

# THE WILMINGTON GAZETTE.

Published every Tuesday by WM. S. HARRIS, at Three Dollars a Year, payable in advance, or Four Dollars, if not paid within a Year.

[NUMBER 614]

WILMINGTON, N. C. TUESDAY, OCTOBER 11, 1804

[12TH YEAR.]

In this week's paper is commenced the publication of Mr. Gaston's address to the voters of the counties of Wayne, Green, Lenoir, Jones, Craven and Carteret, for electors of President and Vice-President of the United States; we also lay before the public the address of his competitor General Bryan Whitefield. Both candidates stand high in the estimation of all parties. Measures and not men should be the criterion of our decision, accordingly as we approve or condemn the measures of the late administration; should our votes be given for Gov. AUSTIN or GEN. BROWN. If a change of measures is desirable a change of men can alone produce it, if an adherence to the present system is wished for, then let your suffrages elect Gov. ASHE to the electoral seat.

The object of the present crisis is momentous beyond expression. The happiness, and perhaps the very existence of our union hang suspended on the issue. It is our sincere wish and honest determination, from which nothing shall make us swerve—that the public mind should on the present occasion receive every information that so important an exercise of their rights demands, and that exertions can procure and present. Fellow-Citizens, be deceived by no one, this is a time when you should pin your faith on no man's sleeve; arouse the energies of your nature; and call into action the reason which benign heaven has endowed you, not that it should sleep in slumbering insensibility, but that you should honestly use it for the great purpose of self government and domestic happiness. Cattle were created to be driven this way or that, according to the caprice of the herdsman; but it is the high prerogative of man, his noble elevation above brute matter, to think for himself—that reason should be a lamp to his feet, and as a light to his path." Read, compare, inwardly digest all the facts and fair arguments with which opposing politicians may wish to impress your minds, and act like our venerated Washington, who on all important questions attentively heard all that could be said by each of his council, reserving his own judgment to the last, and forming it from an impartial and comprehensive view of the whole ground, and then your results will be like his; correct and salutary, and under God, we trust will eventuate as his did, in the salvation of our country.

## (CIRCULAR)

TO THE FREEMEN OF THE COUNTIES OF Carteret, Craven, Jones, Green, Wayne and Lenoir.

### FELLOW CITIZENS,

On the second Friday in November next, and such days preceding that period as are prescribed by law for holding separate Elections, you are to elect a person to vote for a President and Vice-President of the United States, for four years commencing the fourth of March next.

Having at the two last elections been honored by you with that appointment, I think it a duty to offer you my services again.

I have heretofore voted for Thomas Jefferson as President. Under his administration we have been relieved from many burthenome and oppressive Taxes; the pay of a numerous host of Officers to collect them; the expense of a number of unnecessary Cruises and their Officers, and from Laws calculated to silence our murmuring against the oppression under which we labored. These measures, I flatter myself, have been generally approved of by you. But as it has not been in the power of his Administration (with the best recommendations temporary suspension of our foreign commerce) to prevent European tyrants from oppressing us by impeding our citizens into their service—taking our vessels and property on the seas, at their pleasure, and without any regard to our rights as an independent and neutral nation, he is now calumniated by many. But as he has long been dignified and declared his determination to retire from office, it is with you and the public a select and vote for another person to fill it.

I am informed there are several Candidates for the Office, (to-wit) James Madison, James Monroe, George Clinton and Charles Cotesworth Pinckney. Knowing that I am not infallible, I cannot have the vanity to censure the talents or integrity of either of these gentlemen.

James Madison is a native of Virginia, is now in the prime of life; his talents and integrity I have never heard disputed, until since he has become a Candidate for the Presidency in his character I have closely attended to for twenty years past, and am so well convinced of his abilities

as a Statesman—his attachment to, and earnest desire for the welfare and independence of his country, that the bitter calumny of his enemies, makes no impression on my mind.—I shall, therefore, if elected, undoubtedly without any reservation, vote for him as President, and George Clinton, Vice-President.

I have understood that an opposition is raised in this District, to the election of these gentlemen, by some individuals who wish to elevate Charles Cotesworth Pinckney to the Presidency. That this gentleman may have abilities, I grant, it has been thirty years since my first acquaintance with him, but before I can believe his talents equal to Mr. Madison's, I must be furnished with other proofs than what I have yet seen or heard. But admit I may be mistaken in his talents, yet I cannot be brought to vote for him, when I find among his warmest friends, all the advocates for the obnoxious measures of Adams' Administration, (to-wit) The Alien and Sedition Laws, the District Judges, Still and other Internal Taxation

useless Courts, with a host of Judges, made at midnight, to enjoy the salaries allotted them. All these things remain fresh in my memory, and I make no doubt, Fellow-Citizens, many of you also recollect them.

That you may maturely weigh the great importance of your suffrages, on this occasion, and finally bestow them so as to ensure the election of a President, who will discharge the duties of that office in the manner most conducive to the welfare of our common country, is the sincere wish of your old Friend and Fellow-Citizen,

BRYAN WHITEFIELD.

