

Communicated for the Wilmington Gazette.

HERE, on the cold clear Exla's breezy side,
My hand amid her ringlets wont to rove,
She proffer'd pow the lock, and now deni'd,
With all the baby playfulness of love.

Here the false Maid, with many an artful
tear,
Made me each rising thought of doubt
discover,
And vow'd, and wept, till hope had ceased to
fear;
Ah me! beguiling, like a child, her lover.

One evening, on the river's pleasant strand,
The Maid, too well belov'd, sat with me,
And with her finger, trac'd upon the sand,
Death for Diana not inconstancy!

And love beheld us, from his secret stand;
And mark'd his triumph, laughing to be-
hold me,
To see me trust a writing, trac'd in sand,
To see me credit what a woman told me.

Extract from the Message of his Excellency Go-
vernor Page, to the Legislature of Virginia,
delivered on the 6th ultimo.

IN compliance with what appears to be
the duty of the executive, and the established
practice of my predecessors in office, I have
the honour to address the following letter to the
General Assembly: in which I shall
chiefly confine myself to laying before it,
such a statement of the affairs of the com-
monwealth, as by the constitution and laws
seem peculiar objects of executive attention;
without obtruding upon the legislature my
sentiments respecting the propriety of enact-
ing any new laws, or of altering any now in
force, except in such cases, as in the due ex-
ecution of the laws, the executive has experi-
enced unnecessary delay and expences, re-
sulting from the very letter of the law; or, in
cases which seem evidently within the pecu-
liar view of the legislature, and yet have not
been embraced by their law intended to em-
brace them.

But I confess that even this appears to me
too much like going beyond the bounds wise-
ly prescribed by the constitution to the ex-
ecutive, and cannot with propriety be practi-
sed by an executive which has no constitu-
tional share in legislation, not even a limited
or qualified negative on the laws. For the
suggestions of an artful popular execu-
tive, might in time have all the effect of a
constitutional right to originate bills; and by
the force of established precedents, and the
well known tendency of executive power to
increase, might convert our happy free go-
vernment into a disguised monarchy, render-
ing the House of Delegates mere cyphers.—
And here I must take the liberty of declaring
that I think no one person ought to be en-
trusted with a power of controuling the will
of the representatives of the people in the go-
vernment of a single sovereign state, whose
constitution is established on democratical
principles, and which alone can rely on the
people for its constant support, and which is
not obliged to resort to delusion, corruption
and an armed force for its existence. The
impossibility of guarding that single person
against the secret influence of friends, or of
agents of selfish designing men, and the pro-
bability of his yielding to an improper im-
pulse, through weakness of mind or depravi-
ty of heart, render such power extremely dan-
gerous; or, if not so, utterly useless. For it
may be either boldly improperly applied, or
through timidity, not exerted when its ap-
plication might be useful. Such a power is
more likely to multiply courtiers, excite in-
trigues and create or increase an undue in-
fluence in the executive than to produce any
advantage to the commonwealth. And where
there is a second branch of the legislature, like
our Senate, chosen by the people, whose sole
duty it is to revise and amend, or negative
the acts of the House of Representatives,
such power in a single person must be unne-
cessary. For if the people make a proper
choice of Senators and Representatives, it is
not probable that they can find one man pos-
sessing more knowledge of their true inter-
ests than a majority of both houses of their
legislature.

But the qualified negative granted to the
President by the constitution of the United
States, may be a necessary appendage to the
other powers which the executive should pos-
sess in a complicated government of a num-
ber of sovereign independent states, of vari-
ous interests and different habits, confeder-
ated for their general safety and the preser-
vation of their independence, acquired as theirs
was, and exposed as it may be to secret in-
trigues or open force; and such power
without impropriety may be delegated by the
people of all the confederated states, to a
President, chosen by electors appointed by
them, for the purpose of electing him, not
only to execute the laws of the Federal Le-
gislation, and to make treaties, with the ad-
vice of two-thirds of the Senate, but to be a
check on the conduct of Senators and Re-
presentatives elected by single states, and
who may be influenced by local and selfish
views. In the hands of the President this
high power seems placed by the people as the
balance by which they expect to keep the
sovereignty and independence, the freedom
and happiness of their respective states con-

