

# THE RALEIGH MINERVA.

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FROM THE NEWBORN FEDERAL REPUBLICAN.  
Freemen of the Counties of Johnston, Wayne,  
Lenoir, Jones, Carteret and Craven.

ALL-TOW CITIZENS,

reference to the wishes of many estimable and in the humble hope of being useful country—uninfluenced by motives of vanity, of ambition—I present myself as a Candidate for your suffrage at the approaching election of a Representative to Congress. To many of you it is known, that I am willing it should be understood, that my tender of my services has not been made without hesitation, and is not made with diffidence. Since the avowal of Mr. [Name] determination to decline a re-election, I have been honoured with applications from different parts of the District to permit my nomination for the appointment. Gratefully feelings as these testimonials of confidence and affection necessarily were, yet a consideration with them was opposed by too many conditions, not to occasion doubt and demand for reflection. A reluctance to engage in a contest—a distrust of my capacity for the awful functions of a National Legislature—and the sacrifice of so many domestic enjoyments—these and many other considerations were placed before me in strong array. Whatever has been their force they operate no longer. If it be the deliberate wish of a majority of you, at this momentous period of your concerns, to confide to me this highly important trust, a sense of duty forbids me to decline. Whether such be your wish or not I am unable to ascertain, but by declaring my willingness to obey your call.

temptation to deceive you; and should I without excuse could I descend to the arts of deception. It has been usual for those who have preceded me on similar occasions to make an exposition of their political opinions—I have no difficulty in complying with your requisitions of this custom. Instead however of using you with the cabalistic terms of party, understood by those who use them most, I lay before you in plain and explicit language the principles of my political creed, formed by reflection, confirmed by experience, and cleared by habit. A decided attachment to the government, which derives its origin from the will of the People, and is established and paramount constitution—which is supported by Legislators and an Executive chosen from the great body of the Community, and for periods of service, not too short to permit them to be useful, nor too long to free them from a necessary sense of responsibility—which is supported by a Judiciary, wise, virtuous, and dependent on their good conduct alone for continuance in office—in which the poor and the rich, the weak and the powerful, are alike protected and restrained; where justice is administered without distinction of persons; and the property of every man secured from seizure—is a sentiment interwoven with the fabric of my heart. A cordial affection for my country, and a deep veneration for that Bond of Union which makes the American States a united people, and on the preservation of which depend our hopes, "to establish Justice, insure domestic Tranquility, provide for the common Defence, promote the general Welfare, and secure the Blessings of Liberty to ourselves and our Posterity"—a conviction that if it be once established, it is gone forever—a disposition to concur in the provisions in the spirit of those who have adopted it, and with that candour and confidence which "have grown with our growth and strengthened with my strength." Add to these, a wish to preserve in the good faith of the Nation, to cultivate the spirit of justice and impartiality, peace and harmony with all foreign powers, but never to permit or affection to surrender essential rights to actual indignities—a steady purpose to cherish and promote the great Agricultural interests of our Citizens, to give a practicable engagement and protection to their lawful Commerce, and (in subordination not in preference to primary objects) to foster the manufacturing establishments of our Country—and you have the outlines of my political faith.—It is that I have been a pupil in the School of Washington administration it was illustriously exemplified. By Him it was enjoined in his political testament, the last and not the least valuable of his precious gifts to his Countrymen.

principles, my Fellow Citizens, must be allowed to influence my conduct in whatever I may be placed. Candour requires of me to declare, that the views and opinions which I hold, are not long since I had occasion to avow, relative to the then existing difficulties of the nation, remain yet unchanged—have indeed derived strength from experience. The course of policy which I then reprobated, has at length been in a measure abandoned, but not till it had exhausted the public purse—and occasioned inconvenience and distress—and had nearly effected none of the objects which were to have required it. With Great Britain our relations are yet unsettled, and our injuries are yet unredressed. From the Emancipation of France, instead of atonement for the

past or security for the future, we have received an accumulation of outrages beyond example in the history of independent nations, and are now menaced with fresh denunciations of punishment and insulted with the most contumelious terms of reproach.

In the divisions of parties which have distracted our Country, scarcely a man is to be found who has not taken some share.—The part which I have acted all of you know.—In my political opinions, I have always been firm and decided; but I never have been, and fervently trust I never shall be the slave of faction.—None can abhor the intemperance of party spirit more than myself. None can be more fully convinced that it is at once the bane of social happiness, & the deadly foe of national prosperity. Should I then be directed by you to occupy a seat in the Legislature of the Union, I wish it to be distinctly understood, that on every occasion I shall consider it my duty to discover if possible what is right, and just, and for my country's good—and this once ascertained, to adhere to it inflexibly, whether it lead to the support or to an opposition of the views of administration—whether it be popular or unpopular—whomever it may please, or whoever it may offend.

