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For the Star.

THE INDEPENDENT VOTERS OF WORCESTER COUNTY, MARYLAND.

Fellow-Citizens,

AT a period when the external relations of our country, so arduously demands the wisdom of the nation—a union of sentiment in our citizens is imperiously called on to give confidence to the government of our choice, that it may present a formidable front to foreign foes as well as the insiduous machinations of factious office-hunters at home; at such a time it is not superfluous to turn our attention on our own political situation, and local party differences.

As our county is a component of the political body, it behoves us to feel our importance, and jealously to guard the estimable blessings which the supreme Being has alotted to our enjoyment, under the best government human wisdom can form. We, unfortunately, my fellow citizens, have less information diffused among us, than any county in this state, with the same advantages of situation, a circumstance that leaves us continually liable to misrepresentations, and subjects us to be imposed on by the designing; doubts are created in the mind by the ingenuity of the searchers for place and salary—falsehood is substituted for facts, and ere they can be done away the purposes of such men are accomplished. From these causes, no doubt, we have been more subservient to frequent changes in our political denominations. It is to be lamented the most diffuse information could not be brought to the door of every citizen, that he might read and judge for himself, examine, censure and vote for such men as stand fairest in the spirit of our constituted governments; indeed this is not among the least of the blessings a republican government gives its citizens.

The truth of the above observations have been fully proven the last year, in our county; falsehoods were circulated with an industry unrivalled, misconstructions (no doubt designedly) detailed with avidity, and the Demon of lies seemed to have establised a manufactory in our capitol, with branches in every district of our devoted county.—The authors of those vile, insiduous calumnies, kept behind the curtain, their coward souls dared not take the responsibility of such barefaced falsehood; minions spread the rumours, they were echoed by its authors: called on they disavow, though they ceased not to give currency to the reports.

Though we were not all credulous, some were deceived; a change took place, a change that carried *promises* of relief to the clamors those characters had raised. The embargo was to be removed, the council dismissed, and the governor displaced; no doubt, fellow citizens, we are all well satisfied these great objects have been accomplished!

I may be premature in taking notice of this group of weighty legislation, for they agree "the best method to prevent *bare-footed, ragged boys* from learning their political rights, is to stop the channels of education; and repeatedly told us that without real or personal property, we ought not to have a right of suffrage." This aristocratical sentence is particularly hard on we poor Marylanders, it is denying us state privileges, which the general government has extended, in a great measure, to those gentlemen's slaves. With high deference for one of these gentlemen's talents, I do hold "that "the right in every citizen to exercise "a vote is the true spirit of our govern-"ments, and a contrary assertion must "take birth in governments of royal "charter, breathing the spirit of monar-"chical and aristocratical grants, so op-"posite to the unaleinable rights and li-"berties of a free people."

The new candidate has no standing as to party, probably this very circumstance gained his election—he is a follower, but no leader.

It is possible that one of those gentlemen discovered that rendering ten thousand judgments did not add so much to his importance at Annapolis, as on the deluded minds of his own district. This gentleman, a full compeer with the man Timothy, possesses strange ideas of consistency. To his honor, (and respectfully let me speak it) he can fill the vestry of an Episcopal Church with as much dignity as Psalm setter in a Presbyterian meeting: Tim they say is partial to psalm singing, and the likeness may be pursued.

I believe, fellow citizens, we were not fairly in the secret of the last gentleman on the ticket, being recommended by a person of high standing.* It since appears, as a new governor was in contemplation, he was designed as "MASTER OF CEREMONIES," on the important occasion; a station he was particularly calculated to fill, the *graces* having been as lavish on his person and manners as *reason* on his understanding. What a pity he should be disappointed! However, as he is a candidate for life, he does not despair.

Suffer me, my fellow citizens, to draw your notice on some of our legislative acts, it will shew that though it may be correct to change men, it is impolitic to forsake principles. We all recollect, how particular some men were to make men the object for party purposes the last year; falsehood and abuse though leveled at men, were cautiously wove in as party principles, while vollies of horrid wickedness were discharged at individuals, they were designed to bespatter the political confidence of the people of our county.