stantly in equilibria. The General Assem-
bly, I trust, sir, will pardon this digression,
and attribute it to an earnest desire to ex-
plain the grounds of my silence respecting
certain laws enacted by former assemblies,
or such as it may be proper for the present
Legislature to enact; and to my wish to
embrace every opportunity of exhibiting to
our fellow-citizens proofs of the excellence
of our state constitution, and that of the fed-
eral Government: both happily adapted to
their respective purposes: the one suited to a
single free state, in the neighbourhood of
Republican states, its friends and perpetual al-
lies, offensive and defensive. The other ad-
mirably adapted to the government of a num-
ber of republican states, once rivals, and de-
pendent on a powerful monarchy; but now
sovereign and independent, except in cases
wherein their general welfare, and the pres-
ervation of their union of strength and inter-
ests may require a relinquishment of some
rights of sovereignty. And here I hope, I
may be permitted to congratulate our coun-
try, as I do most heartily, on the present
prosperous situation of the United States.—
At peace with all the world, except a few
petty, piratical states; respected by all the
powers of Europe, and upon happy terms of
amity, and commercial intercourse with the
two most powerful nations upon earth, ex-
cept so far as the unhappy war which they are
now carrying on against each other, occa-
sionally interferes with and checks that inter-
course: Our finances in so flourishing a
condition as to enable us to defray all the
expences of government, and pay the debts
of the Union in about fourteen years, besides
making the payments stipulated for the pur-
chase of Louisiana, without any additional
taxes; and this too, after the great reduc-
tion made in our taxation by the present ad-
ministration; the bright prospect of peace,
security and prosperity of our sister states on
the western waters; the vast field opened for
the accommodation of our prosperity, and
the "wide spread" for human happiness,
by the peaceable acquisition of Louisiana, are
circumstances that demand our gratitude to
the adorable Disposer of human affairs. Per-
mit me to add, that the President's late mes-
sage to congress, contains not only infor-
mation most flattering to the proudest hopes
of the United States, but sentiments of policy
and benevolence worthy of the attention and
observance of every citizen within them.
But having perhaps, digressed too far from
the object in view, I will now return to it,
and shew that I not only think it improper
for the executive in our state government,
where the legislative and executive powers
are, by the Constitution declared to be sepa-
rate and distinct, so that neither shall exer-
cise the powers properly belonging to the oth-
er, to interfere in the smallest degree with
legislation; but that it is unnecessary as well
as dangerous, that he should even give the most
distant hints at what ought to be the objects
of legislative consideration. For as the
House of Delegates possess the sole right of
originating bills, and its members are select-
ed by the people from every part of the
state, for the purpose of enacting laws which
they may deem necessary, and of repealing
such as they may think unnecessary or in-
convenient, they ought to be supposed not only
the sole constitutional framers of our laws,
absolutely originating with them, but the full
and perfect judges of every circumstance
which can require legislative interference.—
Therefore, sir, after pointing out the laws to
which I alluded in the beginning of this let-
ter, as occasioning unnecessary delay and ex-
pences in the execution of one of them, and
the defects of others as not embracing the ob-
jects within the peculiar view of the legisla-
ture, I shall only lay before the General As-
sembly such documents as I have collected
respecting the execution of the laws particu-
larly confided to the executive direction, by
the last assembly, and the state of the public
buildings.

FROM THE AURORA.

The sometime Judge Griffiths of Jersey
has lately published what he calls "se-
rious considerations intended for the good
folks of that state, who have been lately
disposed to think that the purchase of Lou-
isiana would provide farms and estates for
our children for several generations. We
shall take some of this Judge's positions,
and we shall endeavour to shew that he
has wilfully attempted to be a deceiver.—
The late Judge very plainly tells the Jer-
sey farmers, that they have been in lead-
ing strings, and tells them without intend-
ing to be so candid "that it is ever
more honourable to retreat than persist in
error;" this alludes to the general ap-
probation bestowed on the Louisiana
purchase, by a vast number of the Jersey
citizens, who had been formerly deluded
by the Stocktons and Boudinots, and Day-
tons and Ogden. No sentiment is more
general nor more just, than that of Judge
Patterson, that the Louisiana purchase is
one of the most important events for the
peace, prosperity, future happiness and
the honour of the administration, that has
occurred since the declaration of Independ-
ence. Every man in Jersey knows that
it is not a love for, or an attachment to
the present administration, that would
draw so candid and honourable a declara-
tion from Judge Patterson; on the con-
trary, knowing the ardour with which
Judge Patterson has always acted with the

