NATIONAL INTELLIGENCER,

AND

WASHINGTON ADVERTISER.

Vol. II WASHINGTON CITY, PRINTED BY SAMUEL HARRISON SMITH, PENNSYLVANIA AVENUE. *No. CLXXIII.*

Five Dolls. per ann. FRIDAY, DECEMBER 11th, 1801. *Paid In Advance.*

Anniversary of Mr. Fox's Election.

An event which forms ſo important an epoch in the hiſtory of that great ſtateſman, has, upon every occaſion, excited ſentiments which have manifeſted themſelves in the eagerneſs of thoſe who admire his principles to aſſiſt at its celebration. Occurring on a day which conferred the tidings of Peace, it might naturally have been expected, that ſuch a circumſtance would not be paſſed over in ſilence in his addreſs to his Conſtituents.

The expectation was not diſappointed; but it had the effect of drawing together a company infinitely more numerous than we ever remember to have ſeen at any former anniverſary. Among the principal perſonages preſent were Lord Beſborough, Sir W. Milner, Mr. Erſkine, Mr. Adair, Gen. Fitzpatrick, Alderman Combe, Mr. Brogden, Mr. W. Smith, &c. &c.

About a quarter before five Mr. Fox entered the room, and took the chair. He was welcomed with every teſtimony of joy; the applauſes continued long after he was ſeated. After a very excellent and plentiful dinner, Mr. Fox gave as a toaſt—

The Independent Electors of Weſtminſter, with three times three.

Mr. Fox drank

Succeſs to the Preliminaries of Peace, lately ſigned between this Country and the French Republic; and may it be a Definitive Treaty, which ſhall enſure a happy, durable, and ſincere friendſhip between the People of Great Britain and the Republic of France.

This toaſt was drank with enthuſiaſm amidſt loud huzzas and plaudits.

Mr. Dignum was called upon, and favoured the company with the following

HYMN TO PEACE:

The words by Charles Smith, *Esq.*
The Air, *Rule Britania*, altered by
Mr Dignum.

Hark! the loud clarion's brazen throat
Again announc'd Wars dire alarms;
With rage inſpir'd by its ſhrill note,
Infuriate nations ruſh'd to arms;
On each deſtruction mutual hurl'd,
While Peace affrighted left the world!

CHORUS.

Come, lovely Peace! with olive crown'd,
Return, and ſpread thy bleſſings round!

See, with what horrid frenzy ſeiz'd,
Doth man his fellow man deſtroy!
With widows' tears can he be pleaſ'd?
Can orphan's cries afford him joy?
Accurs'd be they whoſe wicked arts
Enſlave men's minds, and ſteel their hearts!

CHORUS.

Come, lovely Peace! with olive crown'd,
Return, and ſpread thy bleſſings round!

Mild reaſon now reſumes her reign,
Dread war and carnage are no more,
And Slav'ry breaks his galling chain,
While Plenty pours her ample store;
All, but the foes of man rejoice,
And ſing with one according voice.

CHORUS.

Hail, lovely Peace! with olive crown'd,
Return, and ſpread thy bleſſings round!

Bleſs'd be the man by heaven deſign'd
To ſet the world from ſlav'ry free;
Beſt benefactor of mankind!
Who giv'ſt them Peace and Liberty:
In ev'ry age, in ev'ry clime,
Thy fame ſhall live to endleſs time!

CHORUS.

When lovely Peace with olive crown'd,
And Freedom ſpreads her bleſſings round!

The whole was receiv'd with the utmoſt marks of approbation; but at the words—

"Bleſs'd be the man by heav'n deſign'd,
To ſet the world from ſlav'ry free,
In ev'ry age, in every clime,
Thy fame ſhall live to endleſs time!"

The plaudits were inconceivable;—this laſt verſe was unanimouſly encored.

