

MR. HALL,

THE main exertions of an individual to preserve the public rights, deserves the public support. A newspaper is a great source of our information; and as it ought not to be the vehicle of private calumny or slander, so it ought not to be the trumpet of unmerited panegyric—to flatter your paper to be contaminated in either of these ways, is wrong to the community—by the former means, an individual is injured—by the latter, the public mind is poisoned by deception. Whirligig, in a lively and spirited manner has expounded an abuse of this latter kind, which you with too much candour have suffered to creep into your paper. You have attempted a vindication—your right to do this, is no way questioned; and I with equal right shall examine its validity.

As I understand you, a powerful enemy, ambitious to rule the world, had threatened to overturn our government; and had provided emissaries in our country to excite insurrections, and by the force of intrigue expected to gain strong hold, in the Southern States, and thereby facilitate the conquest of the U. States.

That in the midst of danger, our minds were torpid, and that individual exertions were necessary, first to awaken and then show us, our danger—That Gen. Smith had the talents to open our eyes and rouse our spirits—that he had exerted himself on the Brunswick regiment of militia, and was crowned with success—that duty as well as inclination, led you to make honourable mention of so much spirited patriotism. Having done your duty, it remains for us to do ours.

When the Golden Calf was prepared, the Israelites were forbid to worship it—We too should reflect before we pay homage to the patriot you have set up, and the rather, because you give us certain publications as a criterion to regulate our judgments.

Let me suppose for a moment that Gen. SMITH is ambitious to acquire military promotion and public distinction, and that he does not deserve either; it will be then his interest to make up a military and patriotic character for himself—and suited to his views—it will be ours to discover what is real; to show it to the public, and most especially to those who may have the power of appointment, or the means of recommending him—this seems to be evidently right and reasonable that I shall not take a moment to prove its propriety.

The publications seem intended to show that Mr. Smith is popular—eloquent—patriotic, and meritorious on the score of former military services.

As to the first, I am ready to admit that the judgment of the people (being well informed) is very strong evidence of the worth of men—Whether Mr. SMITH enjoys that popularity, is not necessary to be examined until it shall appear that it is known as well as admired.

Secondly. His eloquence is not directly insisted on, but only inferred, and perhaps you may be startled at the term: real eloquence, however, is the art of persuasion, and that seems to have been generously attributed to him. The General, I believe, has the good sense to perceive his own deficiencies; when, perhaps, others have too much intemperance, and it is very generally believed, he is peculiarly gifted in catching at a glance, and valuing very highly the showy parts.

I do not believe, among his credits, the term of eloquence will be found—If it has been omitted by him, we are not bound to neglect it, because on many public occasions it has its use and value: in due time and place, it shall be examined.

Thirdly. His patriotism—This means the love of one's country. If South-Carolina be meant it is not to my purpose: As to any good lands, honours or benefits of any kind, which our poor country has to bestow, I shall not deny that he loves sincerely; but that he has it at heart to partake of our fortune in adversity as well as prosperity, and that on occasion, for as he would risk, as we must, his life and fortune, deserves to be doubted that it may be ascertained; and this also shall be examined.

Fourthly. His military merit has been most insisted on;—as this is least known to us, tho' we have paid the

full account at its greatest appreciation) and as he is now an incumbent, and seems to have large expectations—and is supported by our confidence at the risk of our utmost safety: this shall be examined above all the rest.

I do believe that the people of Brunswick county have common sense and the free spirit that becomes them, like the rest of their countrymen.—After the publication of the dispatches from our Envoys at Paris, could any thing be necessary to induce them to prepare for the resistance of injuries? If more was wanted, and Mr. SMITH furnished the deficit, you have done good by halves, for you have not published his oration to the Brunswick regiment—what affected them would affect others; and your paper would have spread illumination & animation wherever it went.

