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ADDRESS

People of the U. S.

BY THE FEDERAL CONVENTION.

Si Populus vult decipi, decietur.

(Continued from our last)

WE now come to the point which at once teems with numberless enormous innovations, by introducing strange and new courts, of almost any denomination, into any of the States, where the people's rights will soon be annihilated, and abolishing the only defence of liberty, the trial by jury, to tyrants only formidable, in all civil cases, countenancing the greatest injustice to be lawfully committed by the rich against their brave fellow citizens, whose only misfortune is to be, perhaps, not so rich as they, by dragging their law suits of any denomination, and of any sum, however small, if they choose, before the grand tribunal of appeal, to which the poor will be obliged to follow, with their evidence and witnesses, and on account of the great expence. How distressful will it not be for the industrious mechanic, who by his labour only maintains a numerous family, to be compelled to attend at a Federal court, for months perhaps for years, as a witness, and to be situated for the recovery of a sum the payment of which might be less prejudicial to him, than to be an attendance! How hard will it not be for the farmer to be subpoena'd out of the State in the

very least, his wife requires his labour, and his children require his care, to oppose firmly that part of the federal constitution so destructive to the inestimable rights the more numerous part of middle-circumstanced citizens now enjoy. Congress, in their appeal to the world, when they were about to dissolve the political bands which united us to Great Britain, reciting the grievances which prompted us to separate ourselves from her, complained that the inhabitants of America were under the necessity of crossing the seas to obtain justice.

They also complained, as of a grievance too hard to be borne, that troops had been kept among us in time of peace—That standing armies are an insult and dangerous to the liberty of the people. I believe a standing army is to be found in the bill of rights of every State in the Union. It consequently appears extraordinary that, in so short space of time as a period of eleven years, a proposition should be made to the people of America to renounce a right they have shewn themselves so jealous of.

A TERRITORIAL legislation over the district where Congress reside ought not to be granted to them. It may be made a nursery out of which legions may be dragged to submit us to unlimited slavery, like ancient Rome. If such a sovereignty is given to them, over the smallest extent of territory, they will easily find the means of removing the boundaries of their dominions. It is difficult to obtain power, but easy to manage it will grow by itself. If territorial legislation is not to be given to congress, they ought to be denied, with more propriety an exclusive jurisdiction in the forts, arsenals, magazines, dock-yards, they may establish in different parts of the continent.

SOME persons have exclaimed that the omission of a clause rel-

pecting the liberty of the press in the federal constitution intimated that Congress would no longer that precious blessing—that Congress could constitutionally issue an ordinance forbidding the printers to publish their opinion on the conduct of that august body, or any of their officers. Whether such a consequence may be properly drawn will be left for the consideration of the reader.—At all events it is to be wished that as it has been thought proper to mention in the federal constitution, that the trial by jury and the writ of Habeas Corpus would always be preserved, a few words might have been added, to promise to the people of the United States, that under the new government, the liberty they now enjoy of publishing their ideas, would be held as sacred. As the Aristocratical, of all governments, is most averse to the liberty of the press, "there," says an elegant French writer, "the magistrates are petty sovereigns, but no great enough to despise affronts." In a monarchy a satirical stroke is designed against the prince, he is placed in such an eminence that it does not reach him; but an aristocratical lord is pierced to "the very heart." Politics would require that in proposing the adoption of a new government, assurances should be given us, that it should have no bad influence on our most sacred right. It was a compliment the American printers had a right to expect.—However contentious they may be of their being allowed to dabble politics, they are fond of the freedom of the press proclaimed, like the fair of being told of their beauty; and if they are to believe that, whenever a lady ceases to be told that she is a fine woman, the time is pretty near when she will no more be looked upon such, they may like the omission of a clause declaring that the press shall ever be free for a bad omen. (To be continued.)