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From the Wilmington Mirror.

ADDRESS

Of the Committee of Correspondence of Kent County, to the Free Electors of said County.

"He that being often reproved hardeneth his neck, shall suddenly be destroyed, and that without remedy." Prov. 29, 1.

Fellow Citizens,

The committee of correspondence, appointed at a general meeting of the Democratic Republicans of this county, beg leave to solicit your attention, while they address to you a few words, on a subject of the deepest concern to yourselves. You are, no doubt, mindful of the approach of the general election, on the first Tuesday of October next, when you are to exercise the right secured to you by the constitution of the state, the inestimable, the all-important right of suffrage. In the judicious exercise of this right, your future prosperity is in a great degree involved.

In the United States there are two great political parties, whose real principles are as opposite as the poles. To one of those parties, the voice of United America has given a full and fair experiment. The same voice has been exercised to consign it to the level of private life, and deemed it incapable to steer with safety the political barque of the union. To the republicans of this country, the powers of the general government are now entrusted—we hope safely—we have no doubt wisely. It is to support the administration in the hands to which it is now committed, that we call upon you.

We shall take a brief retrospective view of the acts of the late administration, and contrast them with those of the present, and if the films of prejudice are not sealed for ever on your eyes, you will unite all your powers in support of the latter, who have already approved themselves, your most sincere—your best friends.

In the year 1797, under the guidance of Mr. Adams, a system of measures was begun and pursued, hostile to the tranquility and happiness of the people of these states. Previous to this period, the American people might truly be said to have been an united people. The enmities created by a difference of opinion during the revolutionary war, had almost totally subsided. The voices of the people were twice united in calling to the chair of the government, the most admired and illustrious character of the nation—their voices were bestowed on those most worthy to occupy the seats in the national councils—but alas! the scene was quickly changed. On the succession of Mr. Adams to the Presidency, a line of separation was drawn; and a division of the people was fostered by every act of his administration. Thro' a fair and happy country, presenting a shore to the Atlantic of two thousand miles in extent, the seeds of political discord were sown with malignant hope—and the demon of division stalked through the land, from New-Hampshire to Georgia—from the lakes to the ocean.

To exercise the functions of an office during the administration of Mr. Adams, a man must belong to the chosen sect called Federalists, and enter at large into the irregular phrenzies of the day. To refuse to sign a fulsome tribute to the vanity of the President, amounted to displacement and proscription; to wish success to republican France in the attainment of her liberties, brought down the miseries of want, and the sorrows of persecution; and to censure an act of the government was rewarded by a residence in a loathsome dungeon. By judges of flippant tongues and wicked hearts, the republican printers were *chased* from rights secured to them, by the constitution; by the same judges, the investigation of public abuses was nearly brought to an entire suppression, under the odious provisions of the sedition act.

Independent of the evils above enumerated, a system of patronage was established, which cost the good people of these states many millions of dollars. To carry this system into complete effect, a stamp-act very shortly after Mr. Adams's inauguration was passed, thereby providing for a host of inferior officers, dependent on the will of the President. It was an act, which will be long remembered to have operated with peculiar oppression upon the poorer classes of citizens, and deserves only to be named, that it may be despised. Yielding but a pittance of revenue to the United States, it supported a set of drones in society, only fitted to wear the black cockade, chant the praises of the infallible President, and sing hosannas to the *divine* cause of federalism.

Immediately after the passage of the stamp-act a direct tax of two millions of dollars was imposed; by this act the small state we live in had the sum of thirty thousand four hundred and thirty dollars to pay, and the proportion of Kent county *alone*, was more than the whole state now pays for the support of government. This act also rallied around the President an additional number of dependents, for the valuation of property real and personal.—The tax has been paid by Delaware, but whether it has by all of the other states, is yet unknown. Thus much is known, that it was collected first in those states most devoted to Mr. Adams and his party; but it was so slowly paid into the treasury, that the President was authorised to anticipate it by borrowing to its amount, at an enormous interest.