opposite party, the honest thinking men
of the party are satisfied that the advan-
tage must be of great magnitude indeed
which could draw a declaration so decided
from him.—This candour of Judge Pat-
terson has drawn down on him much pri-
vate censure from the party with which
he has hitherto acted; but it has extorted
the applause of many who were not his
admirers, and increased the esteem of those
good men who have been among the anti-
republicans; in a state of unconscious
hostility to the principles of the revolu-
tion. This sentiment concerning Loui-
siana, is not the only favourable one av-
owed by Judge Patterson. He has ac-
knowledgeed that the present adminis-
tration conduct the public affairs in the true
spirit of the government; and in such a
way as to put censure to silence. Judge
Kirkpatrick, another Jersey citizen, and a
member of the judiciary of that state, has
been as freely reproached by the party in
opposition to the government, as Judge
Patterson, and all for his candid declara-
tions on the wisdom of the public mea-
sures under Mr. Jefferson, and particular-
ly in the Louisiana purchase. The at-
tacks on these two citizens have not assum-
ed an open countenance yet, but they
are pointedly alluded to in Judge Griffiths's
pamphlet, which we shall now proceed to
notice particularly.

It says, addressing those who have been
thus impressed: "There is reason to be-
lieve that many of you who were drawn
away, begin to see the deceptions and
dangers of a democratic spirit (that is, of
the people being their own worst ene-
mies,) and how certainly it must bear
down the best men and institutions of our
country."

The plain English of this is, that the
Democracy, that is the people, by their
votes and authority, have saved the coun-
try from the odious stamp tax, from the
excise system abhorred to free states,
from a large army of mercenaries, from
twenty-six partisan lawyers, *fellets*,
marshalled, and appointed at enormous
salaries, and to render service which is
now rendered better without them; from
an army of excise men and tax-gatherers;
from an expenditure of fifteen million of
dollars a year, as was formerly the case;
these are the institutions which the demo-
cracy, or the people have borne down and
annihilated; the men they have borne
down may be recollected by adverting to
the history of past years; they have sent
into retirement men who sought to in-
volve the country in war and excessive
taxes, they have sent men into private
life who used the public money entrusted
to them, for private speculations; they
have sent those who contrived and coun-
tered at the burning of two public offices;
they have abolished useless embassies,
and retained only such as are necessary, mak-
ing a great saving of expence in that de-
partment, formerly lavished as rewards
for hostility to the government, or for fa-
mily patronage; these are the effects of
democracy which Judge Griffiths deprecates;
he deprecates his former seat on the bench;
he deprecates the democracy that obstructs
his advancement to the chief justiceship of
Jersey now; he deprecates the family com-
pact of Jersey, not less hostile to him from
jealousy than the democrats from princi-
ple.

He proceeds—"If a candid survey of
your leaders and their measures shall con-
vince you that they tend to disappointment
and public confusion, then return to your
former habits and opinions, to your for-
mer friendships and political connec-
tions."

Here the confession is fairly out—the
leaders of Jersey it appears are not now
the same as heretofore, their measures are
not the same as heretofore! Who are
those new leaders? Aye, there's the rub!
What are these new measures leading to?
disappointment and confusion. The Stock-
tons and the Ogden, and the Dayton,
no longer rule Jersey—they sought to de-
stroy the government of the state and to
throw the whole into confusion, rather
than not to have Ogden chief justice or
governor, and the Stocktons *Vice-Roy* over
them!! What has been the confusion
which they have not attempted to produce,
have they not disgraced the laws, imper-
fected the general government and attempt-
ed to destroy the government of their own
state? There has been disappointment
and confusion indeed, but it is the au-
thors of the mischief—Why was Mr.
Welch tempted with a bribe to obtain his
vote to place Ogden or Stockton in the
governmental chair? What has been the
result? Confusion and disappointment—
Stocktons and Ogden no longer rule the
government for the bench of justice—a
rapid aristocracy, which has the man
who props up her cause. Jersey returns
to her old revolutionary principles, like a
virtuous man to his virtuous love. Jer-
sey returns to the principles of the decla-
ration of Independence; and the Stocktons
and the Ogden and the Daytons, and the
Boudinots confess, that they are disappoint-
ed and overwhelmed with confusion.

[OMITTED LAST WEEK.]

CONGRESS.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

Tuesday, December 20.