SPRING-HILL, Sept. 17th, 1804.

## TO THE FREEMEN OF THE COUNTIES OF WAYNE, GREEN, LENOIR, JONES, CRAVEN AND CARTERET.

### FELLOW-CITIZENS,

The period is fast approaching, when you will be called on to select some one of your body as an Elector, to vote for a President and Vice-President of the United States. It has long since been announced that a very respectable gentleman, General Bryan Whitefield, was solicited to receive this high and important trust. Deem me not presumptuous in expressing the wish that you would consider me also as a candidate for the appointment.

Anxious that my conduct should be marked with that frankness which is ever due to Freedom, but which ought more especially to be observed on occasions of great moment, I have to request your attention to an explicit declaration of the motives by which I am influenced in thus presenting myself to your notice.—of the sentiments which I entertain in relation to the great expediency of the Union—and of the course which, if honored by a majority of your suffrages, I shall deem it my duty to pursue.

If the appointment in question were, like many others, a mere testimonial of personal esteem bestowed on one whom you delighted to honour, and whose merits and services presented a claim on your gratitude, far would it be for me to enter on this occasion, the lists of competition with General Whitefield. But as its sole object is the selection of a person to declare in your names who ought to fill the two highest offices in the National Government; it is obvious that your choice should fall on him, whose suffrages will probably be given to the best characters—to those of whom you most approve. General Whitefield has pledged himself, if elected, to vote for James Madison, of Virginia, as President of the United States. If in your judgment, Mr. Madison be properly qualified for this all important office, if you believe that his administration will tend to secure the peace, the honor, the harmony, and permanent welfare of your country, a sense of duty as well as a proper regard for your own interests, ought undoubtedly to induce you to promote his election. If on the contrary, after deliberate reflection and the use of such means of information as are within your reach, you should be convinced, that he is destitute of some qualifications absolutely essential, and should seriously apprehend that his administration might not only jeopardise the best interests, but perhaps endanger the independent existence of the nation, it would be an act of treason against yourselves, to lend your aid in placing him in the Presidential Chair. I am one of those who conscientiously entertain the belief, and deeply feel the apprehension last expressed. I have viewed them in those around me, and discovered that they

thought and felt with me. I have compared the general sentiment of the district, and found reason to believe it was not unlike my own. Under these circumstances, an opposition to the Candidate, who if chosen would unquestionably vote for Mr. Madison, becomes the bounden duty of some individual amongst us. I could assign no reason for declining the task, which might not have been assigned by every other. Much therefore as I wished the part allotted to one of greater weight of character and of more personal influence, I have complied with the wishes of respectable friends, and resolved on this tender of my services.

That the office of President of the United States, is of high dignity and consequence, all of us know; perhaps, however, there are many who do not perceive the complete extent of its importance and active influence. A full examination of this subject is forbidden by the necessary limits of this address. One remark, however, may suffice to make even on the most thoughtless minds, a serious impression. The Federal Government has been in operation almost ten years, during which time the most important measures that the President, for the time being, was known to have at heart, has not been adopted and carried into full effect. Whether it proceed from the very nature of the powers constitutionally vested in the Executive Magistrate—from his right of solely negotiating with foreign nations, and with the aid of the Senate, forming treaties which are to be the laws of the land—from his privilege of communicating to Congress information on the state of the Union, and recommending to them such measures, as he shall deem expedient and necessary—from his influence in nominating to every important national appointment, civil and military—or, whether it proceed from the great weight of character, which his elevation by the unbiased suffrages of millions of Republicans, so pre-eminent a station naturally confers, and from an excessive confidence reposed in him by the members of the Legislature, and by the people who have so recently elected him—certain it is that the President always hitherto has been, and it is probable always will continue to be the prime mover, the main spring of the government.—His opinions, his views, his designs, pervade the mass, animate, direct, and almost control the whole. Whether these things should be so, it is not now necessary to enquire. This is the reflection which I wish them to enforce. How exalted, how perfect, should be the intellectual, the moral, the personal qualifications of the man chosen for this all important office! What caution ought to be exercised by freemen, lest they improperly confide a trust that so essentially involves all which can be dear to them on earth!

To ascertain with exact precision Mr. Madison's claims to the Presidency, is an undertaking to which I advance no pretensions. Yet, I feel it a duty incumbent on me, to avow the opinions which I have deliberately formed of his character, and which are at least entitled to the credit of exemption from personal dislike or of strong party prejudice. With Mr. Madison as a writer, I have long been acquainted, and in the production of a small degree of commendation. They bespeak a mind of natural acuteness, conversant with theories of government, fraught with metaphysic learning, and stored with historical knowledge. His style is perspicuous, neat, often elegant, and not deficient in energy.—That Mr. Madison too is a gentleman of mild temper, pleasing deportment, and personal integrity, I have always heard and believed. Such qualifications as these, are certainly not lightly to be valued. They give him a claim to the respect and good will of his fellow-men.—They fit him for many useful and honorable stations in life, for a professor in a University, a coadjutor in a political controversy, a writer of State Papers, or a framer of legislative resolutions.

