

Wilmington Centinel,

AND GENERAL ADVERTISER.

T H U R S D A Y, DECEMBER 18, 1788.

For the CENTINEL.

[Continued from our last.]

To the Members who composed the Majority in the late Convention.

Gentlemen,

HAVING found you upon examination, to fall infinitely short of the least grounds, or colour of reason upon which you can be justified for your conduct as it is couched under the second point, which you know was the condition upon which you were to try on the secondary position, and see whether or not it might fit, and wear it, if you saw fit, until you grew, or shrunk from its dimensions; which you remember is the fourth point, which is:—

When the assent of the mind cannot be commanded by the internal evidence of primary truths or first principles, it must proceed from a defect in the organs of perception, or from the predominancy of some strong interest or passion.

There are certain points of depression, as well as exaltation (or opposite extremes) betwixt which human affairs and passions are in a perpetual and contrary progress. This will not only hold good with respect to individuals, and smaller societies, but will apply to States and Empires, and even the world of mankind in one collective view. And not a contemptible example of its verification (though upon a small scale) lies in case now before us. Those persons who were most remarkable for their opposition to the cause of freedom during the war, are now equally remarkable for their opposition to the Federal Constitution: where the observation will not hold, it is clearly resolvable upon the latter, or disjunctive part of the position. Again, the extreme and groundless jealousies, and which can so easily be blown into a pitch of violence, among the weak and uninformed part of mankind, together with the selfish and interested views of individuals, and Ignorance the mother, and Pride her first born, and brother of all the rest of this hopeful progeny, will enable me, I hope, to come up to my engagement under the third point.

As ignorance embraces objects of the first magnitude; and as selfish and contracted views are endangered by a due application of an efficient and just system of laws; no wonder then the Federal Constitution has furnished matter for such eminent displays in both these points of view. Of the above strange inconsistency, which we find at one time quietly acquiescing to unlimited transatlantic coercion—at another, not delegate a trust of acknowledged utility to their own citizens. Citizens to answer purposes of acknowledged utility, we find immediate advantage taken by a class in whose compositions, ignorance, interest and pride alternately and occasionally prevailed. And in proportion as the conceived operations of the Federal Government would militate against their particular views of interest, was the degree of opposition generally ascertained; opposition thus flowing from such sources, what might not be produced? No wonder the united councils of America should be treated as the off-spring of tyranny and ambition; and its authors, as well as the several majorities in ten States, virtually be declared to be destitute of any reputable share of understanding. From the vociferating and remote politician, who from strength of lungs, and corporeal activity, moved in an orb of perhaps some miles diameter, down to the numerous Satellites, whose splendour was circumscribed by the walls of a Dram-shop, has the united wisdom of America been trampled upon, and deemed unfit for the reception of such a catalogue of worthies. Men are fond of being important, and according to the number of defects discoverable in the constitution, were their several degrees of importance estimated. If the constitution had been adopted, North-Carolina would have appeared no wiser than the other states—would have been (the majority I mean) no greater than those gentlemen who composed the trifling minority; but now the majority rises superior to all the states—yea to the very universe itself. Again, as the operation of the Federal laws would be anticipated to the disadvantage of particular views, and local in-

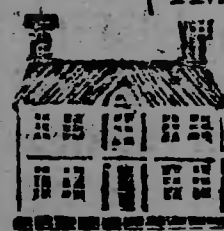
terests, would a proportionable degree of opposition be created, and these two descriptions mutually act upon each other; the object of the one being important—the other of importance also, but coupled with an interest. From these sources would necessarily flow, unanimity and dispatch in your conventional business, and the propriety of investigation be consequently discarded. I don't say, Gentlemen, that each of you come absolutely under this description, but I assert that there can no other rational solution be given both of the conduct and issue of your convention. Both your conduct during the convention, and final rejection, cannot be the result of superior knowledge, and experience, because I have already made it sufficiently obvious, that you are not possessed of the universally acknowledged criterion, or indication of these divine acquirements, but rather of their reverse, consequently the solution must come exactly home to your case, and exhibit your conduct as directed by interested views, and ultimately merging in ignorance, the great reservoir of the scourges of human nature—which concludes what I had to say on the fourth particular. Gentlemen, you see where you are placed, you may make any further applications which you see necessary, I am sorry it has turned out no better with you, rather sorry you had not endeavoured to deserve a better place.

[To be continued.]

To be LET,

(And entered immediately)

That Commodious



HOUSE,

belonging to the Subscriber, situate in Market-street.

L. A. Dorsey.

To the PUBLIC.

THE subscriber proposes opening a School in this town, for the purpose of teaching Reading, Writing, Arithmetic, English Grammar, and Geography:—Also, the Latin and Greek Languages. Those gentlemen who wish to have their children instructed as above, may depend that the greatest care shall be taken to give satisfaction.

Isaac Sessions.

Fayette-Ville, Nov. 15, 1788.

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