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ADVERTISEMENTS,

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FOR THE STAR.

MR. SMITH,

Should you deem the following commentaries worthy an insertion in your useful paper, they are at your service.

Mr. Erskine's instructions and overtures, and the negociation with our Government, which grew out of them—

MUCH has been said upon this interesting subject, and a variety of opinions appear to prevail as to the real aspect which it presents; and I must confess, that it has become so complicated, involved in such mystery, and is so full of absurdity; has been managed (as it now appears from the published copy of instruction) in such a preposterous and rhapsodical manner, that it seems as yet difficult to determine where the greatest portion of infamy will ultimately alight. Whether Mr. Erskine has proved a false and treacherous minister, by making overtures not warranted by his instructions, or whether his government is about to make him the innocent victim of her perfidious designs, or whether (what I believe to be most probable) the whole transaction is not a compound of ministerial perfidy and diplomatic intrigue, carried on, on the part of the envoy with an apparent frankness and liberality, for the purpose of imposing upon the honest and unsuspecting credulity of our Government, thereby to entrap us into measures that would relieve his government and country from the distressing situation into which they were brought, in consequence of the measures pursued by our Government, for the purpose of counteracting their lawless and barbarous violations of our neutral and commercial rights. Let the source of all this perfidy and unparralelled atrocity be what it may, the effect (and if the instructions published are genuine) the injury, insult, and outrage upon our government and people, are the same. Mr. Madison at the head of our government, when the overtures were made by the regular lar accredited minister of his Britannic Majesty, and avowedly in conformity with his instructions, unsuspecting of the base intrigue that was carrying on, and ever desirous for fair and liberal accommodation, promptly and patriotically accepted the terms and immediately on the faith of this solemn arrangement, carried them (and alas! also the base designs of this blackest perfidy) into full and complete effect, & the nation hailed the event as the harbinger of a new day, the liveliest emotions of joy beamed on every countenance, and bespoke the inward and heartfelt satisfaction which pervaded every breast. Never was a government and people more completely entraped; the vast mercantile property that was withheld from the grasp of belligerent usurpation to counteract their tyranical policy, is now (upon the faith of their perfidious intrigue) gone great part of it—direct, to satiate the wants and releave the sufferings of their faithless prostituters of national honour; and the balance exposed to the cupidity and lawless plunder of their voracious minions; and the insidious order of council for our pretended relief is but an aggravation of the insult and an irritation of the injury. Under these circumstances is it astonishing that there should be found an American freeman so far lost to the feelings of patriotism, so prostituted to vice, so far sunk into the mire of debasement, as to come forward and plead the cause of our insolent oppressers, yet we find men standing high in the ranks of civil society who are looked upon as oracles of the falsely denominated federal party* using every effort which ingenuity and falsehood can invent to smooth over, palliate and in some instances openly justify this barbarian outrage, but in the doing of this they are drawn into a dilemma from which they will find it difficult to escape, the cloven foot cannot much longer be concealed, it will be unmasked by unfolding events and appear in its native deformity, covered only with the disgrace, contempt, and derision of the world. It will be recollected by every one who has attended to the desertations of federal newspaper editors, and indeed to private conversations, that when the late arrangements were made between the British Envoy and our Government, the federal praise that was bestowed on Mr. Madison was only equalled by the numberless plaudits of British magnanimity, liberality, & friendship, and almost the whole of these editors, and the leading federalists generally seemed to exult in what they called "a demonstration of the position they had invariably maintained," viz. "that Great-Britain has always been sincerely desirous of accommodating her unfortunate differences with America" on fair and honourable terms, and they exhausted their stock of ingenuity to prove (what was sufficiently clear) that the terms of the late arrangements were fair and honourable. But alas! as well as these gentry were satisfied of the falsity of their position, and of the hostile dispositions of the British Cabinet, they never anticipated such unexampled atrocity as their late conduct presents; but having thus rashly, intemperately, and prematurely hazzarded their own opinions and reputations without waiting instructions from the fountain head, they are left the gracious priviledge of making the best escape they can from this unfortunate dilemma. Having maintained the position that Great Britain has always been desirous of accommodation with us upon honourable terms, and having proved that the terms of the late arrangements were honourable, and now finding his majesty will not agree to those terms, nor evince a disposition to accommodate unless upon terms† which the rankest tory has not dared to sanction; they are reduced to the necessity of retracting their former assertions and acknowledging the perfidy and baseness of the British Cabinet, or of going the whole length on her justification, in direct contradiction of their former assertions and at the expence of virtually acknowledging that they have endeavored to impose upon the people, the most glaring and abominable falsehoods, and of writhing under the lash of public indignation which now awaits them. This is their situation; the question for an American whose breast ever felt one glow of patriotism would be easy to determine; on the one hand is the cause of his country and the frowns of the despoilers of mankind, and on the other the precious smiles of these lordly tyrants; when we see men so situated, and choosing the latter alternative, and to divert the public mind from diving into the labyrinth of their iniquities and wicked designs, descend to the foulest abuse of their own Government, it is sufficient to flash conviction to the most obstinate and impervious mind, of the filthy corruption in which they are wallowing, and endeavoring to drag their country, it cries aloud "there is something rotten in Denmark."

