FROM THE NATIONAL ADVOCATE OF FEBRUARY 21.

THE NEXT PRESIDENT!!

We now redeem our pledge to the public, by laying before them the following letter. It relates to a subject in which this country is deeply interested, namely, *the purity and independence in the choice of a chief magistrate.* We deeply regret, that in this patriotic state there should be found any citizen who is weak enough to suppose, that a free people can tolerate such insidious and dangerous designs, or hopes to advance himself to power by means so destructive to our liberties. There have been associations and confederacies in this state which the people of the U. States should fully know, and to which, generally, the following letter will be a key. It also should be known, that at this moment, when no election for president of the U. States, or governor of the state, is pending, and while professions of attachment are avowed to the administration of the general government, committees of correspondence have been appointed, calling themselves *Clintonians*, whose object is, to attach themselves to *his service*, and his advancement *alone* —We print the letter as it was written, without the variation of a point or dash, and as we received it It is from Vermont, and addressed to ASHAEL CLARK, Esqr. attorney and counsellor at law, Glenn's Falls, Warren county, state of New York:—

RUTLAND, 17th November, 1817.

DEAR SIR,

Since you left Montpelier, I have taken a tour through the counties of Franklin, Chittenden, Addison and Rutland. I find we were mistaken, with regard to Aldis of St. Albans, Brown of Swanton, and Blodget of Georgia. Those men, as we calculated, rule their towns; but be assured they will do their best to oppose every thing that tends to promote the interest of Mr. Clinton. Finding them *so* hostile, I have thought proper to pass *their towns*, without making known our *views*—except that I had a short interview with *Judge Janes*, of St. Albans, who will be of *great* service to the cause. And here let me advise you to send the *Columbians*, to be distributed in that county, to him, instead of directing them to Mr. *Gudcomb*; *for, mark you! Gudcomb* is *Aldis*, though *Aldis* is not *Gudcomb!*

In the county of Chittenden there is nothing to fear—if *C. P. Van Ness* is right, as you inform me. I have not seen him, but have seen almost every other man of influence in the county, and can say, in a word, all is as I could wish.

You have no idea of the effect that Mr. Clinton's *proclamation* for a *public thanksgiving* has had in this state? yet a few of the *Madisonian sentinels* have caught the alarm, and are endeavoring to make the *people* believe that it is some of Mr. C's *soft* feed, calculated for the meridian of *New-England*, and now and then *gravely* ask, "does not Mr. C. expect to be our next *President*, by making *proclamations, canals, &c. &c.*"—But notwithstanding, the exertions of these *wise* and *jealous few*, the *people* are pleased to the life —and, depend upon it, there is nothing like Mr. Clinton.

In the county of Addison, there is nothing to fear, and every thing to hope for, although there is *old Col. Slade*, as you mentioned, and all the d—ls in h— could not turn him, nor cause him to do one good act. I find in this county more to be *feared* than you anticipated. I *fear* you are deceived in your friend *Smith*, of this place: I have had a conversation with him, and I am sorry to say that he appears *cold* and unconcerned. Mr. Fay is also indifferent; in short, I find no man of influence, of the *democratic* party in this section of the county, who feel disposed to take an active part. The *federalists* feel, as they ought, very solicitous. Castleton is pretty equally divided. *Look out for R. C. Mallory and Old Slade!* Mr. *Page* will take a tour on the *east* side of the mountain about the first of [supposed] January. He (like myself,) is destitute of the *one* thing essential to the undertaking a tour of that nature. I have told him he will be furnished with expense money at Bennington, and that he must be there on the twenty-fifth December, the time you proposed to meet me there, you will make your calculations to leave with me then about $500 for Mr. *Page* and myself, as I shall have expended about all you advanced me at *Montpelier* by the time I arrive at Bennington. —Mr. *Masters* I understand will be through this section of our state and into N. H. the first of sleighing. Mr. *Page* will do more among the fed'ts on the *east* side of the mountain in *this* state and in N. H. than any man whatsoever.—I am well persuaded on inquiry that the *Columbian* will take much better in this country than the *Post* or any other *Fed. paper* in your state—A few of your *state papers* would at this time relish well, as the *editor appears* now as it were *licking the dust* which falls from *the feet* that he has *so lately* been accustomed to *snap at.* You will see the *Standard* and the *Herald* take the field soon on the subject of *canals, southern influence, &c.* It will require *time* and *exertions* to get things a going *right* in this state, but once put in operation, will create a current that will bear down all this *seeming opposition.* Judge *Rising*, of *New Port*, will call on you next week, on his way to *Albany*; perhaps you had best accompany him to *Judge Spencer*, and if possible, erect a *press at Salem* that may be depended upon, or at *Whitehall.* I will again write you at *Manchester*, where I shall expect to see Mr. *Sheppar* and Mr. *Billings*, from Washington county. Haste

Yours, very respectfully,

(Signed) E. W. ROBINSON.