The militia law was no bad engine to be played off on the occasion; let us examine our situation—after the noted Chesapeake affair, the general government deemed it right (& what American did not?) to order a draught of 100,000 men from the union; the quota from this state amounted to 6063: What situation had we been in for several years? no law existed for our militia! it was necessary to have one to comply with the exigencies of the public call. An important crisis to the nation appeared to be impending, the enemy might be at our doors, the inactive state of our militia had rendered it necessary to give them as much practice in as short time as possible; was not this intended wisely for enabling us to defend our liberties and property—surely a less efficient plan would have answered no purpose.

That part of the law requiring arms to be furnished to exercise with, was predicted on the known character of our citizens holding them for game and sporting; and where they did not possess them, a capacity to furnish could not be better decided than by three of their own neighbors: besides, the law protected this property above any other, against attachment of every kind. The United States furnishes arms in actual service. Should this state draw from its capitol a sum for that purpose, equal to $400,000 or $500,000; this method would have been condemned, for it would have taken an annual interest from the state of $30,000, a sum nearly equal to the support of our government per annum; a state tax, no doubt, would have answered, it was the very ladder some people wanted to climb up to power by.

What is now done for the purpose of arming? Observe the attempt to court popularity and impose on the people! afraid to make the appropriation so much made use of to electioneer; they pass a trifling little law to make purchases of 1200 muskets, 50 pair of pistols, &c. annually for five years; (I hope should we be obliged to go to war, it will not last as long as the designed age of this act,) at the expiration of which term, if those arms should be distributed for militia purposes, the state will not be able to find one half of them. As the arms are obtained and completed in purchase, if they are to be kept fit for use there must be an annual oppropriation to keep them in order; if to be locked up in an arsenal, we had better have their value in bank, drawing interest.—Fellow citizens count the cost, and you will think the fable of the Fox and Flies, good advice, and that the capacity of those factions are to abuse and find fault with measures, not to amend them.

But doubtless they understood themselves, there are persons among us, that are fearful, we should learn the use of arms, we might be formidable to a British army, landing on our shores† we might frustrate the wishes, the hopes, the longing desires of gentlemen, nay, we might do ourselves some harm, at least we might deprive ourselves of having a creation of Dukes, Earls, and Lords, &c. what novices, the people of Worcester must be, how they mar their own greatness. Surely the titles of England do not sound prettier than such as we should have; for instance, the earl of Wigwam, there is something peculiarly captivating in this; besides, no doubt the title would be appropriate to the man—for we are told it does not require either virtue or talents to make earls. Methinks I see Edward, duke of Buckingham, drinking deeply from the lucubrations of the hero of Lexington to fit him for his approaching greatness.

The Execution Law, is a Phœnix. For whom was this law made? for men that stood in high credit, who could not possibly want it. If for any other class of citizens, it will be futile; for the provisions of the act, destroy the means they have to avail themselves of it. No, you wish to be believed, that the embargo had reduced us to incapacity to pay our debts; our miserable situation must be announced in our public acts. The two belligerents must be made legally acquainted with our distresses, to prevent their doing us that justice, the nation was endeavouring to coerce; believe me the humane creditors of our citizens, are as capable to judge of indulgence to honest debtors, as such legalized wiseacres.

You, gentlemen, of the House of Delegates, were ye not satisied to permit us the laity to enjoy the priviledges of religious toleration, that you did attempt in the face of the state, to establish a preminent church, into a body politic, depriving us, the people, of the right to dispose of our funds, to such religious associations, as might compromit with our own views, or did you calculate on a religious hierarchy to "*wriggle*" yourselves into power, and assist you in your thirst for titles, place and pension. Established religions have ever been the engines of tyranny, you laid your plans, but thanks to a republican Senate, whose watchful eyes, surplanted your dearest wishes.

How, gentlemen, I mean House of Delegates, could you take the oath, and despise the best interests of the people of the state of Maryland, at a crisis too when the nation so loudly called for the collective wisdom of the several states, as to refuse going into the election of a congressional Senator, was there ever a period since the establishment of our government, when the public good, more required a full and ample representation of the states? particular in that branch where the small states are equal with the large. The fate of the union may depend on this act of yours; matters of such high importance, should never be left to contingencies.—But you had fondly hoped that a change was about to take place in the sentiments of the people, consonant to your wishes, not the peoples good, local circumstances had given a majority in your house, and you thought you were the whole United States: shallow politicians; you have shewn us what you would do, the good people of the state will guard against your attempts in future.