A DEMOCRATIC FEDERALIST.

Denton, Caroline County, August 14th, 1809.

* A pointed distinction is here meant to be made between the leaders of the party and the honest politician who either is in fact opposed to the principles of democracy, or led astray by the intrigues of designing men; for such the writer of this can make every charitable allowance for the one, and has a due respect for the opinions of the other.

† The published copy of instructions to Mr. Erskine, (though I cannot believe they were those under which he acted) having been published as the basis of a proposition for accommodation, may be said to manifest the public intention of the ministry—and I believe no tory or British partisan has yet had the hardihood and temerity openly to recommend the acceptance of such humiliating terms.

LATEST FROM IRELAND.

FROM THE BOSTON CENTINEL.

BOSTON, AUGUST 9.

On Tuesday the schooner Enterprize, Captain Vidal, arrived here in a short passage from Belfast, in Ireland. We have been favored with a file of Belfast papers to the second July, which contain London intelligence to the 28th June, seven days later.

The Duke of Brunswick continued to carry on an active predatory war in Saxony: and the Archduke Charles had dispatched some 8 or 10,000 men of his army into Saxony under General Amende, who had captured Dresden, Wurtzburg, and Leipsic, 3000 Saxons had been surrounded by them and taken prisoners.

Sixty thousand men of the Hungarian insurrection were on the march to re-inforce the Archduke Charles.

After Marshal Lefebvre left the Tyrol to reinforce the French grand army, the Tyrolese rose and massacred the French detachments.

The French conscription in Holland was violently opposed.

Prussia is to remain neutral.

A great number of French privateers had been laid up, and the crews sent to the Danube.

Some hundreds of the French who had escaped the massacre of the Spaniards in the recapture of St. Andero, by flying on board the British ships, had arrived in England.

A great expedition was fitting out of England. From 35,000 to 40,000 men were to be employed; and commanded by the Earl of Chatham, Gen. Hope, &c. Sir Home Popham was to command the naval force.

Lord Grenville Leveson Gawen is appointed British Secretary of war, vice Lord Murray.

Letters from Holland stated that several English and American vessels had been condemned in Riga.

The English stocks continue rising. June 26th, three per cent were at 69 1-2.

Captain Vinal informs that much anxiety existed in the minds of the Americans in Ireland, for the fate of the numerous vessels bound to the North of Europe: That the Danes were capturing every thing in the Baltic they could find; and the insurance on American vessels from England and Ireland was at 40 guineas, to return 10 in case of sailing with a British convoy.

The English papers contain many reports which time has contradicted, and which we have not room to particularize.

Captain Taylor, arrived at Boston on Tuesday from Cadiz, in 45 days, mentions, that the French army of about 25,000 men, was about 150 miles from Cadiz, [in Estremadura, no doubt] but that the inhabitants entertained no fears of their nearer approach. Barcelona still remained in possession of the French. Captain T. brought no papers.

From Cadiz, June 23, 1809.

