

Wilmington Gazette

PUBLISHED WEEKLY BY ALLMAND HALL.

Three Dollars per Annum.

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 26, 1801.

[Vol. V.—No. 255.]

From the Massachusetts Spy.

In the former number of the Farmer, you were promised a summary attention to some of these things which falsehood and ignorance have charged on the President of the United States; slanders which were designed as the staples in the electioneering jobbing; calumnies which at a proper time will be more fully refuted, to the confusion of those who have been wicked enough to originate them, and unfortunate enough to believe or to propagate them. As the charges are true or false, believe and confide in the authors and abettors of them, and let your future suffrages be directed. The general charges of despotism, irreligion, jacobinism, of being a disorganizer, a modern philosopher, &c. will be passed by as too vulgar, disgusting and contemptible, even for new-paper animadversion. To the retailers of such stuff these papers are not addressed. If they are proof of stupidity, it must be on those who chose to deal in them. Political prophecy, early announced that Mr. Jefferson if President would sacrifice the interests of his countrymen to France, and put their neck under the trampling feet of the great republic. Is this true? What has he done, and what are the principles of his conduct towards this once friendly, now reconciled nation? He has told you he has not, like the tyrants of the earth wrapped up the grounds of his administration in darkness, in inexplicable reasons and mysteries of State. No, he owed to his fellow citizens an explanation of his designs, & he has thrown himself on their candor, good sense & patriotism, by announcing his friendship to all nations, on angling alliances with none. He has pursued with the greatest economy, the measures nearly completed by his predecessor, for restoring peace between the two countries, and finishing one of the most liberal treaties ever made, and at the same time he has announced to that country the honorable determination of this to cultivate on fair and liberal grounds a commercial intercourse with all nations, but to endure a subjection to none. The proof is in public documents. Is this, my fellow-countrymen, a fulfillment of the ill-boding prophecy? Does it furnish matter for theanders of history? Judge for yourselves. You were lately told, he was devoted to France, and that republican candidates were for offering to her, as to the dancing harlot, the chopped off heads of American citizens. Such pious stuff labored in the columns of our public papers, and decency and common sense got themselves long enough to read it.

A second book of prophecies was, that he would involve this country in a war with Great-Britain. Has he done it? Decide my friends for yourselves, and make the proper improvement. He has caused the U. S. States to be considered and treated as of increased importance to that powerful and proud nation. He has procured from her a cessation of hostilities on our commerce, a reform of her prize courts, a security against future injuries, a tender of friendship, and of supplies against Algerine depredations, and a special order from his majesty, through Lord Hawkebury, to make known to the President this token of his respect and friendship for the United States. The vouchers for these facts are deposited with the proper officers. Compare again the history with the prediction, and make your own deductions. Forgive yourselves for being deceived, and, if possible, forgive those who deceived you. But be on your guard for the future.

But say the objectors, the President is unworthy of trust, he must be opposed, and not cooperate with; that a delegate ought to be sent from the Massachusetts fourth western district, of sense and ability to embarrass his future administration, or to punish him for the past, because he has improperly caused a French State ship to be repurchased, repaired and restored, by anticipating a satisfaction of the treaty for that purpose. Without pausing too long in smothering reflections on the cruelties of this sudden jealousy of the treaty making power in the minds of some people, or the reasonable and laudable awakenings of a sense of public economy in others, we will relate what is understood to be the facts in the case. Under the former administration, the Bercerau was repurchased and repaired in part for the purpose of being given up, and this in pursuance of an article of convention, expressly requiring her restoration. The new administration has only completed what had been very properly begun by its predecessor. Her restoration and her additional repairs were on the same principles, on the same funds with her purchase and her original repairs. This was

not done until after the first conflict had, under the same article of the convention, caused property to twenty times the amount to be given up to the citizens of the United States. The Bercerau was one of many ships which the French government claimed the right of demanding. She is the only one which it has been in our power to restore, and the doing it under the existing circumstances may probably occasion the saving of hundreds to this country. Was it not of course? Was it not proper? would any man of prudence and information have done otherwise? would the complainers have disgraced their country, having accepted what was to be received, by jealously withholding the little which was to be returned? You are again called upon, my friends, in the spirit of candor, moderation and magnanimity, to decide for yourselves on this influence of the exercise of Presidential discretion.

