

At a meeting of the Commissioners of the Town of Wilmington, Nov. 12, 1808.

ORDERED, That the town of Wilmington be laid off into six wards, to wit— The first ward to be composed of that part of the town which lies on the north side of market street, bounded by front street on the east, by the river on the west, and the limits of the town on the north— and shall be called the north west ward— That the second ward be composed of that part of the town bounded by market street on the south, second street on the east, front street on the west, and the limits of the town on the north, and shall be called the north east ward— That the third ward be composed of that part of the town bounded by market street on the north, the river on the west, dock street on the south, and front street on the east, and shall be called the south west ward— That the fourth ward be composed of that part of the town bounded by front street on the west, dock street on the south, second street on the east, and market street on the north, and shall be called the south east ward— That the fifth ward shall be composed of that part of the town situated on the east side of second street, and shall be called the east ward— That the sixth ward shall be composed of that part of the town which lies on the south side of dock street, and shall be called the south ward— and that Thomas N. Gautier, be appointed fire warden for the first or north west ward— Nathaniel Hill, for the second or north east ward— David Smith for the third or south west ward— Archibald F. Macneil, for the fourth or south east ward— Joshua G. Wright for the fifth or east ward, and Jacob Hartman for the sixth or south ward— and the said six fire wardens shall have full power and authority to superintend, control and direct, at the time of any fire, the proceedings of the citizens or others, so far as relates to the extinguishing such fire, and so far as respects the blowing up or demolishing any house or building for the purpose of preventing any such fire from spreading, according to the act of the General Assembly as follows, passed in the year 1806:

An Act for the further regulation of the towns of Wilmington and Newbern.

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of North Carolina, and it is hereby enacted by the authority of the same, That the commissioners of the towns of Wilmington and Newbern, respectively, at some one of their meetings previous to the first day of May next, shall and may appoint such number of persons as they deem necessary, to be fire wardens of the said towns; and the persons so appointed shall be notified, and within ten days thereafter signify in writing to the town-clerk, his or their acceptance or refusal of such appointment. And any person failing to signify his acceptance or refusal as aforesaid, shall, unless excused by the Commissioners of said towns, forfeit and pay ten pounds, to be recovered by and in the name of said commissioners, to and for the use of said town. And in case of neglect or refusal of any person so appointed, the said commissioners shall and may appoint some other person in the room and stead of the person so neglecting or refusing.

II. And be it further enacted, That the commissioners of said towns respectively shall have, and are hereby declared to have full power and authority, from time to time, to make such rules and regulations for the division of the towns into wards, and the government of said wardens in cases of fire happening in said towns, as they shall judge proper; and shall and may authorise and empower the said wardens, under such rules as they may establish, to direct the pulling down, demolishing, or blowing up any house or building which they the said wardens (or such number of them as the said commissioners may authorise) shall judge necessary to pull down, demolish or blow up, for the purpose of preventing the further spreading of any fire which may happen in said towns. And during the continuance of any fire, the said fire-wardens, or in their absence, the commissioners of the towns, or any one of them, shall have power to require assistance for extinguishing the same, or for demolishing, pulling down or blowing up any building, or for removing any goods, wares and merchandise from any building on fire or in danger, to some place of safety, and to appoint guards to secure the same. And any and every person failing to obey any command or direction of any of the said commissioners or fire wardens, given for the purpose aforesaid, shall, if a free white man, forfeit and pay the sum of twenty-five pounds, to be recovered in the name of the commissioners of the said town, respectively, before any jurisdiction having cognizance thereof to the use of said town; and the wardens or commissioners giving such command or direction, shall be deemed a competent witness to prove the same, in

any trial to be had for the recovery of the penalty for disobeying such command or direction. And in case the person so disobeying shall be a person of colour, he shall, on complaint and conviction before any Justice of the Peace, receive such number of lashes not exceeding thirty-nine, as the said Justice shall direct.

III. And be it further enacted, That it shall and may be lawful for any number of persons in said towns respectively, exceeding twenty-five to form themselves into a company for the purpose of extinguishing fire, or saving property endangered by fire, who, on having their names recorded in the records of the towns respectively, kept by the clerks of said towns, shall be considered a body politic and corporate, under the name of The Fire Company of the town of Wilmington, or the town of Newbern, as the case may be, and by that name shall and may sue and be sued, plead and be impleaded, before any jurisdiction in this state; and shall and may have power and authority to make such rules and regulations for their government as a majority shall deem proper, and to impose and to enforce penalties not exceeding ten pounds for any one offence, on and against any person or persons failing to comply with any rule or regulation which the said companies shall from time to time establish.

ORDERED, That the said act of Assembly, &c. be published three weeks in the Wilmington Gazette, and that each fire warden be furnished with a copy of it.