Mr. Erskine.—"Gentlemen, I deſire to propoſe to you the health of your moſt excellent and enlightened repreſentative, Charles James Fox.—*(loud applause.)* I cannot help thinking, as I am perſuaded you will all think, that it is a coincidence extremely ſingular and fortunate, that the ratification of the preliminaries, which we feel but one mind in rejoicing at, ſhould have arrived in this city on the very anniverſary of the election of one who has been at all times the friend of peace, and whoſe advice, had it been followed, would long ago have obtained its bleſſings. I need not remind you, that ſeveral weeks before the commencement of the war, now happily at an end, he deprecated it to you, and foretold its conſequences; and therefore you will not wonder if he ſhould be the firſt to rejoice at a peace which puts an end to thoſe calamities, you well know his efforts have been conſtantly exerted to bring to an earlier concluſion. At the various periods of thoſe exertions, peace would have been juſt, wiſe, and politic: by the neglect of his counſels it at laſt became indiſpenſably neceſſary, and upon that principle every man, without canvaſſing its conditions, muſt rejoice at it as a great good for this country. I know, from the manly character of your worthy Repreſentative, he will not only rejoice at it, but give it his ſanction and ſupport in and out of Parliament."

Theſe obſervations were loudly applauded, and Mr. Fox's health was drank with every poſſible demonſtration of reſpect, and approbation of his public conduct, with an enthuſiaſm of affection.

Mr. Fox then roſe, and addreſſed the Electors in theſe terms:

"Gentlemen, on this day, twenty-one years ago, you did me the honor of electing me your Repreſenetative for the City of Weſtminſter, after a long and violent ſtruggle, in which your exertions were ſuch as will for ever fix in my mind ſentiments of the warmeſt gratitude and affection. But, Gentlemen, I do not conceive that at that moment you were merely ſhewing a favour to an individual with whom you were leſs acquainted than you are at preſent, and whoſe merits as an individual muſt neceſſarily be of ſmall conſequence; but, in chuſing me at that time, you gave a mark of your opinion to the world, that it was ſtrong againſt the war then carrying on, and that you were determined to chuſe him whom you thought likely to be the moſt firm enemy of a war againſt the principles of liberty, and the rights of mankind—*(loud and general applauses.)* Your choice on the occaſion was highly flattering to me, and the more ſo afterwards, when my poor exertions, in concert with thoſe of other perſons of more weight and ability than myſelf, were ſo fortunate as to produce the return of peace, and put an end to the American war; an end, of which it was not the leaſt merit that it confirmed thoſe principles, which the hiſtory of the world had before confirmed, that wars undertaken againſt the rights of mankind muſt ultimately fail. That whatever may be the different forms of governments in different parts of the world—however tyranny may be allowed to lord it for a while, and deſpotiſm be ſucceſsful; yet that when the conteſt is fairly at iſſue between the eternal principles of liberty and the will of tyrants, between the immutable principles of juſtice, and the efforts of deſpots; the rights of the human race and the principles of liberty muſt in the end triumph. Gentlemen, I conceive myſelf to have been choſen, and continued your repreſentative on this principle, that amidſt the many defects you might have obſerved in me, you thought I had a mind fixed ſteadily on certain continued your repreſentative on this principles of juſtice and liberty; a general deteſtation of wars of all kinds, but particularly of wars againſt the juſt rights and liberties of the human race. Having been choſen on this ground, what could I do otherwiſe than I have done, or what different line of conduct could I have adopted? What! is a man, becauſe he happens to be a Frenchman, or an Engliſhman, or a Spaniard, to ſhut his eyes againſt the firſt principles of truth and juſtice? Are wars to be undertaken in order to interfere in the concerns of foreign nations? Is it to be ſaid to them 'You ſhall have a King,' when they wiſh to have none? The idea is as abſurd, and the attempt as raſh as that of taxing the Americans againſt their conſent—*(shouts of applause confirmed this sentiment.)* To ſuch a war I thought it my duty to oppoſe myſelf even before it began; and afterwards I ſtrove with unremitted ardor, for ſeveral years, to bring it to a termination. I had to encounter a degree of unpopularity in conſequence of the unſucceſsful efforts I made; yet I was always ſanguine enough to believe, that with reſpect to you, and the majority of this City, my endeavours met with the fulleſt approbation.—Happily the war is at an end & the ratification of Preliminaries of Peace has come over—an event that will afford to every rational member of ſociety, every thinking inhabitant of Europe, the moſt unfeigned cauſe of rejoicing. That war, founded on principles hoſtile to the liberties of mankind, attended with a diſtreſsful loſs of lives, which ſhocks the feelings of humanity, and expences which, notwithſtanding the peace, we ſhall long feel the effects of—that war, undertaken for objects with which you are well acquainted, is at an end.