"Our political situation is growing better every day. The French army is retiring from Estremadura. The English and Spanish armies are advancing in pursuit of it; and we now daily expect an engagement, the result of which we doubt not will be favorable to the arms of Spain."

Extract of a letter from Boston to the Editor of the Mercantile Advertiser, dated August 9th.

"The Irish papers received yesterday make mention of a new and severe decree of the Emperor of Russia, avowedly intended to prevent the British from benefiting by Russian commerce, but in its operation calculated to be oppressive on the American trade. If we may credit these papers, the troops of the Duke of Brunswick and a detached corps of Austrians have been very successful in Saxony and Franconia and the greatest alarm prevails, indeed nothing but *ubit quity* in Napoleon could completely controul the extensive territory of which he is directly or indirectly the master.

"There have been some slight disturbances at Belfast among the master weavers; but they were settled.—A reduction of wages was the cause.

"Some speculators in London have, for fifty per cent insured that Bonaparte would not occupy Vienna on the first of July. They will assuredly lose, as he was there on the third of June.

"The *Plover*, reported to have sailed from England for Philadelphia, is said to have returned about the 29th of June from a cruise.

"The Swedish constitution is completed. It is said to give to the new king the power of making war and concluding peace."

FROM THE WHIG.

Mr. Ervine,

Being a man who seldom intrudes thoughts or opinions upon the public, I hope I may be excused for suggesting, in this manner a proposal.

To the truly pious of all denominations.

Brethren, friends, and fellow-christians,

Whether we turn to the heathen page of Roman history; or whether we call to mind the vicissitudes of fortune which attended the Jewish nation, we find the like gratitude devoutly acknowledged to God for benefits conferred, or calamity avoided. The altar blazed with sacrifice and the temple resounded with the well tuned voice of thanks. If ever we lose our sense of gratitude for divine favour, it will be the most unerring proof of our degeneracy. Oh! think my brethren what manifold causes we have for demonstrating a thankful gladness for our lot: Civil and religious liberty, which have fled from every other part of the globe, have taken up their abode among us. A little regard to the affairs of distracted Europe will convince the reader of this truth. In the most of those countries the church of Christ has been defiled by, and made subservient to, the dominion of the civil magistracy. Imperfect human law has impiously taken the guidance of spiritual concerns; and that revelation which was freely offered to the interpretation and for the edification of all, has been perverted to purposes of wickedness and oppression.

Let us awaken the remembrance of our history—the ardent piety of the first settlers—their labours and privations; their perseverance and success: at the era of the revolution, what disinterestedness and firmness do we find!—what independence as to man, what dependence upon God! It was their staff and comfort—a staff which never broke. Through toil, and blood and treasure, THEY made us free—but at what an extravagant cost!

———Think what cares,
What vigilance, what toils, what bright contention
In councils, camps, and well disputed senates,
It cost our generous ancestors to raise
A matchless plan of freedom: whence we shine
Even in the jealous eye of hostile nations
The happiest of mankind.——

If we are the most happy, we ought to be the most grateful of mankind.—The Jewish annals attest that heaven has withdrawn its favours from nations which were insensible of them. We shall likewise perish, if we are unmindful of unequalled kindness

Think too, my brethren, from what we are saved: The stratagems and the bribes of a relentless and treacherous enemy have been unavailing: they but raised a ferment instead of an explosion. One attempt after another has been made to annihilate our *union*, our liberty and our peace: but each has failed by the instrumentality of wise councils favoured by Providence. The Miranda scheme (countenanced by Britain) to embroil us with France and Spain is frustrated;——the treason of Burr, was discovered——and defeated;——and the more formidable plot of the New England malcontents to sever the union has been long perceived and is now rendered impracticable we for favours so numerous, I presume no Christian citizen of Maryland or United America can be ungrateful.