It is in vain, gentlemen, of the House of Delegates, for you to compensate for the disgrace you have brought on the state, by your attempt to lesson its dignified character, in support of the general government, was it not enough for our country to be assailed in her rights and national character, by the insulting conduct of Britain and France, but their views should have been seconded by factious spirits at home; had not the very dregs of the cup of humiliation been finished, to preserve peace with the British tyrant, and French usurper, when our country was resolving on that coercion preparatory to more efficient measures, you dashed into it a copious draught.—Will ye enervate the government of the people, by endeavouring to weaken their confidence? will ye invite foreign aggression, (and that at a time too when the union of the people, is the only preservation of their liberties and independence) by announcing to the nations, that the administration does not possess the confidence of the people of Maryland. Citizens of Maryland spurn the disgraceful libel! Gentlemen, you must take back your slander. The Senate, the spirit of our citizens, yes a republican Senate has expressed our will!—"*Take it back—We'll have none of it.*"

Fellow citizens, there never was a time when all we hold dear, called stronger for a union of sentiment, we say we are a nation, shall we by uniting preserve that character, or shall we permit the "*sappers and miners*" of Britain, to divide and conquer us. View the proceedings in our national legislature, had Great Britain fee'd counsel, she could not had more powerful apologists for the murder of our citizens; their impressment; for taxing us, and compelling us to trade *only* where she pleases.—France has the same wish with Britain, but thanks to her weakness she cannot use it, and she has not a single representative in our national legislature.

Fellow citizens, are you prepared to bend the knee to royality and its appendages. His most gracious majesty, George the third of merciful memory, to these United States, (PARTICULARLY IN THE OLD JERSEY,) in his great goodness, is willing to do you a favor that has long laid nearest his heart, though the sacrifice on his part demands all his fortitude, he wishes to give you a king, from his own kennel of gulps, are ye ready to receive him with open arms—Oh! what ingratitude on your parts, at the very sound of the name you ought to have been prostrate.—What sad courtiers you will make my fellow citizens, only behold the advantages, many of us will be provided for, we shall have Lord Ephraim of Sand-Town-Hill. Sir John of Boquetanorton. Physician General, &c. &c.—Beside an innumerable host of the crooked letter of the alphabet.—The "*floating about of choice spirits*," under coronets, titles and pensions would beggar description, indeed fellow-citizens, we should all be provided for, in some shape or the other, either as "hewers of wood, or drawers of water." When I reflect on our approaching greatness, I am melted with gratitude for the powers *that be*.

Fellow citizens, a few words & I have done; let us have but one character, let us be Americans, let us be republicans, to be otherwise, would be disavowing our constitution, let us rally round it with firmness, let us discard insidious factions, let us honor the laws by obedience, and our country will, if we unite with our government, be formidable, free and happy.

CITIZEN.

Worcester County, February 6, 1809.

* The eloquent member of congress from our district, is in his third term, and he has made, I really forget how many speeches; but no matter, they bear a strong affinity to *George the third's* having nothing on one side, and less on the other.

† Before France can land a force in this country, she must make peace with England, or erect a navy sufficient to cope with her; events which are very remote from present appearances.—Rome was not built in a day. Great Britain has the physical means more in motion that would sensibly effect great part of our sea board, let the citizens of our sea coast not treat lightly of these circumstances.

PRESIDENT's SPEECH.

WASHINGTON, March 4.

This day, at 12 o'clock, JAMES MADISON *took the oath of office as President of the United States, and delivered in the Chamber of the House of Representatives, in the presence of the Senate, most of the late Representatives, and a large concourse of Citizens, the following* SPEECH.

Unwilling to depart from examples of the most revered authority, I avail myself of the occasion now presented, to express the profound impression made on me, by the call of my country to the station, to the duties of which I am about to pledge myself, by the most solemn of sanctions. So distinguished a mark of confidence, proceeding from the deliberate and tranquil suffrage of a free and virtuous nation, would, under any circumstances, have commanded my gratitude and devotion, as well as filled me with an awful sense of the trust to be assumed.—Under the various circumstances, which give peculiar solemnity to the existing period, I feel that both the honor and responsibility alloted to me are inexpressibly enhanced.