ORDERED, That it be the duty of the several fire wardens to superintend their respective wards, and make reports monthly to the commissioners as to the condition of such wards with respect to their fire buckets and bags.

By order of the Commissioners, TH: CALLENDER, T. C.

STATE OF NORTH-CAROLINA, Brunswick county.

By Robert Potter and John Conyers, two of the Justices of the Peace in and for said county.

WHEREAS complaint upon oath hath been made this day to us, two of the Justices of the Peace of the said county, by Benjamin Blaney, of the said county, merchant, that a certain slave belonging to and being retained by Jim, hath absented himself from his said master's service, and is lurking about in the said county, committing acts of felony and other misdeeds:— These are therefore in the name of the state, to command the said slave forthwith to surrender himself and return home to his said master; and we do hereby also require the sheriff of the said county of Brunswick, to make diligent search and pursuit after the said slave, and him having found, to apprehend and secure, so that he may be conveyed to his said master, or otherwise discharged as the law directs: And the said sheriff is hereby authorized and empowered to raise and take with him such power of his county as he shall think fit, for apprehending the said slave.— And we do hereby by virtue of the act of Assembly in such case provided, intimate and declare, that if the said slave named Jim, did not surrender himself and return home immediately after the publication of these presents, that any person may kill and destroy the said slave, by such means as he or they may think fit, without offence or impeachment of any crime or offence for so doing, and without incurring any penalty or forfeiture thereby.

Given under our hands and seals, at Smithville, this ninth day of November, in the year of our Lord, one thousand eight hundred and eight.

ROBERT POTTER, J. P. [Seal.] JOHN CONYERS, J. P. [Seal.]

An Act for the relief of the Incorporate Mechanics of the town of Wilmington.

WHEREAS It is represented to this General Assembly, that the laws now in force, for the regulation of slaves in the town of Wilmington, and for preventing the owners of slaves from hiring to them their own time, are imperfectly executed, for the want of some proper body whose duty it shall be to see them carried into execution; for remedy whereof,

BE it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of North-Carolina, and it is hereby enacted by the authority of the same, That from and after the passing of this act it shall be the special duty of the commissioners of the town of Wilmington, and they are hereby enjoined to cause to be enforced by the proper officers of the county of New-Hanover and town aforesaid, all and singular the several laws made for the regulation of slaves and people of colour within said town of Wilmington, and also all and singular the several laws made to prevent slaves from hiring themselves out, and the owners thereof, from hiring to them their own time, and upon complaint made to any one of the Commissioners of said town, it shall be his duty to direct a meeting of the Commissioners to be called for the purpose of hearing and deciding on said complaint in the usual manner of hearing and deciding on complaints in other matters.

TO THE PEOPLE

Of the districts of Wilmington, and county of Sampson.

(Concluded from our last.)

I have endeavored to show, that the restrictions on our trade, imposed by the act laying a general embargo, and its numerous supplements, originated in Mr. Jefferson's indifference to commerce, and that they were the result of a peculiar and novel system of policy, which he had adopted for the government of the country.— I have also submitted to you some remarks, tending to shew, the ruinous consequences of such a system—that it is calculated to damp the national enterprise, and depress the national spirit:—but independent of objection to the principle of such a system, it is believed to have been peculiarly impolitic, at the time it was enforced, as it regarded the two nations it was intended to affect.

It is well known that Napoleon has long since discovered, that he can only wound Great Britain by warring against her commerce, and in prosecution of a war of this kind, he has by the force or fear of his arms, compelled most of the nations of Europe, to prohibit all kinds of trade with her; and to exclude from their respective countries, her manufactures. A measure, therefore, which deprive Britain of the benefit of our trade, and which, in fact, places us in the same situation, as the allies of Buonaparte, seems to aid his views against that nation; and is calculated to excite a suspicion that it has resulted from some improper predilection or antipathy. Whether this suspicion, is just or not, I will not pretend to say, but that it has been excited is too true; and that it has been, and may yet be, attended with injurious consequences, is equally true. At a time, when we have serious disputes with the government of Great Britain, any measures which in their operation, are likely to prove distressful to her, and advantageous to her enemy, have a tendency to produce a disposition, on her part unfriendly and unfavourable to the adjustment of these disputes. Of this character, are the measures of an embargo and non-intercourse. It will not be sufficient for our government to say to her, our course is impartial, and the measures we have adopted, apply alike to you and your enemy. She will readily reply, that although they have the appearance of impartiality, in reality they are partial and unequal, in their operation; for while they injure France, in a small, they injure us in a great degree; and that they affect France in a way she is willing to suffer, if in doing so she can bring distress upon us. She may also tell us, that France has the command of most of the continental powers of Europe, and from these she can draw supplies, that it is in the West-India colonies she principally suffers, and that she is ready to surrender these colonies, in aid of her views against us; because she can readily regain them whenever, she shall have succeeded in subjugating our nation. This will be the language of Great Britain; and it will be the language of truth. But she may go farther, and enquire if no antipathy against her, or predilection for her enemy, influenced the measures of our administration, why is it, that all those editors of newspapers, who are continually filling their columns with the most virulent abuse against her government and palliating excuses for the aggressions of France, receive the uniform support and patronage of the administration, while those of an opposite character, who recommend an impartial course of conduct towards all nations, are stigmatized as disorganizers, and hirslings in the pay of her government. As an American, anxious for the fair character of my country, I should be at a loss, what answer to make to such an enquiry.— When I see that one of these editors has declared that France should not relax in her conduct towards us; that another has declared, that Buonaparte seems to have been destined by providence, to direct the condition of society, and has cautioned the federalists to beware of offending him; that a third has declared the French minister's insidious letter to our government respectful and friendly; and that a fourth has declared himself a French partizan; and when I see these editors basking in the sun beams of presidential favour, and one of them entrusted with the command of a regiment in our armies, without any pretensions to such a distinguished appointment, but what may be derived from his labours at the press; a press which poured forth the most infamous abuse against the fair fame and virtuous conduct