To enrich his favorites at the expense of the people, on the 16th July, 1798, the dog-star of federalism being at its zenith, the President was authorized, by an act of congress to borrow the sum of five millions of dollars (interest not limited) which eventually was borrowed at the enormous interest of eight per cent. For what purpose was this money wanted? To raise an army!—and this army was to fight an enemy between whom and them was the interposing space of the Atlantic, and whose intention to invade our territory, has never yet appeared. But this army was calculated to spread the system of espionage over the whole surface of the United States, and federalism beheld in every recruiting officer an humble devotee.

To provide for those who had sickened in the drudgery of supporting the administration of Mr. Adams, and were desirous of visiting the splendid monarchies of Europe, the sum of sixty-eight thousand dollars, was appropriated to support embassies to courts, with which the United States had scarcely an intercourse, either commercially, or otherwise.

The federalists availing themselves of the cry of alarm, which had prevailed in England, and been productive of so much distress to the friends of liberty in that country, were determined to shield the government from a public examination of his conduct. For this purpose a sedition act was passed, imposing upon the free citizens of the United States, the penalties of fine and imprisonment for the expression of their sentiments on the official conduct of their public servants. This law expired on the 1st of March, 1801; but to the disgrace of a free country it still stains our statute books. It became an instrument, in the hands of inhuman judges, of cruel and unprecedented oppression. Under this law, citizens were snatched from the bosoms of their families and the society of their friends, and forced to suffer the complicated afflictions of imprisonment—and for what?—for that which is every man's duty in a free country, an examination of the official conduct of those in power. Can that administration have the confidence of the people, if it can be tumbled from its base, by the force of "*paper shot?*"

Directly in the teeth, and palpably in violation of the constitution of the United States, on the 25th June, 1798, passed the alien law. By this law, the President was vested with a power as dangerous in its extent, as it was unprecedented in its nature. By this law the President was vested with the power of banishing from the country, those persons who had migrated hence from persecutions in Europe, and had indulged the pleasing prospect of residing in a land of liberty. Invited to these shores by the freedom of our constitutions, and the general advantages of our country, these foreigners had set down among us with intentions of becoming members of the same community, and of spending the remnant of their lives upon our soil. But they soon found their dearest interests committed to the capricious mercy of a President of the United States, and themselves liable to banishment, without having committed a crime. In the annals of ancient or modern legislation, there is nothing to be compared to the Alien Act, except a law which formerly existed in Wales, by which any person might kill a stranger, with impunity. That the alien law was wholly inexpedient, as well as unconstitutional, we have abundant evidence, from its provisions having never been enforced.

To strengthen the arm of the executive, and extend its patronage co-extensively with the limits of the union, taxes and loans were multiplied and raised in every possible shape, and the burdens of the people had accumulated to the last item of oppression.

The intended limits of our address would be greatly exceeded, were we to notice more than the prominent errors of the late administration, and trace it thro' every measure which had a tendency to throw our country into the abyss of slavery and ruin. We shall therefore content ourselves with exhibiting a contrasted view of the subject.

The people of the United States, "steeped in poverty to the lips," and turning with disgust from an administration who had abused their confidence, determined in the year 1800, to exert their power in dismissing those men from office, who had only at heart individual aggrandizement, and the interests of monarchy. They accordingly placed in the chair of the general government, Mr. Jefferson, who through every public transaction of his life, had approved himself their friend and benefactor. Tho' elected and intended by the citizens of the United States, as their chief executive magistrate; yet the disorganizing intrigues of federalism were practised till the union was shaken to its centre, to prevent his assuming the place to which he was fairly delegated. The opposition to his election was at last yielded in a manner, which strangely indicated that the federalists would oppose his administration at the hazard of ruining their country. However, the timely aid of the people was given by placing such majorities in both houses of congress, as were sufficient to second the President in his views of economical reform.

Since the inauguration of Mr. Jefferson, the United States have exhibited a spectacle of uninterrupted tranquility and happiness. Not a citizen has "breathed the vapors of a dungeon," for any thing he may have either written or spoken against the government. Oppression and persecution have hidden their deformed heads. The laws of the union and of the states are in wholesome operation. Our holy religion is in a state of prosperity in every part of the country; perhaps unequalled since the settlement of the western world—crops unparalleled in their abundance, cover the ground in every possible direction, and general plenty gladdens every district of our beloved country.