How do you know they were torpid, and that he animated them?—Suppose I should be ill of the gout, and a physician administers to me a little of the powder of past with some loaf sugar, in a table spoonful of simple water, will you attribute my recovery to his medicine? Suppose I use a knife for robbing me of my goods, and prove it clearly upon him, and a stupid fellow avows himself for my counsel, and tells the court and jury with all the pomp & circumstance of eloquence "Now is the time to do justice—Ah, I know you are a parcel of just men—See me here what honours I have obtained for my various exertions in the cause of justice, why men 'tis all in print, reported time after time—Was I not present with the calm deportment of a veteran at the well managed Beaufort case, and never left the court till it adjourned—I scorn to praise myself, gentlemen, but, as I said, it is in print, and I can vouch for the truth because I gave the heads of the affair to the reporter, who had a lucky hand in dressing up such things—but the blundering fellow has omitted to mention what I did—why, I stood by one of the great books, and read several cases as loud as I could, and it has been thought by good judges, that but for my exertions things would have gone worse than they did. There is also the Long-Island case, the court indeed broke up hastily, and in some confusion, the Chancellor having forgot them strangely. I have no certificate of my services, but 'tis plain I must have done a world of good.

Gentlemen, I have made such various appearance in court, and on so many occasions as to merit your approbation—You had better do as I advise you, for if you dont do justice you will all be called knaves." When justice is done me, it would be very silly to say I owe it to this man's eloquence—take a couplet from a poem of Dr. Swift:—

Of Parson much for preaching famed, the saxon reasoned well, And justly HALF the merit claimed, because he rung the Bell." In this case, by the way, you give Mr. Smith all.

The very Honorable Brigadier Gen. has on this occasion been presented handsomely at the expense of his old regiment, that he may appear to advantage, they have been stripped and shown in all the nakedness of nature, 'tis a pity his honor, has not corrected you in this particular, in mere gratitude to this regiment, whose in truth his military distinctions did really commence.—How much he may love the rest of the state is not known, but surely he cannot love that regiment very much, when to acquire the reputation of popularity and eloquence to himself, he would suffer it to appear, officers as well as men, a dull mass of stupidity, which without his assistance would not have had the sense to perceive or spirit to resent, the gross insults and injuries, and threatened violence offered to their Country.—Be pleased to know, Mr. Hall, that this regiment deserves better treatment.

When the General gave them the fine harangue, of which you make honorable mention, that regiment was organized & ready, according to its means, to suppress insurrection and maintain our country and government against all its enemies—by changing their names to a legion, their powers were not increased, unless it was intended to put them in a course of discipline as regular troops—if as militia, they were ill trained, as 'tis part of Mr. SMITH's brigade, some shame & reproach may be due him, but surely no applause.

As an auxiliary support to your that station, then indeed the elevation labours in the way of your duty, might have been admired, and its you lift up the military character of Gen. SMITH, in its Charleston dress, for us to gaze at, permit me first to observe, you have made a paltry extract, and left out the ringing the bells on his honor's arrival; and that the guns with which he smote so many foes at the GREAT BATTLE OF BEAUFORT, feeling that merit was then raised from obscurity, and amply rewarded, gave several discharges without human assistance.—This is the most gross mistake you ever committed—perhaps as it would have been too highly complimentary (as in the case of the letters from the Secretary of War) some retrenchments have been made—I have not the paper, nor have I seen it, and therefore can only examine what you have thought fit to produce.

We are puzzled and perplexed to know what part of Gen. SMITH's conduct ought to excite the spirit of emulation, and must therefore examine it in different lights—if he is to be imitated in raising a legion, it must be a very pernicious purpose.

Our country is represented as the seed of insurrection; here are the emissaries and intriguers of our enemies; and these surely should be watched and suppressed—by whom? If the brigade under the command of Brigadier Gen. SMITH is unable to perform it, will a part or the whole of the same men under the same commander be able to do more? This is absurd and must be rejected—much less is it to be hoped for, by any change that may withdraw that force, or a part of it.