A. CLARK, Esquire.

Comment on the foregoing we deem unnecessary; it speaks a language and tells a tale that the meanest capacity can comprehend, and which every friend to liberty and his country will peruse with surprise and indignation.—We shall merely add a few explanations for the present. The writer of this letter, E. W. Robinson is, we believe, an attorney at law, and resides in Windsor County, state of Vermont, and is not a branch of the family of judge Robinson, of Bennington, and formerly a senator in the United States. The person to whom it is addressed, Ashael Clark, is well known in this state as one of Mr. Clinton's most devoted friends, and one calculated to manage an agency of this nature. He resides at Glenn's Falls, and has been heretofore employed to advocate, by extraneous influence, the petitions for charters, associations, &c. &c. which have been presented to different legislatures, and is well known as a *lobby member.* He attended the legislature of Vermont for the purpose obtaining the grand mining and ng concern which was obtained— d his best influence to procure at different periods the incorporation of The Bank of America—The North American Coal Company—The New York Manufacturing Society—The Hair Company, and The Ticonderoga Iron Manufactory,&c. He professes to be a lawyer, and his close intimacy with the most united and warm adherents of Mr. Clinton, added to a bustling, active disposition, has qualified him for this confidential and important mission.

The first person named by Mr. Robinson as being hostile to the views of Mr. Clinton are *Aldis* of St. Albans, *Brown* of Swanton, and *Blodget* of Georgia. Mr. Aldis was one year chief justice of the state of Vermont—he stands deservedly nigh, and is not to be made an instrument of any improper views. Messrs. Brown and Blodget are unknown to us, further than their general republican, respectable characters. The next gentleman whom Mr. Robinson speaks of as being of "*great service to the cause,*" and to whom the Columbians are to be sent, is judge Janes, of St. Albans. Judge Janes was a federalist until 1802, and was appointed to the bench by the united vote of both parties.—He is supposed to be very favorable to the views of Mr. Clinton, and consequently, opposed to the republican administration of the general government. The next in order is Mr. Gudcomb, who is no longer to receive the Columbians. He is a lawyer, and brother-in-law to judge Aldis and according to Mr. Robinson's insinuation, possessing the same independence as the judge, and consequently, is no longer to be trusted.

Nothing, Mr. Robinson says, is to be feared in "Chittenden county, if C. P. Van Ness is right." This gentleman is one of the commissioners appointed under the late British treaty, & this is the first time we ever heard him suspected of not being *right.* The object of this mission, however, should satisfy us that Mr. Van Ness *is* right, although Mr. R. says in reference to his county, "*all is as he could wish*" Having arrived at Addison, "where there is every thing to hope for," Mr. R. mentions old colonel Slade, "whom all the d—ls in h—ll can't move," which is the highest compliment that he can pay to that worthy soldier of the revolution, who, it also appears, cannot be moved by devils on earth. In Addison, however, Mr. Robinson finds something to fear—he fears Mr. Smith, who is cold. This Mr. Smith, we understand, is judge of the county court at Piney, and is a decided republican, and of course, to be feared. Mr. Fay, also spoken of as "indifferent," is editor of the Rutland Herald, and has always been known as a republican, though we cannot ascertain his views towards Mr. Clinton. R. C. Mallory, who they are to "look out for," is secretary, we believe, to the governor, and run as a member of congress. From him they have nothing to expect, as he is also a decided republican. We need hardly add, that by "*old rifle*" they allude to col. Clark, a citizen equally as firm & decided, and one well known for his republican principles. After these two names, Mr. Robinson arrives at something more serious, in stating that his colleague in this honorable mission, *Mr Page*, will take a tour on the east side of the mountains. Mr. Page is a federal is—he was secretary to governor Tichenor, and is not without influence, though Mr. Robinson says he is without the "*one thing essential*" to go to the mountains. We are then told, that the third ambassador in this great design is to be in Vermont, and through that state into New Hampshire, the place of his destination. This is Mr. Masters, we presume commonly called judge Masters, of Rensselaer county, in this state, a man too well known for his devotion to Mr. Clinton to doubt his capacity for the mission to which he has been named.