To my fellow christians of all persuasions I leave the selection of the best mode of testifying their sense of heavenly favour: but humbly and respectfully propose, that the heads of the different churches in Maryland to appoint A DAY OF THANKSGIVING to God for all the blessings we enjoy, whether of a temporal or spiritual kind. Such a day: to be set apart about six weeks hence, will unite the different sects in stronger bonds of affection and harmony; draw forth occasional hymns and appropriate sermons, on our national condition compared with the situation of foreign sects; and on a day so solemn, the reflection cannot fail to mingle itself with other thoughts; That notwithstanding the wicked design which was formed to impose *an established church* on Maryland, we are yet as the constitution left us: each man at liberty "to worship God in such way as he thinks most acceptable to him." I hope my fellow christians will consider this proposition with the same sincerity with which it is written, by

A METHODIST.

SECRETS WORTH KNOWING.

It is observed by the Plebeian, that the letters of the late President ADAMS to the editors of the Boston Patriot, are of the highest interest to the American public.

It is satisfactorily disclosed by Mr. Adams, that as early as the period of his accession to the presidency, a self-created and irresponsible junto was formed with the design secretly to overawe and controul not only the acts of the executive department, but also the legislative branch of the government. That Alexander Hamilton was at the head of this junto; which embraced Timothy Pickering, Fisher Ames, and many others termed "leading men" in the federal party.

That the objects of this junto were hostile to the peace and liberties of the country.

That the "party violence" and political persecutions which distinguished the period of Mr. Adams's administration, were "excited by Hamilton more than any other man."

That this junto entertained a cordial "hatred for *every man* WHO HAD LABOURED AND SUFFERED EARLY IN THE REVOLUTION"—and of course for their political sentiments—sentiments which gave birth to our glorious revolution.

That Mr. Hamilton, (backed probably by what Mr. Adams calls his *privy councillors*) actually had the consumate effrontery to send to the executive "a whole system of instructions for the conduct of the President, the Senate, and the House of Representatives."

That this system embraced the alien and sedition laws and political fast—measures subsequently adopted.

That it contemplated an army of Fifty Thousand Men, and a tax upon every article not yet taxed by government, to support this enormous army, which in return would be able to enforce the collection of these taxes, should the people become refractory.

That the institution of the embassy to France, which effected a treaty with that nation, met with an indecorus and determined opposition from the junto; which evinced on that occasion a fixed resolution to effect a war with France and an alliance with Great Britain.—And,

That in their endeavours to effect these points, they were zealously aided by British presses both in England and America, and by American presses under the controul of British agents.

Such are some of the most important facts disclosed by Mr. Adams. Although much is said of the *folly* and *dotage* of the writer, not even an attempt has been made to disprove any of his allegations. Indeed such an attempt might be imprudent, as it would probably lead to disclosures still more unpleasant to the junto.

Mr. Adams, in these publications, has in a great measure exonerated himself from the blame which attached to his conduct on account of the obnoxious measures of his administration. These measures originated with Hamilton and his privy councillors, a self-created junto, and were carried into effect by means the most wicked and despicable. If we recall to mind the artifices which were adopted by this junto to induce the venerable patriot to embrace their system of measures; the fulsome adulation which was paid to his person, and the intrigues and artifices practised upon him by the members of his cabinet council—it is matter of surprize that his firmness and patriotism were proof against these combined attacks.

The justice which Mr. Adams has done to the "genius, learning," and patriotism of Mr. Jefferson, of which "an intimate friendship of five and twenty years" had given him a most exalted opinion; and the handsome compliment which he pays to "the fine talents and amiable qualities and manners of Mr. Madison"—while they afford an honorable instance of candor and magnanimity in a political adversary, infinitely outweigh all the slanders against these statesmen which have been propagated through the British and junto presses.

FROM THE RICHMOND ENQUIRER.

July 14.

AN ERROR CORRECTED.

About three years, ago, a communication, appeared in this paper respecting the remains of a Mammoth, which were said to have been found in the county of Wythe, in this state. Amongst other things it was stated, that the contents of the stomach itself had been found to consist of vegetable remains, such as half masticated pieces of cane, twigs, leaves, &c.—from which it was at once concluded, that this extraordinary monster was an herbiverous animal. The circumstance was made known by bishop Madison of this state.—And by degrees through him to the the whole philosophic world, the reputation of that gentleman conspired with the interest of the subject to excite the curiosity of the world, and extend the circulation of the discovery. It was published in the