

THE WILMINGTON GAZETTE.

Published every Tuesday by ALLMAND HALL, at Three Dollars a Year, payable in advance, or Four Dollars if not paid within a Year

[NUMBER 605]

WILMINGTON, N. C. TUESDAY, AUGUST 9, 1808

[12TH YEAR.]

From the Virginia Herald.

VIRGINIA MANUFACTURES.

Nothing of late has more engaged the attention of the people of America, than the establishment of domestic manufactures.—These from the present aspect of our political affairs, have acquired an additional importance. The inconvenience resulting from a want of them will perhaps never again be so sensibly felt. The politician heretofore directed by general laws, has been enabled to form some calculation respecting the affairs of the world; but at this eventful crisis of Europe, and of our country, when the order of things is reversed when history affords no precedent, he stands appalled and amazed. To this we attribute the present situation of our country. The embargo exists, and the wisest heads of the nation, can form no conjecture of its duration. Our difference with France and Britain remains unsettled. From both we have received indignities of the highest nature. Our national character is completely degraded.—That character which formerly abroad, afforded our citizens an honorable passport, is now but an acknowledgment of contempt and infamy. Our desire for peace, has induced us to brook insults, we ought to have resented. It is with nations as with individuals; the man who does not resent the first affront, will not live long, before a greater indignity is put upon his character. "A departure (elegantly observes Junius,) from the nicety and strictness of punctilio, is as dangerous to national honor as female virtue; the woman that admits of one familiarity, seldom knows when to stop, nor whom to refuse; when the councils of a great nation give way in a single instance, when they are once inclined to submission, every slip accelerates the rapidity of the descent." Why, my fellow-citizens, do we boast the heroic patriotism of former republics? Why do we glory to contrast our situation with Rome and Athens? We resemble them too little. Did these republics in the zenith of their glory and liberty, with a gross violation of their national honor, stop to calculate the number of their enemies, or the immensity of their wealth? No—with that indignant spirit which should characterize freemen, they marched forth to meet their enemies, nor did they ever in the worst of times despair of the safety of the republic.—Where is now the flame of patriotism, which illuminated our revolutionary heroes? Did it descend with them into their tombs? Or have we the last glimmer of it, in the security of our newspapers? But to return to our subject. The Virginians desirous of appearing foremost in all the affairs of the union, have entered into associations for promoting manufactures, without perhaps considering their ability to support them. The extensive scale on which they have been established throughout the United States, can only I suppose be maintained by a continuance of our differences with foreign powers. For so long as they possess such an immense extent of uncultivated territory, and so long as there is a demand for the superabundant produce of the land, it will always I presume, be found more advantageous, to purchase our clothing, than make it ourselves. If manufactures however, are to be carried on to advantage in America, they can only be in the Eastern states, where the population is more numerous, and the capital greater. Experience has shown that where a public institution will fail, a private one may flourish.—Because in a public situation, a number of agents are necessarily employed, who feel but little interest in promoting its advancement, but where it is private property, that desire which every individual has of promoting his interest, will induce him to economise every operation, and to devise every scheme for increasing his profits. Hence if manufactures are to flourish, they will be on a private and not a public capital. The present period is particularly auspicious for a trial in the Eastern states. The capitals of some of our merchants there, are immense.—There is a stop to the importation of goods—labor is cheap—in fine, every circumstance is favorable. On the recurrence of commerce, if the capital employed in manufactures, should not yield so handsome a profit, as that which is engaged in commerce, the advantage which will accrue from its being always under the inspection of the proprietor, and not subject to hazard will more than compensate for the loss of a few per cent.

In Virginia, we can only manufacture by means of negroes. Every person knows, that where slaves are employed, the work is less perfect, and much less is done in a given time, than when freemen are engaged. No people in the world are more tenacious of their liberty than the people of Virginia. They would not therefore submit to be cooped up in a manufacture and controlled by a superior, when they can live their own masters, independently and easy, on the produce of a small farm. "The beauty of the country, says Mr. Smith, besides the pleasures of a country life, the tranquillity of mind which it promises, and wherever the injustice of human laws does not disturb it, the independency which it really affords, have charms that more or less attract every body, and as to cultivate the ground was the original destination of man, so in every stage of his existence he seems to retain a predilection for this primitive employment."