I am not much diſpoſed to canvaſs the terms; I am ſure the war was bad, and that any peace which puts an end to it muſt be good.—*(Plaudits from all parts of the room.)* There are two ways of conſidering the peace we have obtained; that of terms and that of time; with reſpect to the terms, I repeat, I have no inclination to canvaſs them. Have we lived in thoſe times, ſeeing the miſeries and dreadful conſequences produced by wars, and not lived long enough to know that the retention of an iſland or two in the Eaſt or Weſt-Indies, is an advantage which no thinking man would purchaſe, not only with the expence of one year's, but of one month's campaign? I wiſh I could as much applaud the time; the terms I am not diſpoſed to canvaſs: but I cannot help regretting that the peace was not made earlier. Has there been a period in the whole courſe of this war, in which we might not have had peace upon the ſame terms as at this day? Is there a man who does not feel that for the laſt two years, ſince the acceſſion of Bonaparte to the government of France, every life loſt has been loſt with no advantage to the country, and every penny expended for no other purpoſe than that of burthening you and your deſcendants? You early ſaw this; you have more than once petitioned for peace, and a change of miniſters, which undoubtedly is the ſame thing. Your petitions were not followed up; had they been followed up with the ſame ſpirit as that with which you ſet the example, there is no doubt that as good a peace as the perſent one might have been obtained, and the country would have ſaved one hundred and fifty millions of money, and loſſes of lives incalculable. You prayed for the removal of miniſters; your prayers were of no avail. Circumſtances which have never been explained, and which I do not underſtand at all, did at laſt lead to the change of miniſters. Without adverting to the men who were ſelected, I may ſay that the change was a happy one, for it lead to peace. While the power of thoſe miniſters laſted there was no hope of peace; and, whatever may be the opinion formed as to their ſucceſſors, the downfal of the old miniſters, and the concluſion of peace were pretty near each other in point of time. Gentlemen, I have expreſſed a wiſh that, now we have obtained peace, we ſhould abſtain from canvaſſing its terms. It may be ſaid, the peace is glorious to France, and to the Firſt Conſul, who governs the republic. It certainly is; but is it unfair for Engliſhmen to ſay it ought to be ſo? Ought not a country which had ſtruggled for ſo many years againſt a powerful confederacy formed againſt its liberties and independence—a country that has ſuffered ſo much by its long reſiſtance of the attempt to force it to acknowledge a government in oppoſition to its wiſhes—a country which has ſet an example which Great-Britain may profit by—is it unfair to ſay that ſuch a country ought to come out of ſuch a conteſt covered with glory and ſplendor?—*(Loud applauses.) We have made peace, without gaining one of the objects of the war. We certainly have, and I like the peace the better on that account.*—(The whole room rung with plaudits.)—What was the principal object of the war? Its principal object was to deny the people of France the right of modelling their conſtitution; and, from an abſurd jealouſy of the principles which produced the revolution ſpreading in this country, to reſtore the Bourbons and the antient deſpotiſm of France. The war has failed; we have gained neither of theſe objects; and I repeat I like the peace the better for it.—*(Great applauses.)* Gentlemen, we know too well that notwithſtanding the bleſſings of peace, which I believe are cordially felt with very few exceptions, we are not in the ſituation we were previouſly to the war. The immenſe debt, the burthens which are neceſſary for the payment of the intereſt of that debt, muſt be long felt; but theſe are not the worſt effects of the war. The worſt effect of all, that has reſulted from the conteſt in which we have been engaged againſt France, is, that the people of England, from their natural attachment to each other, from their natural patriotiſm and wiſhes that their countrymen ſhould prevail againſt their adverſaries, have felt themſelves too much the partiſans of what is called monarchy, but which is really unlimited monarchy. If the war has infuſed ſuch notions into the minds of the people of England, it is to be hoped that this peace will do away ſuch prejudices, and that we may return to the ſame temper of mind which led to the election of James II. and placed the preſent family upon the throne; that we may look back to that moſt glorious period, when, ſo far from fearing to caſheir one monarch and elect another, we conſidered it the proudeſt in the hiſtory of the country *(great applauses.)