Under the guidance of Mr. Jefferson, such economical arrangements have been adopted as will be long felt and remembered, by the people of these states. The army and navy, which created so many dependents on the late President, and cost the United States such enormous sums of money, are now placed upon a respectable peace establishment. Thousands of people are dismissed, who were fattening on the treasury at the expence of the people, without rendering the smallest degree of public service.

The excise system, which had excited such repeated commotion in various districts of the United States, and has nearly produced the horrors of civil war, has been intirely done away, and six hundred salaried officers abolished. *There is now no tax upon stamps, upon carriages, upon stills, upon auctions, or upon refined sugars.* These taxes were annihilated upon principle; which should secure to administration the lasting gratitude of the people.

The experience of history teaches us, that when once a government introduces the practice of excising, as the imaginary wants of the government may increase, almost all the comforts of life will become the objects of taxation—we have beheld this principle practised to a frightful extent in England.

But the federalist have objected, that while the internal taxes have been discontinued, there still remain those upon brown sugar, coffee and* salt, and that for the relief of the poor people, who live in the constant use of those articles, the duties upon them should likewise be discontinued—to these objections, we reply, that brown sugar, coffee and salt are imported articles, and the duties upon them are founded in justice, because these articles are consumed by every class of citizens in this country; and we rely upon the soundness of this principle, that, "that mode of taxation which will practically operate on all classes of people in a community, is the most excellent for its wisdom and policy." These articles are consumed by the whole body of the American people—the rich and the poor, and the consumers of them paying the duties, it results, that no one class of the people can be peculiarly aggreived.

Another important retrenchment of public burdens has been effected by the abolition of foreign embassies to courts and governments in Europe, with which the United States ought never to have had any political concern. The more intercourse we have with European countries, the more we shall be assimilated to them in manners and habits, which will be always at hostility with our republican institutions. Besides, we should avoid connexions, which might in any event, involve our country in war or difficulty. By vacating these embassies, a considerable expence is saved, and the patronage attached to them, discarded.

A judicial system, which was created in the expiring moments of the late administration, and was intended to provide places for those who had devoted their time and talants in supporting the measures of Mr. Adams, has been put down, and an expence thereby saved of upwards of thirty thousand dollars per annum to the people of the United States. In short, fellow citizens, the time and talents, and the attention, of the present administrators of our government have been, and still are, sedulously employed by every species of economy, to lessen the burdens of the people, and to promote the general happiness and welfare of the United States.

The candidates who are offered for Representatives to Congress, are *Cæsar A. Rodney, and James A. Bayard.* Mr. Rodney has been educated and brought up in principles of Democracy, and under the lessons of a wise, intelligent parent, those principles in early life were deeply impressed upon his mind. We have seen him in our state Legislature, for six years past, exhibiting all the traits of a candid, virtuous, enlightned politician. On the subject of Government *his* knowledge is extensive and correct—as a public Speaker, his elocution is flowing, easy and agreeable. Mr. Bayard has been the supporter of the most of those measures of President Adams, which have been imperfectly sketched in this address; we have also beheld him at the head of that party who opposed the wholesome plans of the present administration. For these reasons, we cannot—we will not, support his election. To his accomplishments as a Lawyer and an advocate, we are ready to yield him the tribute of our praise—We shall support Mr. Rodney's election with our most animated exertions.

An observation or two on the conduct of the federalists in this state, and we shall close our address. The baneful precedent set by Mr. Adams of excluding from office those who were not of his own sect, was eagerly adopted in this state by those who have heretofore been entrusted with the executive power. It is this conduct, that has given to party spirit that *keen edge*, which has in a great degree poisoned the fountains of social intercourse. We have known those who were in the higher employments of government, denouncing the democrats with the odious appellation of enemies to their country. We have seen them refuse an office to a man, who was legitimately elected by the express voice of the people. When the citizens of Delaware had fairly elected the present chief magistrate, by a majority of votes sufficient to place in his hands the executive authority of the state, we witnessed an opposition to his inauguration upon grounds as flimsy as they were shameful. And since he has been in the exercise of his office, a number of the public documents are injuriously withheld.

Fellow-Citizens, These are abuses which call loudly for your interposition—with your resides the power of correction, and you are responsible to yourselves, & posterity, for its faithful exertion.