Where standing armies are not kept up, the militia of any country constitutes its power of defence—where a standing army is raised, the militia is occasionally called on as an auxiliary to the regular force—for a single effort, a few high spirits, which all large bodies of freemen will furnish in greater or lesser numbers, inflamed with more of the military ardour than can be expected in larger corps, and seeking distinction, beg the post of honor and consequently of danger; these are volunteers to attempt to turn whole brigades, or even regiments into volunteers in this sense of the expression, does not deserve to be imitated by any man of common sense; what can be more ridiculous than to attempt to change the spirits and nature of men by altering their names? To call them volunteers instead of militia makes no substantial difference in the powers of such corps—these ideas are confirmed in a great measure by the report of the Secretary at War, to the Congress, last session, and even the extracts of his letter to Gen. SMITH which you have published have the same tendency—they are taken in small bodies—Why? Because that spirit of enterprise, with all the other views of volunteers, is not to be found in large masses of men; and let it not be considered as a disgrace to a body of militia, that they do not choose to become volunteers—thousands of those men, who form the militia, have such domestic cares and even duties, as to disregard them—with a view to acquire military fame, would evince more of rashness and folly, than of real patriotism.—Gen. SMITH's proposal has been rejected; and hence is seen at once, that you recommend us to follow the example of one who has made much bustle, and done nothing.

Could Gen. SMITH have succeeded as you seemed to suppose was done, whatever his pleasure might have been, we should have had no cause to join him in his joy—for then his legion might have been ordered off, and who would have been left to encounter foreign emissaries and insurgents.

As aid-de-camp to Gen. Washington, at a time of difficulty and danger, he must have had opportunities to show his military talents; the retreat from Long-Island must have produced them one would think in great abundance.

Are we to imitate a man who suffers opportunities to pass away without improvement; the distinguished honor of being an aid-de-camp to the commander in chief, is inimitable, as much as is the condition of one who takes a large estate by gift or descent—had he done any thing to deserve that distinction, and General Washington had thought proper in consequence to call him to

that station, then indeed the elevation might have been admired, and its thing appears, the battle of Beaufort was long after the retreat from Long-Island, no other matter is mentioned that could have induced General Washington to make Mr. Smith his aid—Some doubts whether Mr. Smith was ever an aid to General Washington, are entertained by some people, for they allege that General Washington on his arrival in Wilmington, did not know Mr. Smith, and seemed never to have heard of him.

After mentioning the battle of Beaufort, and that Mr. Smith was aid-de-camp to General Washington, the Charleston writer says, and he gave on many occasions—such various proofs of activity and distinguished bravery through the whole war, as to merit the approbation of his impartial countrymen.—This is mere pomp of words to swell the praise a little, and is very false, for who can contradict him; all we have to do is to ask when and where? All this shall be answered there is nothing to guide our applause, but the authority of we know not whom; those instances that in the judgment of the writer were likely to do Mr. Smith honor, were specially mentioned, & we have seen what they are worth.

Are we to emulate his feats at Beaufort and Long-Island? We will gladly follow—imitate—emulate; if you please, whatever of excellence has gone before us, but being torpid (stupid) why has not something been shown us? Mr. Smith having assisted at a battle in the revolutionary war, affords us nothing. What did he plan, how did he execute? here alone his merits could appear—all is silence—Distinction implies some difference—had one battle only been fought, all the men in that battle would have done what no others did, and therefore would have been distinguished; but so many battles were fought, the thing was common, and therefore having been in a battle, has long since ceased to be a badge of distinction—it is not stated that he planned the enterprise, or had any part in the execution, but as a sergeant.

All this exhibits an uninteresting pattern for our imitation; and thus vanishes this gaudy vapour, raised by we know not whom, in the city of Charleston, to represent a hero. That city has produced and does now contain men of sense, spirit and patriotism; and such men despise as much as we do, what you have thought proper to hold up as an example for our imitation.

As you make a very wrong estimate by publishing the unmerited praise of Mr. Smith, so you judge lightly in supposing yourself sustained by any precedent in a Northern newspaper.

When a lady of a beloved and distinguished family, presents a beautiful pair of colours elegantly enriched by her taste and by her labour; the sense of patriotism is exalted, and our feelings participate with our reason—But what analogy has this to the offering of Mr. Smith? The General would indeed present us with himself, thus bedecked with his fancied achievements at Beaufort and Long-Island, but the dull fable could excite nothing but disgust; and here is the striking difference, that he is courting in very strange ways, some place of distinction, and solicits benediction instead of bestowing it.

We will leave you, Mr. Hall, and we will turn our eyes to this ignis fatuus of a hero, who has to much beguiled your judgment.