The supplies to the French prisoners have been made the subject of the bitterest reproaches. This transaction was but copying the examples of other civilized nations. We were obliged suitably to support them; the officers, by boarding in private families, had contracted debts; on application, under circumstances peculiarly impelling, the President relieved the treasury from the burden of supporting them by enabling them to maintain themselves. He caused to be advanced to them a thing common in Europe, a sum equal to the amount of their wages, on security by the agent of the French government for its repayment in France, whenever the money was needed by the United States. The common sailor was imprisoned, naked and needy; these in pursuance of a legal provision your President visited with the charities of the country, and clothed them with a coarse covering, such as decency and humanity required. These are the circumstances of a transaction, which has been prostituted to the vile purpose of defamation; for this and similar acts you are invited to join an opposition. But previously decide, if the above recited transaction was fit and proper, or ought to be the subject of slanderous censure. Ask the pride and honor of your own country, if it was not right; enquire of religion, of humanity of your own hearts.

The heaviest of all charges the most atrocious of all crimes, has been the dismantling and laying up a part of the navy, for the direct purpose of having it destroyed and eaten up by worms. This is the motive which is alleged for the fact. It is unnecessary to remark, that the dismantling and laying up of the ships was in pursuance of an express provision of the last congress, the place where was the result of the executive discretion; conspiring circumstances left but little room for deliberation. Two docks for navy yards only were authorized by law; these were located by the President, and forty thousand dollars were appropriated towards erecting them. One, and the only one in which any thing had been done, was by the old administration, with propriety established at Washington. Instead of 40,000 dollars, near three times that sum has been expended when the new administration commenced its labors. The ships were then ordered to the very place which had been a long time preparing for them, where no worms had previously been considered as existing, but which had been considered as a proper receptacle for the laying up of dismantled ships.

It is still persisted in, that there is no navy-yard at Washington. With such obstinacy no man ought to reason. Let it ask those horses which for years have been carrying earth into the sea, if there is no navy-yard established at the federal city. Let it ask those stone walls which, travelling from the mountains, have waded far into the deep. Let the prepared timber for a 74 purchased and merged by the old government, in the waters of the Potomac, say if it is a victim to worms. Let the vouchers for the expenditure of the public money say if there is no navy-yard there. The business of a navy-yard at Philadelphia and elsewhere, is well understood by the writer, and may be a subject of future explanation. The President disposing of the ships at the seat of government, has discovered a respectful attention to the measures of congress, to the doing of the old administration, and the interests of the people. Materials for repairs are in the neighborhood. The officers and men will be kept together, and be kept to duty. The national defence will be under no final inspection. Great savings will be made; our annual congress will better determine on the annual expenses necessary for the support of a navy, and will see the ra-

vages which time, the most destroying worms it has to fear, will be constantly making on it.

The above are the charges which have been urged against the executive of the general government. He defends himself by no presumptions drawn from a long train of conscientious services, by which he has commanded the esteem and gratitude of his fellow-citizens; these are passed over in silence. He has claims of merit in the very matters selected by his enemies as the foundation of censure. You will determine if these claims are groundless. The very alters consecrated to acts of piety and devotion, have in some instances been polluted to his ungracious employment. Of their ministers, who ought to know and to practise the doctrines of Jesus Christ, and him crucified, have been found some capable of the foul work of studied de-radation; who, instead of studying those things which make for peace, have attached themselves to the virulence of a party, and have been the fomenters of political feuds sharpening their tongues with more cruelty than the dagger of the assassin. They have stabbed characters in the dark, and like common scolds called their opponents by hard names.

The presses have been more than fatigued with their pail labours. Every topic of abuse has been exhausted and spent itself on the heads of republicans. The principal has had a double portion measured out for him; the cup has been drained to its lowest dregs; and, left shielded by a thousand excellencies and a consciousness of rectitude of thought and action, he has been unharmed. Being reviled he reviles no again. His study is to do friends and enemies all the good in his power. His course is steady, firm and independent. His time and talents, commending as they are, are early and late devoted to the service of your country. His endeavors are to economize, lessen the expenses of government, the burdens of the people, and to preserve their rights and privileges unincumbered and unimpaired, to render the constitution strong and pure as it came out of the hands of its makers, the states unitedly and severally happy and prosperous, respectable and exalted, at home and abroad. He can have no interest separate from his; with it is connected his reputation, his prospects, his pride, and the highest and best feelings of the human heart. He solicits only the candor, the reasonable confidence, assistance and friendship of his fellow-citizens. Will you withhold it because he is a republican? Is this the man you are invited to distrust, whom you mean to oppose? The great body of federalists are all republicans. Deceit for a moment has led them astray. Our teachers have caused them to err. Reflection and time will restore them to the path which they have forsaken—*Republicans are all Federalists.* Misrepresentation and a factious ambition may have rendered them suspected. They will unire themselves with republican Federalists, with all good men, will adhere to our government, will cling, will last themselves to the constitution, and with it perish or survive in the *“tempestuous storm”* and struggles for her liberty and freedom. We farmers are by name all federal republicans; situation, circumstances, habits, sentiments and feelings, conspire to make us so: as soon would matters cease to attract, the dews of the evening cease to mistle, and interest and self forget to influence, as the enlightened yeomanry of our country forsake republicanism. Friends and fellow-citizens I be intreated to reflect: put your hands on your breasts and pause; look on the fate which may have been crowded into your hands, and let conscience speak; examine the tale that is told you, come it from the bar or bench, from behind the counter, the desk, or the tail of the plough. Consult with yourselves and then act; seriously deliberate, and you will act right.