* I hope, whatever we may think, and no man can think with more horror than I do, of many of thoſe dreadful ſcenes which have happened in France. I hope, whatever we may think, and however we may doubt, whether they have ſecured any certain liberty to the country, that our intercourſe with the people of France, who have reſcued themſelves from one of the worſt and moſt arbitrary governments that ever exiſted, will operate as it ought upon the people of England; for, let it not be imagined, becauſe the antient government was apparently more mild than other monarchies, and literature and the arts were more encouraged, and more generally diffuſed, that therefore its deſpotiſm is leſs odious. I verily believe it was the very worſt of all deſpotic monarchies by which the people of any country were ever afflicted. I hope our intercourſe with France, which has happily ſucceeded in getting rid of its odious government, will teach us, on the other hand, not to adopt thoſe falſe principles of freedom, which have cauſed thoſe miſeries ſhe has indured; and, on the other, reſtore us to a high and juſt opinion of ourſelves, not as we are at preſent, but as we were a century ago, when we diſtinguiſhed ourſelves by our reſiſtance to tyranny and oppreſſion. With reſpect to any other evil produced by the war, the effects of it may be more difficult to remove; I mean the various attacks and inroads on the conſtitution, which have been made for the laſt nine years. Whether it will be in the power of any man to reſtore to the country, its former conſtitution I much doubt. Nay, I much doubt, whether the people will be ſo anxious as they ought to be, to recover their loſt rights and loſt conſtitution. I am ſure, when I ſay this, I have no doubt of the people in this room, or the electors of Weſtminſter in general; but when I conſider the enormous power of the crown, increaſed by the war, by the union with Ireland, and by every meaſure of the late adminiſtration, which came in upon ſuch principles of purity, with ſuch an abhorrence of corruption, and with ſuch a determination to eradicate all abuſes *(loud laugh,)* I doubt whether theſe combined cauſes have not had ſuch an effect on the people of this country; whether they have not increaſed to ſuch a degree, that, though we have obtained the bleſſing of peace, we ſhall not be ſo fortunate as to obtain the bleſſing of liberty. I know the opinion of the electors of Weſtminſter; but having had ſuch cauſe as I have had for the laſt few years, to deſpair of my efforts being attended with ſucceſs, I cannot pretend to have the hope that any thing that comes from me will be productive of the advantage to the country which it will ever be, as it ever has been, my firſt object to obtain. We have loſt much; but let us not the leſs rejoice at the preliminaries of peace having been ſigned. Great as our labours have been, the chances of recovering them are greater than if ſuch an event had happened a twelvemonth hence. Every year of war diminiſhes the chance of recovering our conſtitution, and repairing the wounds it has received. If the late miniſters had made the peace, I ſhould have been glad; but I fear, had they continued in power, we ſhould ſtill have to deplore the continuance of war. In the changes which took place laſt year, I thought the country had one chance more. Let us then rejoice at peace; let us recollect the cauſe of the war, and be happy at the termination of it; let us applaud ourſelves that, during the ſcenes which have agitated Europe for the laſt nine years, we have uniformly been the enemies of war, and the friends of mankind, and of thoſe ſacred rights, which are not the leſs ſacred becauſe certain men have abuſed them. Let us rejoice that we had no ſhare in the evils which have afflicted the world, and that the calamities which are leſſened by the peace this day, we are not anſwerable for. Let us conſole ourſelves by the reflection that, as we never have withheld our exertions when we have thought them right, ſo we never ſhall withhold them, except when we think thoſe exertions can be of no uſe, or may be detrimental. Gentlemen, I renew my moſt hearty thanks for the honor you have done me. Permit me, Gentlemen, to drink all your healths."—*(Incessant bursts of applause filled the room for some minutes.)* It is impoſſible for words to convey an idea of the ſenſation the ſpeech produced.