It must afford real delight to every patriot, to see the farmers of our state, decently and elegantly clad, in the manufacture of their own families. Who can behold it without envying that happy and independent situation? This is the only kind of manufacture that Virginia can support—it is attended with little or no expence. To purchase our own manufactures the farmer must have money. How is he to get it, unless by the sale of his produce? For that he now gets little or nothing. But by manufacturing in his own family, the usual produce of his estate is not lessened, for it is for the most part during the winter, and when his family or servants could not otherwise be employed, that the work is done.—Hence the time which otherwise might have been devoted to sleep, is perhaps in the end, the most productive that is spent.

July 5th, 1808.

CIVIS.

WASHINGTON CITY, July 29.

At a meeting of the citizens of Washington, convened by public notice at the Council Chamber, on Thursday evening, the 14th of July, 1808, a numerous assemblage attending—

DR. CORNELIUS CONINGHAM was called to the chair, and J. B. COLVIN appointed Secretary. It was, on motion.

Resolved, That an injured citizen has a claim upon the consideration of every honest man in society; and that we have cause to believe General James Wilkinson has suffered persecution for his patriotic efforts in the service of his country.

Resolved, That a committee be appointed to frame an address to General Wilkinson, to be signed and presented by the chairman, demonstrative of the sense this meeting entertain of his public services and their confidence in his integrity and patriotism.

A committee was accordingly appointed, and an address reported to the meeting; which being read and agreed to, the chairman with four other persons was designated to wait on the general, present him with the same, receive his answer, and forth with cause the address and reply, together with an account of the proceedings of the meeting to be published in the newspapers.

Signed by order of the meeting,
CORNELIUS CONINGHAM,
Chairman.

ATTEST,
J. B. COLVIN, Secretary.

According to direction, the committee yesterday waited upon general Wilkinson with the following address, to which he returned the annexed answer:

Washington City, July 14, 1808.

SIR,
It is the peculiar duty of a free and enlightened people, while they examine with the severest scrutiny the conduct of public men, and regard with a jealous suspicion every public character, to pay the tribute of their esteem to every confidential citizen who has falsified the dishonorable imputation cast upon his name. Justice and candor require, that while they punish with their censure, they should reward with their approba-

tion; for unfortunate would be the fate of that country in which calumny only could be heard, and the confidence of the people could not be declared.

Under these impressions the citizens of Washington offer you their sincere congratulations on the issue of the enquiry that was lately instituted on your conduct. As a respectable portion of the Union they were affected with the liveliest sensibility when they heard on the floor of the House of Representatives the heinous charges that were induced against to distinguished a soldier and citizen; and listening on the immediate theatre of action, they watched with peculiar interest and attention, every measure that was adopted and every circumstance that was disclosed in the subject of your character and conduct. The experience of seven months, however, during which the enquiry was pending, and the charges against you might have been substantiated, had fully prepared them for a decision so honorable to yourself, and so fatal to your enemies.

We beheld, sir, the accusation brought forward under a concurrence of circumstances which rendered the motives for its institution doubtful and suspicious.—On the first whisper of detraction, we saw you court the enquiry which had been solicited by your accusers, while they, as if conscious of their precipitancy and weakness, endeavored to retrace the steps they had taken.

An invitation was given to your enemies to make a full development of their knowledge on this subject.—You defied them to meet you before a judicial tribunal—but they denied you the honest and imprescriptible privilege of being confronted with your accusers;—they attacked you on a field which you were not permitted to enter, and while they objected to the weakness and incompetency of the court of enquiry, they refused to extend its privileges and powers. Such was the primary aspect of their inconsiderate accusations; and such were the disadvantages under which you were compelled to labor in conducting your vindication. But with a spirit of liberality and innocence you waved all legal objections to the introduction of the authenticated documents which were laid before Congress as evidence before the court; and though silence might have ensured your acquittal, you proceeded to a minute development of the transactions which formed the basis of the accusation. This development has incontrovertibly demonstrated your innocence, and the indefatigable zeal of your enemies.