A FARMER.

BOSTON, Oct 28.

The trial of Capt. Little, on charges alleged against him by the officers of the French corvette *Le Bercerau*, has excited much sensibility in the breasts of every real friend to the American navy. It has been considered “a new thing under the sun,” for a brave and humane officer, without the least previous investigation by the government under which he serves, to be deprived of his sword, and his ship, and be compelled to stand a public trial, on the bare complaint of some of the prisoners he had just captured—whose characters were known to be infamous, and whose conduct to several American vessels, had been proved on oath to have been little better than that of pirates. Yet such things

have been seen:—And on the complexion of such men, has a gallant naval commander been subjected to the ignomy of arrest and trial—whether from a desire to rescue the American nearly from the suspicion of reproach—or from an undue attachment to the French Republic, let the manly, good sense of the American public determine—after taking into view past transactions and professions, and perusing carefully the letter of the Secretary of the Navy on the subject. Captain Little, however, has stood the ordeal, and has brought forth the weight of his reputation undiminished. From the trial it appears that French invention produced the following charges against him:—1st. The taking money from the prisoners. 2d. Taking other articles. 3d. Indecent conduct in searching the prisoners. 4th. Cruelty in the mode of confining and supporting them. 5th. Kidnapping a part of the crew.

But it will give pleasure to the public to learn, that not one syllable of these charges was founded on truth; on the contrary they appear to have originated in malice towards an officer who had arrested the piratical career of the complainants, and in the expectation that the government would be more ready to punish than countenance an act so degrading to the French Republic, as the capture of a national corvette. The sentence of the Court Martial is as full and explicit evidence of this falsehood and malice in the charges, as it is honorable to Capt. Little.

NEW-YORK, Nov. 3.

When Capt. Goodfellow, of the schooner *Sally-Ann*, left St. Croix, a report was in circulation there, that ten thousand troops had arrived at Martinique from England, supposed to be destined against Porto-Rico, Guadalupe, and Mariguame.

November 4.

The Bakers of this city, in consequence of the regulations of the Corporation respecting the affize of bread, have determined to suspend baking; and yesterday morning (without any previous notice) entered this resolution into effect. An inconvenience so serious, and so unexpected, excited general alarm; several of our wealthy citizens assembled at the Town Coffee-House, and proposed to form an establishment under the name of “The New-York Bread Company,” by a subscription; which being set on foot the sum of 30,000 dollars was subscribed in an instant; and a meeting was called last evening to choose a committee for carrying the business into immediate operation.

November 6.

Too much praise cannot be bestowed on Governor Wentworth for his humane exertions in contributing to the relief and comfort of distressed seamen, who may be cast on the Isle of Sables. It is evident the American seamen, in a peculiar degree, will be benefited by the important establishment now going forward on that hitherto desolate Isle.

The following letter on this subject from a respectable source, will be found interesting.

Extract of a letter from Halifax, Nova Scotia, dated 9th October.

“I am indebted and very thankful to you for several kind letters, the objects of which I have executed my best endeavors to accomplish; and I hope the several persons engaged have reported to you. You will be pleased to find the legislature have passed a liberal vote of money for the purpose of commencing an establishment on the Isle of Sable; to prevent as much as possible shipwrecks, and to afford all aid and assistance to preserve persons and property cast on those shores. The Honorable William Forsyth and Charles M. Wentworth, and Michael Wallace, William Cochran and Charles Morris, Esq. are the commissioners for effecting this important trust. James Morris (who you may probably recollection inn keeper of the Windsor Road) is appointed superintendent to reside on the island. He is particularly qualified, by his good temper, sobriety, uncommon mechanical ingenuity, and seventeen years service in the navy. He is appointed justice of the peace and inspector, surveyor and searcher of impost and excise, and is also authorized by a warrant to take charge of the island, shores, and fisheries, and of all the wrecks found there, in cases where persons are not saved, competent to the care of such property. Instructions are given to him, that persons saved with property, are to have the full care, charge and possession of it, and to export it in any manner they may think best. Every aid and assistance is to be afforded, a receipt given specifying the property saved, the aid