WILLIAM M'KEE,
JOHN FISHER,
JOHN TORBERT,
ABRAHAM PIERCE,
ANDREW GRAY,
JOHN HAMM.

Dover, Sept. 4, 1802.

* Salt, the duty laid upon this article of impost, was opposed by all the Republicans on the floor of Congress, and carried only by a majority of the federal members.

This is to give Notice,

THAT the Subscribers hath obtained from the Orphans Court of Calvert County, in Maryland, letters of Administration on the personal estate of John W. Simmons, late of said County deceased—All persons having any claims against the said deceased are hereby warned to exhibit the same with the vouchers thereof to the subscribers, at or before the twelfth day of March next—they may otherwise by law be excluded from all benefit of the said estate. Given under our hands this tenth day of September, 1802.

BEN. WILLIAMS, Admr.
SARAH SIMMONS, Admx.

All persons indebted to the said estate are requested to make immediate payment to the Subscriber.

B. W.

Sept. 15, 1802. 3aw4t.

Federal Misrepresentation.

REFUTED.

No. XXIII.

Perversions of truth and assertions of falsehood have become so numerous, that no pen can keep pace with the simple act of recording them. The sanctity of private character, no less than the virtues of public station, are indiscriminately traduced. This spirit of ferocious violence, and despicable vulgarity, must and will have an end. Nor is that end distant. Violence and slander carry in their bosoms the seeds of their own destruction; and just in proportion to the fury with which they rave will be the acceleration of their fate. When the private virtue of our chief magistrate is questioned, and the official integrity of the Secretary of the Treasury denied, is there an American, is there an honest man, who does feel indignant that the Country should contain a monster so infamously depraved as to make the charge?

Little, however, do these propagators of calumny know, or knowing, feel the impolicy of their course. Republicanism can never sink, while its friends are vigilant. The ceaseless opposition it receives will make them so; while it will serve to accumulate on its traducers the odium of the nation.

Let, then, republicans stand undaunted on their rock of truth, and while the storm of faction rages below, let them be calm, collected, and moderate.

From the National Ægis.

[*We have repeatedly pledged ourselves to the public, to furnish evidence that a certain* Member *of* Congress *for* Massachusetts, *had committed a gross and palpable falshood, for the purpose of creating a prejudice against the present government of the United States. We presume it has been well understood, that this engagement related to a report, which had been industriously circulated by a member of congress for the 4th* Western District, *that 1000 dollars had been paid by the government, for advice in the Treasury Department, in consequence of the absence of the Attorney General.—In introducing the subsequent communication, we feel it our duty to state, that the* Hon. Seth Hastings *is the person to whom* we have alluded, *and who, we conceive, is referred to, in the statement of the Attorney-General. It is not denied that he has propagated this report. The public will decide whether the documents are sufficient to convict him of a falsehood, and of course to absolve us from our engagement.—Those Editors who feel an interest in repelling the slander, will, we presume, cheerfully republish this* official refutation.]

For the NATIONAL ÆGIS.

To the People.

But few occurrences will justify an individual in intruding himself on the attention of the public.—If any will, they are those which both falsely implicate private character, and involve imputations on government. No man ought, no reflecting man can feel an indifference for the esteem and approbation of his fellow citizens. But, no circumspection, no rectitude of intention or action, no laudable solicitude to obtain, can universally secure them. It has been long known that censure and abuse are ordinary incidents of public employment. Experience and observation have taught me the superior propriety of meeting them (when under no peculiar circumstances) with patience, and refuting them, by a steady and firm adherence to principle and to duty.

The public attention has been directed to me, much beyond what either my situation or my conduct in life can justify. It is not of importance, to decide on the motives or the object of this procedure. Believing that time, and the good sense of the people, would seasonably and effectually correct, in reference to myself, error, prejudice and misrepresentation, so far as they depended, merely, on newspaper authority, or vulgar and untraceable reports, they have been, hitherto, altogether unnoticed.

Their effects on the public tranquility have been subjects for serious regret. The common, party, and personal abuse, the incredible newspaper slanderous assertions, with which New England has teemed, for the last twelve months, the mere effects of ignorance, prejudice, pride or passion, merit nothing but silence, or anonymous answers. They excite more of regret than contempt; more of compassion than resentment, more of confidence, firmness and encouragement