Judge Rising is next named. He resides in Reauport, and was a member of assembly. He lived in Bennington, and on a contest with judge Shedon, an old revolutionary character, the town was divided, as judge Rising was said to have acted with federalists, though he is considered a republican. As he is to call on judge Spencer, it is left for conjecture to say whether an understanding exists on the subject.

Mr. Shepper and Mr. Billings are last named. One was a federal member of congress, the other a republican lawyer of Salem

Thus our readers will perceive that nearly all the characters referred to in the foregoing letter are influential and respectable citizens, & such as probably were best calculated to forward the object in view.

We reserve a close examination of this letter and its object, for a future time. We have only to say, that if the liberties of this country are to be preserved, and the purity of election to remain unsullied, such efforts must be promptly put down by every citizen who merits, and will maintain, the character of an American. If the chief magistrate of this republic is to be designated by such measures, we see no reason why Great Britain, or any foreign power should not *furnish means* to agents to travel throughout the states, to advice any man who may suit *their views.* A stop must be put to such measures at once—and as far as depend upon us, we shall not forget what is due to our country, and to our own rights and liberty.

To be rented,

FOR the ensuing year, the House and Lot at present occupied by Col. William King, nearly opposite the Bank. For terms apply to

Easton, oct 1 JOSEPH HASKINS.

CONGRESS.

IN SENATE.

Monday, February 19.

A message was read, received from the president of the United States, on Friday last, transmitting, in compliance with a resolution of the Senate, a statement of the expenditures on the public buildings, and an account of their progress for the current year.

Mr. *Tait*, from the committee on naval affairs reported a bill authorizing the President of the United States to establish two naval depots and dock yards, at such fit places as he shall designate, and appropriating —— dollars for the object; which was read and passed to a second reading.

A message having been received from the House of Representatives announcing their determination to *adhere* to their disagreement to the Senate's amendment to the military appropriation bill—

Mr *Campbell* moved that the Senate *recede* from said amendment; which motion was decided in the affirmative.

So this amendment was accordingly withdrawn, and the Secretary ordered to inform the House of Representatives thereof.

The Senate postponed several subjects the orders for this day; and then proceeded to the consideration of the bill providing for the

SURVIVING REVOLVTIONARY SOLDIERS.

The question under consideration, was a motion made some days ago, by Mr. *King*, to recommit the bill, with instructions to the committee so to amend it, as to confine its provisions to a grant of half pay for life to such of the surviving *officers* (alone) of the revolutionary army as served for three years, or to the end of the war, including those entitled to half pay for life by any resolve of Congress, the half pay to be ascertained according to rank by which the accounts of the officers were finally settled.

The debate was resumed on this subject, and continued to a late hour; in the course of which Mr. *King* withdrew his motion to recommit the bill.

The question then recurred on the amendment reported to the bill by the military committee, (to confine its application to those who served to the end of the war); when

A motion was made by Mr. *Goldsborough*, and agreed to, to amend the amendment, by inserting the words "or those who served —— years."

Mr. *Crittenden* moved to strike out the words "on continental establishment," so as to include the militia who served the requisite period; which motion was pending when the Senate adjourned.

The gentleman who took part in the discussion this day, were Messrs. *Goldsborough, Lacock, Tichenor, Otis, Morrill, Eppes, Crittenden, Daggett, Burrill, Macon and Smith.*

Tuesday, Feb. 17.

A messege, in writing, (inserted below in the proceedings of the House of Representatives) was received from the President of the United States, which, with documents accompanying the same, was read.

The bill to authorize the establishment of two naval depots, and the bill to provide for the purchase and distribution of the laws of the United States, were severally read the second time.

The Senate then resumed, in committee of the whole, Mr. *Macon* in the chair, the bill providing for the surviving revolutionary officers, &c.

The motion made yesterday by Mr. *Crittenden*, to amend the bill so as to include the militia of the revolution, was first under consideration, and after some debate, in which Messrs. *Otis* and *Tait* opposed the motion, it was negatived—ayes 7.

Mr. *Daggett* proposed to strike out the words "marine and marine," to exclude these classes from the benefit of the provision. The motion was supported by the mover and by Mr. *King*, and opposed by Messrs. *Tait, Eppes* and *Burrill*; and finally lost—ayes 7.

An amendment was then taken up, reported by the military committee, requiring the pensions already granted by the general and state governments to be relinquished, to entitle an applicant to the benefit of this bill.

This proposition produced considerable discussion, in which Messrs. *Williams* of Tenn. *Otis, Vandyke, Lacock, Talbot, Eppes, Goldsborough* and *Morril* bore a part. Before the question was taken,

Mr. *Otis* moved to strike out the word "incapacitated," so that no proof of poverty be required. This motion was advocated by Messrs. *Otis* and *Daggett*, and opposed by Messrs. *Wilson Eppes, Morril* and *Talbot*—but before a decision took place, the Senate adjourned.