But when these are advanced as just pretensions to the Chief Magistracy of the United States, I cannot but feel the vast insufficiency of the claim. Nor can I repress my astonishment at the extravagance of party zeal and indiscreet admiration. The momentous duties of that exalted station require talents of a nature far different from those which would become a preceptor in his chair, an author in his closet, a chairman of a legislative committee, or even a Secretary of State. George Washington could not perhaps model a sentence to the same critical exactness, or write a controversial treatise with the same subtlety as James Madison. But he possessed that strong natural good sense, that commanding and comprehensive mind, that practical knowledge of men both in their individual and collective capacities, and that invincible firmness of nerves, which marked him as one destined by his creator to watch over the interests and to wield the strength of the nation. For all these qualities we may look in vain in James Madison. Firm and resolute, his administration would be destitute of that energy and decision,

which should characterize the executive branch of government. Acquainted with mankind more from books than from close study; more conversant with the theories of political projectors than habituated to think and judge for himself, better fitted to engage in the contentions of party controversy, than to form liberal and practical plans of policy, he would often I fear, by the dupes of diplomatic finesse, often sacrifice the plain substantial interests of the nation, to visionary schemes of fancied good, and often be perplexed with refined speculations, till the moment of prompt and vigorous action, was gone never to return.

Deficient however as I believe Mr. Madison is in the great qualities that ought to be found in a President of the United States, it is not the deficiency which forms my strongest objection to his appointment.—It is avowed by his supporters that he will steadily pursue that path which has been marked out by Mr. Jefferson, and that from him may confidently be expected a perseverance in that system of measures by which the present result. After recurring to such historical information, as the records preserved by our rulers will permit me to obtain, I have formed the deliberate judgment, that the evils of our present condition have in no small degree resulted from the timid, time serving, and partial views of those intrusted with the management of our affairs; and that without a radical change take place, these evils will be aggravated into calamities, and our distress terminate in ruin. Whether they have been influenced by a blind antipathy to Britain, unworthy of statesmen who should regard all foreign powers with an equal and impartial eye; or by an insidious attachment to France; of which Mr. Jefferson and Mr. Madison are both situated citizens, and from the literary societies of which they have both received the fruits of education, nor a little gratifying to their vanity, whether it be that they really entertained no jealousy but of British maritime superiority, or that they sought by every conciliatory art to propitiate the gigantic conqueror whom they dreaded to offend, and who already boasts that he directs the interests of America; or their system appears to me distinctly marked by an unmanly spirit of irritation to the one nation, and a still more unmanly spirit of concession to the other: From the multitude of facts on which I found this opinion, let me bring to your recollection a few of the most prominent. Every wrong committed by British cruizers on our commerce; and in truth too many have been committed, has been dilated with all the arts of disingenuous rhetoric. Every claim advanced by us, & not attended to by the British government, on the subject of neutral privileges, has been magnified into factitious importance, while the just complaints on their sides, with respect to the losses field forth by us to tempt the desertion of their seamen, and the frauds of our coasting carrying trade, have been heard with an unattentive ear. The treaty formed at London by Monroe and Pinckney has been rejected by the President, upon bare inspection, without an opportunity afforded to the Senate; his constitutional authority controverted.

France! In the winter of 1805.—1806, we were informed by the President that Spain, then notoriously the vassal of France, had sanctioned the most infamous depredations on our commerce, had refused to adjust the limits of Louisiana, and had entered with an armed force, the known territory of the United States, seized and carried off several of our citizens.—Congress sat for weeks with closed doors and the public expectation was raised to the highest pitch. The secret session terminated, and what was its result?—an appropriation of two millions of dollars for the mysterious purchase of foreign intercourse! It was whispered that the object of this appropriation was the purchase of the Florida. Such was the ostensible object, but if you wish to learn the main the real design of our rulers, listen to the language of Mr. Madison himself, as twice declared on the floor of Congress and in the face of the world, by a gentleman of unquestionable veracity, Mr. John Randolph, and never contradicted either by Mr. Madison or by any one under his authority. "Mr. Madison told me," said Mr. Randolph, that France "could not permit Spain to settle her disputes with us. France wanted money and she must give it to her or take both at once." "and Spanish war." It was then to bring France to bully Spain not to invade us; that the appropriation of two millions was asked for and voted, and this was the mode in which the national resentment was manifested!—In November 1804, at Berlin the capital of his late ally, but then subjugated to the King of Prussia, flushed with conquest and disdain the semblance of moderation, Napoleon issued his insolent edict, proclaiming the British Dominion in a state of blockade, and of consequence shutting against every neutral ship going to the return, from them, those penalties of confiscation