's trap; he did not question one moment but that such an effort as this, would assist his plan abundantly; and that the man against whom this tooth might fall would be held perfectly secure.

We have told you before, and we tell you again, that the militia law has no bearing whatever upon the poor; for none are compell'd to furnish themselves with arms, *but such as are able*. As *Freemen* you possess a principle superior to that of refusing submission to laws when made; though as *Freemen*, you are exhorted to oppose a law;—you are exhorted not to submit to it!—From this exhortation of your pretended friend, gather a specimen of his good will. How much does such preaching as this resemble that of the Tories in our struggle for Independence?—Ah fellow citizens, one single glance at the times experienced in '76, will shew you what side of the question "A Militia Man" would have taken. You are advised by him to oppose a law, by no means infringing upon your constituted rights—a law sanctioned, and made valid by proper authority! And who is the man so lost to every patriotic sentiment? Among whom does he associate?—These questions are resolvable by you all.

HONESTUS.

September 15, 1808.

TO THE PEOPLE.

Countrymen Awake! A tempest approaches—The worlds last best hope, Liberty's most elevated most extensive doom, her last loved temple, the Constitution of independent America, is about to be assailed, and if possible tumbled into ruins. Yes, my countrymen, it is soon to sustain a furious attack from the most malignant faction that ever agitated, disgraced or insulted civilized society. The pretext of this abandoned faction is the embargo, but it is the successful direction of public affairs by a sovereign people that is the true cause of its awakened fury. The embargo is merely the mask which it has slipped on, in the fond hope that it may steal past the centinels of liberty, and mount to the heights of power. The embargo is made no more of than a stalking horse to lodge the enemy within the walls of our constitution. The faction brawls to the people, it bellows with brazen lungs about the dignity of the country in expectation that the people's attention may be called away so that they will neither see nor hear the approach of Aritocratic lumber—Its assumed name is *Federalism*; its daily practice is division, distraction and disunion; the object is monarchy; it means any thing and every thing that fraud, or malice, or Satin himself can suggest. Let facts test the truth of what I state.

To cavil or assert falsehoods about the dates of the French decrees and British orders in Council is childish or worse. Was the embargo a wise measure at the time it was laid? Even federalism itself, at a loss for a quibble or a subterfuge, has admitted it—Is there one single cause which produced the embargo removed or changed for the better? Nay I go farther, are not the causes doubled and tripled upon us by the belligerent powers? But no matter, says federalism—take away the embargo! The Farmer's wheat is rotting upon his hands and he must have a market. Where will he find a market? *Federalism is mute*—What would be your substitute? *still silent*—What would be the consequences of removing the embargo? and endeavoring to find or force a market? Federalism is dumb. It would fain proclaim war and a union with England, but that the cloven foot would become too hideously exposed. Every man must see that our only alternative is the embargo or a war. Men of America look around you, then contemplate in prospect grim-visaged war, with all its train of expences, blood, devastation and ghastly horrors, and judge for yourselves.—*Americans will neither seek the battle, nor shun it when it comes*; but will federalism have the effrontery to assert that WAR will BETTER our condition.

But who are those bawling pettifoggers that feel so tenderly alive to the interests of the Farmers and the prosperity of commerce? are they led on by the spirit of the patriots of '76? No—are they the friends of *representative* Democracy! No none of these—They are the Politicians of the Hamiltonian school—a president for life—a Senate for life, with a very limited right of suffrage to the people and *damnation to Democracy*. They are the men of the Adams' administration, the advocates of an excise, a stamp tax, a land tax, an Alien bill, a Sedition law, a standing army, a great navy; men who borrowed