The present situation of the world is indeed without a parallel: and that of our country full of difficulties. The pressure of these too, is the more severely felt, because they have fallen upon us at a moment, when the national prosperity being at a height not before attained, the contrast resulting from the change has been rendered the more striking. Under the benign influence of our republican institutions, and the maintenance of peace with all nations, whilst so many of them were engaged in bloody and wasteful war, the fruits of a just policy were enjoyed, in an unrivalled growth of our faculties and resources. Proofs of this were seen in the improvements of agriculture, in the successful enterprizes of commerce, in the progress of manufactures and useful arts; in the increase of the public revenue, and the use made of it in reducing the public debt, & in the valuable works and establishments, every where multiplying over the face of our land.

It is a precious confession, that the transition from this prosperous condition of our country, to the scene which has for some time been distressing us, is not chargeable on any unwarrantable views, nor, as I trust, on any involuntary errors, in the public councils. Indulging no passions which trespass on the rights, or on the repose of other nations, it has been the true glory of the U. States to cultivate peace, by observing justice; and to entitle themselves to the respect of the nations at war, by fulfilling their neutral obligations with the most scrupulous impartiality.—If there be candor in the world, the truth of these assertions will not be questioned. Posterity at least will do justice to them.

This unexceptionable course could not avail against the injustice and violence of the belligerent powers. In their rage against each other, or impelled by more direct motives, principles of retaliation have been introduced equally contrary to universal reason and acknowledged law. How long their arbitrary edicts will be continued, in spite of the demonstrations that not even a pretext for them has been given by the United States, and of the fair and liberal attempts to induce a revocation of them, cannot be anticipated. Assuring myself that under every vicissitude, the determined spirit and united councils of the nation will be safe-guards to its honor and its essential interests, I repair to the post assigned me with no other discouragement than what springs from my own inadequacy to its high duties. If I do not sink under the weight of this deep conviction, it is because I find some support in a consciousness of the purposes, and a confidence in the principles which I bring with me into this arduous service.

To cherish peace and friendly intercourse with all nations having correspondent dispositions; to maintain sincere neutrality towards belligerent nations; to prefer in all cases amicable discussion and reasonable accommodation of differences, to a decision of them by an appeal to arms; to exclude foreign intrigues and foreign partialities, so degrading to all countries, and so baneful to free ones—To foster a spirit of independence, too just to invade the rights of others, too proud to surrender our own, too liberal to indulge unworthy prejudices ourselves, and too elevated not to look down upon them in others; to hold the union of the states as the basis of their peace and happiness; to support the constitution, which is the cement of the union as well in its limitations as in its authorities; to respect the rights & authorities reserved to the states and to the people, as equally incorporated with, and essential to the success of the general system; to avoid the slightest interference with the rights of conscience or the functions of religion so wisely exempted from civil jurisdiction; to preserve in their full energy the other saintary provisions in behalf of private and personal rights, and of the freedom of the press; to observe economy in public expenditures; to liberate the public resources by an honorable discharge of the public debts; to keep within the requisite limits a standing military force, always remembering that an armed and trained militia is the firmest bulwark of republics: that without standing armies their liberty can never be in danger, nor with large ones safe; to promote by authorised means improvements friendly to agriculture, to manufactures, and to external as well as internal commerce; to favor in like manner, the advancement of science, and the diffusion of information, as the best aliment of true liberty; to carry on the benevolent plans which have been so meritoriously applied to the conversion of our aboriginal neighbors from the degradation and wretchedness of savage life, to a participation of the improvements of which the human mind and manners are susceptible in a civilized state: As far as sentiments and intentions, such as these, can aid the fulfilment of my duty, they will be a resource which cannot fail me.

It is my good fortune, moreover, to have the path in which I am to tread, lighted by examples of illustrious services, successfully rendered in the most trying difficulties, by those who have marched before me. Of those of my immediate predecessor, it might least become me here to speak. I may, however, be pardoned for not suppressing