Wednesday, February 18.

Mr. *Williams*, of Tennessee, from the committee on military affairs, reported a bill to reduce the staff of the army, which was read and passed to a second reading.

Mr. *Crittenden* from the committee on the judiciary, reported the bill from the House of Representatives, to provide for the recovery of fugitive slaves, &c. with sundry amendments.

The Senate took up the report of the committee of finance, on the enquiry referred to them, into the expediency of repealing the duty on salt, and in concurrence with the report, it was

Resolved, That it is not expedient to repeal the law imposing a duty on salt.

The report was advocated by Mr *Campbell*, and opposed by Messrs. *Smith, Macon, Barbour* and *Morril.*

The President communicated to the Senate a letter from the Secretary of War, transmitting in pursuance to law, statements of the expenditure and application of all monies made at the offices of the first and second auditor of the Treasury Department, appropriated for the contingent expenses of the military establishment, during the year 1817.

Several bills received their second reading.

The proposed amendment to the constitution, repecting the election of electors and representatives in congress, was on motion of Mr. *Dickerson*, postponed to Wednesday next; and

The Senate resumed, in committee of the whole, Mr. *Daggett* in the chair, the consideration of the bill to provide for the surviving

REVOLUTIONARY PATRIOTS.

The consideration of this subject again produced a good deal of debate, chiefly on its details and propositions to alter various features of the bill. The discussion was conducted by Messrs. *Noble, Otis, Talbot, Lacock, Burrill, Eppes, Morril, Goldsborough* and *Vandyke.*

A motion made by Mr. *Talbot*, to strike out the words "who are or hereafter shall be reduced to indigence, and incapable of procuring subsistence," was decided in the negative—ayes 14, noes 18; and the Senate adjourned.

Thursday, Feb. 19.

The Vice President of the U. States, appeared and took his seat.

Mr. *Williams*, of Tennessee, reported a bill regulating the pay and emoluments of brevet officers; which was read.

The Senate then proceeded to the consideration of the bill for the relief of Maj. Gen. Arthur St. Chair.

A motion was made by Mr. *Campbell* to recommit the bill to the committee of pensions, to report a statement of his claims, &c.

On this motion a debate ensued, which continued until nearly 4 o'clock. The motion was finally negatived.

Mr. *Lacock* renewed the motion for recommitment, with instructions to reduce the pension to that allowed by law to a Lieutenant Colonel; which was also negatived—ayes 14 noes 18.

Mr. *Smith* moved to postpone the bill until to-morrow. Negatived.

Mr. *Smith* then commenced a speech against the bill; when

An adjournment was moved and carried.

The gentlemen who participated in the debate on the subject of this bill, were Messrs *Eppes, Campbell, Otis, Barbour, Noble, Morril, Fromentin, Dagget, King, Talbot, Morrow*, and *Van Dyke*

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HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

Monday, February 16

Mr. *Tarr* offered for consideration a motion to the following effect:

"That the committee on military affairs be instructed to enquire into the expediency of granting a tract of an hundred and-sixty acres of land to each surviving soldier of the late revolutionary army, who enlisted for three years and faithfully served out the term of their enlistment."

Mr. T. said that the class referred to was a very meritorious description of men, who had never been provided for heretofore, but who, he thought, ought now to be provided for in the manner which he proposed.

The motion was agreed to, but not without a considerable number of negative votes.

BANKRUPT LAW.

The house then resolved itself into a committee of the whole, Mr. *Bloomfield* in the chair, on the bill to establish an uniform Bankrupt Law.

Mr. *Hopkinson* rose, and in an elaborate speech, the delivery of which occupied from 1 until near 4 o'clock, spoke in support of the measure; when

The committee rose and reported progress; and the House adjourned.

Tuesday, February 17.

Mr. *Simpkins* was appointed on the committee of so much of the President's Message as relate to the Public Buildings, vice Mr. *Parris*, resigned.

EXECUTIVE MESSAGES.

A message was received from the President, enclosing a Report of the Secretary of State, transmitting to him the remainder of the correspondence between our ministers in Spain and the British government, touching Morillo's blockade of the Southern coast.

The following Message was also received from the President, by the hands of Mr. J. J. Monroe his Secretary:

To the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States.

WASHINGTON, FEB. 12, 1818.

I lay before Congress copies of two communications received at the Department of State, from the Minister of Great Britain, and submit to their consideration the propriety of making such legislative provisions as may be necessary for a compliance with the representation contained in them.

