

Wilmington Centinel, AND GENERAL ADVERTISER.

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 25, 1788.

For the CENTINEL.

[Concluded from our last.]

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

Gentlemen,

I COME now to the last point, which was to make a few general reflections, as they might occasionally arise out of the foregoing considerations.

Your proceedings, gentlemen, in the convention, will directly tend to exhibit the state of North-Carolina a spectacle of ridicule and contempt to a scoffing universe, as the result of your united councils, and the understanding of your constituents, will be measured by their complexion. If it has not this effect, to our insignificance alone we will be indebted for the exemption.

It will also have a tendency to awaken that vindictive spirit, the guardian of national honor, which, collected from ten sovereign independent states, must be extremely chaste and delicate indeed; consequently their decisions with respect to us, may be equally severe and irresistible in their operations. You have given a mortal stab to the already wounded faith of North-Carolina, by vainly attempting to prevent the adoption of a system of laws, calculated for the support of public faith and national integrity. And by the completion of some of your proposed amendments, corroborated by a number of legislative acts, you have very clearly exhibited a melancholy example of the depravity of human nature, when enveloped with ignorance, regulated by low and selfish pursuits, which, when once insinuated into the national councils, never ends but in the contamination of the whole body politic. You have stamped an infamous stigma upon the national honor of North-Carolina, which a century of virtuous exertions may not be sufficient to efface. You have accumulated the debts of the state, while at the same time you have done every thing in your power to put it beyond her reach to answer the just demands which now lie against her.

Not contented, gentlemen, with plunging yourselves into damnation, you have cast about, and wickedly endeavoured to draw in all around you, as if conscious of the impending wrath of Heaven, you meant to lessen its weight by increasing the objects of its vengeance. How else can be resolved your filling the minds of the ignorant with such dreadful apprehensions of the consequences of the constitution being adopted, thereby setting the whole machinery of government on fire, that amidst the smoke and confusion, you might plunder and rob at pleasure.

If those evils are to come forth in consequence of the adoption of the federal constitution, and were of such magnitude as justified you in rejecting what ten states had adopted, why have you not exhibited them to the public by a train of judicious reasonings thro' the medium of the press? This criminal silence will be viewed by an impartial world in a light greatly to your disadvantage. Certainly, gentlemen, you must have very weighty reasons which induced you to declare yourselves wiser than the majorities of ten states. Therefore, as a member of the government, and one of your constituents, I now, in this public manner, call for those reasons, or the principles upon which you mean to justify your rejection. The gentlemen of the minority are pleased to say, you are not able to give those reasons in the manner above specified, and that there is not one in your number equal to the task. If you are not, gentlemen, in God's great name! upon what principles do you mean to acquit yourselves to your countrymen for the sacred trusts committed to your care, which appears to have been basely betrayed? Step forth, then, into public notice, and exculpate yourselves before it be too late. The mangled rights of your country call upon your exertions in this way. Either justify yourselves to an impartial world, or in sackcloth and ashes confess your ignorance in the sight of God, and in the face of your injured country.

Ye few, whose influence have led the greater number into this labyrinth of iniquity, go forth in time, like the

good repenting King of old, when the celestial messenger of vengeance stood prepared to destroy his royal residence, and say—Is it not (here name every man himself) that has betrayed the trusts committed to my charge—but, as for these SHEEP, what have they done?

AMERICANUS.

November, 1788.

STATE OF NORTH-CAROLINA.

Newbern District.

In the Court of Equity, November Term, 1788.

IN the suit therein depending, wherein Francois Xavier Martin is complainant, and Thomas Davis, defendant—*It is Ordered*, That the defendant put in his answer to the complainant's bill, on or before the first day of the ensuing term (which will be on the twentieth day of May next.) And that on the defendant failing in obedience to this order, the complainant's bill is to be taken *pro confesso*, against the person so failing, unless cause shewn, &c.

Published by order of the Court,

JAMES ELLIS, Clerk & Master
(of the aforesaid court.)

39—44.

STATE OF NORTH-CAROLINA.

Newbern District.

In the Court of Equity, November Term, 1788.

IN the suit therein depending, wherein James Ellis is complainant, and Eliphalet Ripley, defendant—*It is Ordered*, That the defendant put in his answer to the complainant's bill, on or before the first day of the ensuing term (which will be on the twentieth day of May next.) And that on the defendant failing in obedience to this order, the complainant's bill is to be taken *pro confesso*, against the person so failing, unless cause shewn, &c.

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