Toast—Mr. Grey, and the independent electors of Northumberland.

Song, Mr. Dutton—"Flow, thou purple, regal ſtream,"

Mr. Robinſon ſung a new ballad of great humour, written by himſelf, deſcribing the tricks of the Grand Punchinello.

Toaſt—The Duke of Northumberland, and the other ſtewards of the meeting.

Lord Beſborough's health was propoſed by Mr. Fox, and drank with the higheſt applauſe.

Lord Beſborough then roſe up: he ſaid, he did not mean to detain the company long, he ſhould only return them thanks for the honor they had done him in drinking his health. His ſentiments on the political ſubjects that had been alluded to in the courſe of the evening, coincided ſo entirely with thoſe of his very noble friend, that were he to give them in detail there would be no variation, except that he ſhould expreſs them in much worſe terms. He ſhould therefore content himſelf with drinking the health of the company.

Mr. Fox roſe ſhortly after and gave—

Mr. Erſkine, and the Trial by Jury.

Mr. Erſkine ſaid,—"Gentlemen, I will not detain you a ſingle moment; I ſhall only return you my ſincere and affectionate thanks for the honour you have done me in joining my name with this glorious ſentiment. You have already heard my opinions concerning the war and the peace in much better language than any in which I could convey it. I ſhall only expreſs a hope that one effect of this peace may be, that the trial by jury, which has been under a cloud (as every thing elſe that is great and good has alſo been under eclipſe,) will now be reſtored to its former luſtre. For myſelf, as long as my health ſhall permit me to attend my duty in the courts, I will not fail to defend this noble principle with all the vigour of which I am capable."—Mr. Erſkine ſat down amidſt univerſal and reiterated plaudits.

Mr. Fox then propoſed the health of Mr. Byng, and the independent Electors of the County of Middleſex.

Mr. Byng expreſſed the higheſt ſenſe of the honour done him. "Nothing," he ſaid, "could be more gratifying to him than ſuch approbation, which it ſhould ever be his higheſt ambition to merit."

Mr. Fox then gave—

Alderman Combe, and the independent Livery of the City of London.

(Loud applause.)

Alderman Combe expreſſed himſelf much obliged by the manner in which the company drank his health, in coupling him with the worthy men to whom they had before paid this compliment. He ſuppoſed the company influenced by a recollection that he had joined with them in execrating war, he ſhould alſo join with them in approving the peace; if it be a bad peace it was a bad war, and any thing that put an end to it ſhould be welcome.

Sir William Milner's health was drank, with the Independent Electors of the City of York.

Sir William, after returning thanks for the honour done him, expreſſed his perfect concurrence in the ſentiments of the illuſtrious Chairman, with whom he had uniformly acted in every ſituation, having joined in his oppoſition to the American war, as well as in his condemnation of the late war, which Sir William ſaid he ſhould praiſe the preſent miniſters for terminating, though they had very little of his approbation in any other inſtance:

Lord William Ruſſell was next given, with the Independent Electors of the County of Surrey.

Lord William Ruſſell profeſſed his ſtedfaſt adherence to the principles of which the illuſtrious Repreſentative of Weſtminſter has been ſo eminent a leader.

Mr. Sheridan's and Mr. Grey's healths, and that of Lord George Cavendiſh, were honoured with every teſtimony of