Permit us, sir, to embrace this opportunity of dwelling on the recollection of the services you have rendered to your country. It was destined for your hand to seal the Convention of Saratoga, which secured the issue of that contest which made us a nation; and for you it was reserved to baffle the arts and enterprise of a conspirator, and save your country from the horrors of a civil war. These signal services will never be forgotten by a free people.

Had not the honest energy of your character averted all your measures at New-Orleans, had you preferred the insidious call of private friendship to the paramount duties of patriotism, a fair portion of America might have been lost to your countrymen. But the storm has past—the bolt that was intended for your destruction has fallen harmless at your feet, and we rejoice, sir, that you have triumphed over the acts of your enemies, and proved yourself deserving of the confidence of your country.

In behalf of the meeting, I have the honor to be,

Sir, your obedient servant,
CORNELIUS CONINGHAM,
Chairman.

Washington, July 15, 1808.

GENTLEMEN,
Next to the consciousness of having

done my duty, and more than my bare duty, I prize the approbation of the immediate spectators of that persecution, which has ensued my best services to the State; and therefore this testimonial from the citizen of the national metropolis, cannot but be acceptable to a bosom, whose sensibilities have been rent by the rankest ascriptions of envy and disappointment.

We have seen in other times and in other cases, an uniform series of good offices and long continued services, expiate the foulest offences, and recommend to the public confidence those who had deserved ill of their country; but by some strange distortion, my exertions for the public weal, instead of veiling anterior misconduct, have produced a resurrection of legendary tales, and a jaundiced retrospection of my whole life and actions, to wound my character and blast my fame.

I would accompany my sincere acknowledgments, gentlemen, for this manifestation of confidence and good will, by some suitable declaration; but promises are too often vain, and professions too frequently delusive; I will therefore in-treat my fellow citizens to judge me by my works, and not by the machinations of those who seek my destruction; and as they may find me, so let them estimate me.

I beg you to accept my best wishes for your prosperity and happiness—and am with great respect,

Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

JAMES WILKINSON.

To Cornelius Coningham, Esq.
and the Committee of Citizens.

Highly Important, from Spain!

New-York, July 23.

The affairs of Spain are at length brought to a crisis, and the boasted pride of Castile, is compelled to submit to the mandates of the Emperor of France, who is in fact at present, the ruler of Europe. The extraordinary revolution in Spain, the details of which we this day present to our readers, is of a miraculous nature. Until we received the official intelligence, we could not credit the rumor. A change in the Spanish government was absolutely necessary. The people have long groaned under their bondage, and ignorance and poverty were the lot of the majority of the inhabitants of Old Spain and its colonies. Whether the interference of Bonaparte will be of advantage to them is yet to be discovered. No doubt exists but that this revolution will be marked with scenes of bloodshed and confusion, which might naturally be expected from the dispositions and situation of the grandees. We shall on Monday continue extracts from the Madrid Gazette Extraordinary, with which we have been politely favored.

Oracle.

Extract of a letter from Trinidad, dated June 27th, to a gentleman in this city.

"Two revolutions have taken place in Spain, since the 15th of March.—One preceded the abdication of the old king in favor of the Prince of Asturias.—The other, the resignation of the prince in favour of the father, and as they could not agree among themselves, they went to Bayonne to submit their differences to the decision of Bonaparte, who has laid violent hands on the whole family, including the prince of Peace, and several of the grandees, and keeps them all prisoners. He has made the king appoint Murat, Lieut. Gen. of the kingdom Murat is in Madrid with 54,000 men, they say; but I don't believe he has 30,000. The provinces have revolted against their authority, and against the authority of Charles—proclaimed Ferdinand VII the lawful king, and called upon all faithful Spaniards to take up arms in defence of their religion and their country. The supreme council of government is at Seville, and in Andalusia alone 130,000 men are in arms, it would appear they rise in mass, and massacre all who do not wear the cockade, which the council has ordered that every man shall wear. We are before now I suppose in possession of Cadiz, and the Spanish navy, which the council have agreed to deliver up in trust to admiral Percey and Gen. Spencer, whose expedition it now appears, was sent out to favor the king's emigration to