of our beloved WASHINGTON: I say, when I see these things, I am staggered in that opinion, which I have heretofore entertained of the administration of the government; and however disposed, I am still to believe, that they have not been corrupt, I should do violence to my conscience, in saying that I believed them to have acted correctly and impartially in their intercourse with foreign nations. Let me not be considered, as having any disposition to palliate the course, Great Britain has pursued towards us. I have no interest in being her apologist. Born and reared an American, I trust I have none but the feelings of an American. That Great Britain has much to answer for, I have no hesitation in saying. She has wronged us much; and she has wounded, deeply wounded, the honor of the nation—and it behoves those to whom are committed the powers of the Government, to redress our wrongs and vindicate our honor. But I wish them to pursue an open, manly policy. That the system which they seem to have adopted, is of a different character, is what I have endeavored to shew, and that it is radically defective, weak, ruinous to our best interests, and calculated to invite insult, by declaring, that we will submit to injury by retiring from the field of competition. If such has been, and such still is, the system of policy pursued by this administration, is it proper, is it safe, is it consistent with the interest, or the honor of the nation, to place Mr. Madison as president of the United States, at the head of the next administration, when it is understood, and indeed avowed, that he will pursue, in all important points, the same course of measures, that he participated in, as secretary of state, under Mr. Jefferson.

I know that the republican committee, will tell us, that there is nothing to be apprehended, from his administration of the government, that as he will tread in the steps of Mr. Jefferson, so like him, he will leave us, in the full course of progressive improvement; and they will refer us to their circular, for lengthy statements

of long details of the repeal of odious laws and oppressive taxes, and immeasurable tracts of land purchased for a long, a mere bagatelle of 15,000,000 of dollars. I have run over these statements and details, and although they furnish us with little information, we had not before, they furnish us with additional evidence, of the many sins of omission, this committee have to answer for in their address to the public, while they exultingly dwell upon the increasing condition of the public revenue, & decreasing state of the public debt, they have omitted to tell us, that it was by the commercial regulations & financial arrangements adopted by Gen. Washington, and continued by Mr. Adams, aided by the increasing population of the country, by the sale of our ships of war, by the sale of our bank stock, and by additional burthens on our trade, that the treasury department, has been enabled, to exhibit these statements of debt and revenue. While they talk much of the repeal of laws, laying an excise, and imposing a land tax, they have omitted to tell us, that the first was said to be recommended by Mr. Madison, and that the other, not only received the vote, but the firm support of Mr. Gallatin, another member of the administration; and they have also omitted to tell us, that by the suspension of our trade for twelve months, we have been deprived of the receipt of nearly sixteen millions of dollars; and that to replenish our exhausted treasury, we shall probably be under the necessity of recurring to those very taxes, by an unfounded clamour against which, their party grasped an ill deserved popularity. While they make a vain boast of not reviving the sedition act, they omit to inform us that that act was an improvement of the then existing law of the country, that while it imposed specific penalties against the publication of falsehood, it secured the liberty of the citizen, by permitting him to shield himself in the truth of the fact, for the uttering of which, he might be prosecuted by a persecuting administration; and while they also boast of the purchase of Louisiana, they omit to tell us, that its limits are yet unknown, and that, as it has already nearly embroiled us in one war with Spain, so it will continue a subject of dispute, and, in all probability, prove a source of many other wars. But enough of this republican address, and its distorted views of public men and public measures. It is not by paper representations, and arithmetical calculations of dollars and cents, that we are to ascertain the comparative merits of