AN EXAMINER.

FOR SALE

By ROBERT MITCHELL, MUSCOVADO Sugar, in hhd's & barrels.

... l. Rum of the best quality, 2d, 3d and 4th proof.

A few pipes excellent 4th proof Brandy.

Barrel'd Pork and Beef.

Tobacco.

Fresh Souehong Tea.

ALSO

Some elegant China cups and saucers, &c. &c.

June 13.

ANY person who will undertake to supply the subscriber with one hundred thousand Red Oak hhd. STAVES dressed, in the month of August next, will please to inform him as speedily as possible.

Geo. Hooper.

June 13.

WANTED

THREE or four active Negroes, either on purchase, or to hire, for which a generous price or hire will be allowed, and the call advanced, if application is soon made to

J. Burgwin.

Hermitage, June 12.

RAN-AWAY



ON Friday the 13th of May last, a negro fellow named JIMMY, he is a stout black fellow, of a yellowish cast, he is about five feet ten or eleven inches high, rather slim made, his right knee bends a little towards his left leg; he is about twenty-six years of age, speaks tolerable well, has a striped homespun coat and overalls; a white negro cloth pair of overalls; a pair of patch'd boots, an oznaburg shirt or homespun, a white negro cloth under jacket, also a spotted corded muslin waistcoat, he may alter his name & endeavour to make for Wayne county.—Whoever will apprehend said fellow and commit him to jail so as I can get him, or deliver him to Mrs. John Magill, Old-Town, Brunswick county, or to myself, shall receive a reward of TWENTY DOLLARS, and if such information of a black person harbouring him, five dollars more (and if a white person, so as I can bring him to justice, I will add twenty Dollars.

William Magill.

Brunswick county, June 1. 107

NOTICE.

THE subscriber for the last time, earnestly requests all persons who have lodged any species of goods with him, in the line of his business, to apply immediately, as he intends leaving the State.

He requests those to whom he is indebted to tall for payment, and he expects that those indebted to him will discharge their accounts.

D. Lambertoz.

June 13.

A REWARD of Ten Dollars will be paid to any person who will deliver into the goal of Wilmington, a certain negro man named JOHNY, a fellow I purchased from Mr. John Waddell.—He is of a yellow complexion, about five feet ten inches high, straight and well made, steps rather short and quick when he walks, has lost some of his fore teeth. He is about thirty-five or forty years of age.—It is probable he may be about Mr. Waddell's plantation, having a mother and uncle there. If he returns of his own accord he shall not be punished, and may work in town.

GEORGE GIBBS.

June 13. 107-3

Sheriffs Sales.

WILL BE SOLD

On Monday the 17th day of June, at the court-house in Wilmington, the following LANDS, situated in the county of New-Hanover, for the taxes for the years 1796 and 1797: 29,084 acres entered by

James Carraway, situate on the north side of the north-east branch of Cape-Fear river, above the mouth of Holley-Shelter, beginning at a Pine in the county line, 24 poles south of Curling Smith's second corner of land, formerly patented by Job Harrington, and about 186 poles east of the mouth of Rockin Creek; conveyed by said Carraway to David Allison, and by him conveyed to J. B. Bond, of Philadelphia.

14,080 acres entered by Starling Wheaton, on the east side of the north-east branch of Cape-Fear river, including the lower and the great Holley-Shelter pecon, on the head of Lillington and Merrick's Creek, beginning at a Pine on the north side of Aiche's Mill Creek, thence crossing the Creek on or near Daniel Mallett's line; conveyed by said Starling Wheaton to Daniel Wheaton, and by him conveyed to Francis Lewis Tancy, of Georgetown.

44,160 acres entered by Daniel Wheaton, on the east side of the north-east branch of Cape-Fear river, including part of the great Holley Shelter pecon, beginning at large Cypress and Water Oak on the edge of Holley Shelter Creek, on the south side thereof, about one quarter of a mile above James Bond's line.

The above lands are liable to a double tax for the year 1796, and will be also liable for a double tax for the year 1797, unless the amount of single tax is paid before the sale.

William Nutt, Sheriff.

May 9.