Mr. Early called for the order of the day
of the report of the committee of the whole
of the petition of Zakariah Coxe.

The House took up the report which is the
prayer of the petitioner cannot be granted.
Mr. Early hoped the report would be dis-
agreed to, in which case he would move the fol-
lowing resolution:

Resolved, Although the arrest and confine-
ment of Zakariah Coxe by Winthrop Sargent
Esq. appears to have been illegal and oppres-
sive, yet that the circumstances are not such
as to justify the interposition of this House.

Messrs. R. Griswold and Smilie oppose
the adoption of this motion, on the ground
that it involved a decision on the character of
a public officer on ex-parte evidence; that a
Governor Sargent had abused his power, he
was a fit subject of impeachment, and that this
would be the becoming course to pursue; and
that inasmuch as he might be brought be-
fore a court of justice, it was highly improper
and unjust to impose a stigma on his charac-
ter, which might operate injuriously to the
course of justice.

Messrs. Early and J. Randolph advocated
the adoption of the motion, on the ground
that governor Sargent appeared, from docu-
ments which he had himself transmitted to
the department of state, to have made an
illegal and oppressive arrest and confinement
of the petitioner, for which act he was, in
their opinion, impeachable; but, inasmuch
as the power of impeachment was a high and
solemn one, which ought not to be cheapened
by an application to trifling cases, and inas-
much as it was the general opinion of the
House that this was a case that did not merit
such interposition, it became proper at the
same time, to avoid a decision, that might
appear, on a side way, to exculpate governor
Sargent, which might be considered as the
effect of confirming the report, that the pray-
er of the petitioner cannot be granted.

On concurring in the report of the com-
mittee, viz. that the prayer of the petitioner
cannot be granted, the House divided—Ayes
24. Noes 26.

This decision of course superseded the mo-
tion contemplated to be made by Mr. Early,
in case the report of the committee should
have been disagreed to.

Mr. Alston presented a memorial from
sundry inhabitants of the Indiana territory,
praying a repeal of the 6th article of the ordi-
nance establishing the Indiana territory,
which prohibits slavery in said territory.

Mr. Varnum objected to the reference of
the memorial on the ground that its prayer
was both unconstitutional and unjust.

Mr. Alston replied that this remark might
be an argument against agreeing to the pray-
er of the memorial, but would not apply a-
gainst making the reference, especially as
the same subject was already referred to a
committee on another petition.

The reference to a committee was carri-
ed—Ayes 48—Noes 34.

Mr. Claiborne moved a resolution for the
appointment of a committee to enquire whether
any, and if any, what description of
claims against the United States are bound
by statutes of limitation, which in reason and
justice ought to be provided for by law, with
leave to report by bill or otherwise.

Ordered to lie on the table.
The House went into a committee of the
whole—Mr. Varnum in the chair—on the
amendment of the Senate to the salary bill.

These amendments were,
1. To strike out these words, "as estab-
lished by the act passed the 2d of March,
1799, and no other."

2. To increase the salary of the post-mas-
ter-general from 3,000 to 4,000 dollars.

3. To increase the salary of the assistant
post-master-general from 1,700 to 2,000 dol-
lars.

4. To insert a new section prohibiting the
allowance of any extra compensation from
contingent funds to officers compensated by
fixed salaries.

The committee disagreed to the three first
amendments, and agreed to the last.

The House immediately took up the re-
port of the committee, and concurred in it.

On a concurrence with the committee
in their agreement to the last amendment,
the Yeas and Nays were taken—Yeas 65—
Nays 42.

Wednesday, December 21.

Mr. Dawson observed that he was one of
those who had long been of opinion that the
existing duties paid on certain imported ar-
ticles ought either to be taken off or reduced.
He considered the situation of the country
such as would justify a reduction. He there-
fore moved a resolution declaring it expedi-
ent to reduce the duty on brown sugar to one
cent per lb. and enjoining it on the committee
of ways and means to bring in a bill for that
purpose. Ordered to lie on the table.

The House took up the resolution of Mr.
Claiborne, made yesterday, respecting cer-
tain barred claims, which was agreed to.

Mr. Stanford moved an instruction to the
Post-Office committee, to enquire into the
most convenient route designating the same
for the mail from Washington to New-Or-
leans. Carried without a division.

RATES OF STORAGE.

At Wilmington.

For the Year 1824.

FOR SALE AT THIS OFFICE.