By the express terms of that compact it was, when ratified by the two governments, to be in force for the term of four years *from the day of its signature.* The revocation of all the discriminating duties became therefore the obligation of both the governments *from that day*, and it is conceived that every individual who has been required to pay, and has paid, any of the extra duties revoked by the convention, has a just and lawful claim upon the respective governments for its return. From various accidents, it has happened that, both here and in Great Britain, the cessation of the extra duties has been fixed to commence at different times. It is desirable that Congress should pass an act providing for the return of *all* the extra duties *incompatible with the terms of the Convention* which have been levied upon British vessels or merchandize after the 3d day of July, 1815. The British Parliament have already set the example of fixing that day for the cessation of the extra duties of export, by their act of 30th of June last, and the Minister of the United States in London is instructed to require the extension of the same principle to *all* the extra duties levied on vessels and merchandize of the United States, in the ports of Great Britain since that day. It is not doubted that the British Government will comply with this requisition, and that the act suggested may be passed by Congress with full confidence that the reciprocal measure will receive the sanction of the British Parliament.

JAMES MONROE.

The message was read and referred to the committee of Ways and Means.

UNIFORM BANKRUPT LAW.

The remainder of the day was spent in committee of the whole on the bill to establish an uniform system of bankruptcy throughout the United States.

Mr. *Tyler* moved to strike out the first section of the bill, and supported the motion by a speech of considerable length.

Mr. *Holmes* of Mass. followed, in a speech of about the same extent, on the same side of the question.

Mr. *Pindall* next took the floor; and had spoken for an hour and a half on the same side of the question; when having given way for a motion to that effect,

The committee rose, reported progress and obtained leave to sit again.

And the House adjourned.

Wednesday, Feb. 18.

BANKRUPT BILL.

The House then again resolved itself into a committee of the whole, Mr. *Bloomfield* in the chair, on the bill to establish an uniform system of bankruptcy.

Mr. *Pindall* having concluded his remarks against the bill, Mr. *Sergeant* and Mr. *Smith* of Md. delivered able arguments in favour of it, the former at greater length.

And the committee rose, reported progress, and asked leave to sit again; which Mr. *Bassett* in vain objected to granting, the leave being accorded by a large majority.

And the House adjourned.

Thursday, Feb 19.

The Speaker laid before the House a report from the Treasury Department, stating the items of the expenditure under the Commissioners appointed in pursuance of certain articles of the treaty of Ghent.

UNIFORM BANKRUPT LAW.

The House having again resolved itself into a committee of the whole, Mr. *Livermore* in the chair, on the bill to establish an uniform system of bankruptcy,

Mr. *Mills*, Mr. *Storrs*, and Mr. *Williams* of Ct. delivered speeches of considerable length in favour of the bill, and Mr. *Tucker* of Va. against it; when

The committee rose, reported progress, and obtained leave to sit again.

Friday, February 20.

The speaker laid before the House a letter from the Secretary of War, transmitting a return of the arms and military stores furnished to the respective states under the act of 1808, for arming the militia of the United States, in obedience to a resolution of the 8th ultimo; which was ordered to lie on the table.

On motion of Mr. *Forsyth*, it was

Resolved, That a committee be appointed to enquire into the expediency of changing the mode by which the Army of the United States is subsisted, with leave to report a bill or otherwise.

The bill making the annual appropriation for the support of the navy, passed through a committee of the whole, and it was ordered to be engrossed for a 3d reading.

The Speaker communicated, from the Secretary of War, a statement made in obedience to a resolution of this House, of the awards made by the Commissioner of Claims since March last, and the species of property for which such awards were made &c. which was ordered to lie on the table.

The House then again went into a committee of the whole, Mr. *Livermore* in the chair, on the

BANKRUPT BILL.

Mr. *Mason*, of Massachusetts, and Mr. *Colston*, of Va. delivered speeches in support of the bill, and against striking out the first section.

Mr. *Hopkinson* followed on the same side, and in reply to the various objections urged against the bill by gentlemen opposed to it.

The question was then taken on striking out the first section of the bill, and decided in the negative.

For striking it out	64
Against striking it out	71

The committee then rose, reported progress, and obtained leave to sit again.

A motion was made to adjourn to Monday, which was ineffectually opposed by Mr. *Cobb*; and

The House adjourned to Monday.

SINGULAR NEWS.

Extract of a letter from an intelligent French traveller dated Natchez, September 3.

"A gentleman lately from Mobile and St. Stephens, in the Alabama territory, has informed me that the French colo-

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