If after this frank avowal, and upon these grounds, you should select me as the depository of your confidence, I shall indeed feel myself honoured by your choice. As it will be my sacred duty, so will it be my highest gratification, to make to you the only return in my power, by a faithful devotion of all my faculties (such as they are) to the promotion of your welfare. If however you should prefer some other individual, most cheerfully will I acquiesce in your determination, nor regret a continuance in that private station, which nothing can ever tempt me to relinquish, but a sense of duty and an obedience to your will.

With sincere wishes for your happiness individually and collectively,

I am Gentlemen  
Your friend and fellow citizen,  
WILLIAM GASTON.

Newbern, June 20, 1810.

FROM THE FREEMAN'S JOURNAL.

## LETTERS UPON FRENCH INFLUENCE.

No. VI.

TO THE PEOPLE OF THE UNITED STATES.

Although the writer of these letters has come to the conclusion, in his own mind, that he is under no obligation to keep concealed, either the secret documents upon which Congress have acted, or the secret debates of that body, yet various considerations seem to require, previously to entering upon the development which must result from such a determination, that certain objections to this course of conduct should be met and resisted.

Each member of Congress, as a solemn introduction to the solemn duties of his high station, is obliged to take an oath to support the Constitution of the United States. In addition, therefore, to those powerful motives to duty which are ever operative upon an honorable mind, in every scene and situation of life, the man who is called by the people to perform a part of the great task of legislation, must commence his work by calling God to witness that he will at all times support the constitution from which he derives his power, in its true spirit, and all its parts. It will be said that although the letter of this constitution only authorises Congress to keep secret a portion of their "journals," yet the fair construction is that their documents and debates should also remain undivulged. This must be mere matter of opinion. One will think the spirit of the constitution is one thing, another that it is something else.—To the writer it appears that the spirit of the constitution is publicity, and that the power to keep even the journal secret, is an anomaly in the system. With him this important consideration derives new force from the reflection, that the secret proceedings to which he is inclined to direct his first attention, respected the exercise of powers peculiarly belonging to the House of Representatives, as the guardians of the public treasure.—Could it ever have been contemplated by the people, during the formation of the constitution, that laws should be passed with closed doors, laws, too, which should impose heavy contributions on the public purse? Laws which should drain the treasury for objects which no mortal could have had in view, at the time of the organization of the government? Laws calculated to abandon the high character of the nation, as an independent republic, and to convert the people, not only against their will, but without their knowledge, into humble supplicants for favor and mercy at the feet of a foreign power?

Could such things be,  
And overcome us, like a summer's cloud,  
Without our special wonder?

It is impossible that such can be the spirit of our excellent frame of government. It is a spirit of liberty, not a spirit of despotism. It is a spirit of rational limitation, not a spirit of indefinite extension. It is a spirit of republican honor, not a spirit of national degradation.

Again, it will be said, that although the letter of this part of the constitution may justify the course which is now pursued, yet the letter of another part of that instrument is conclusive to the contrary. "Each House may determine the rules of its proceedings," &c. It will be contended that the House of Representatives having es-

tablished certain rules upon this point, and having thus acted clearly within the purview of its constitutional powers, its act in that case is valid and binding, at all times, and upon all persons. This objection has been anticipated, and has already been met by the obvious, and it is humbly presumed, unanswerable remark, that the rules of the House are binding upon members only, and upon them only while they continue members.—The rules are made for the purpose of regulating debates and decisions. They are in no sense laws of the land. It is a rule, that members shall address the Speaker in a certain manner; it is another that they shall speak in a decorous style, and shall be silenced if they do not; it is another, that they shall speak but a certain number of times upon a question; it is another, that their votes shall be collected and the decision announced in a particular form. These, and every other "rule" that can be mentioned, relate to the temporary regulation of the proceedings of a legislative body. So completely are all these rules temporary in their nature and character, that each successive House, assembles without any rule whatever, and the Clerk of the preceding House, himself officially defunct as well as every other member of that House, calls for the votes of members for a Speaker, because some step must be taken, or the House can never organize itself! The "rules" are to precede the formation of "laws," and to enable the two Houses to form them, but have no binding force upon any person without the walls of the Capitol, or beyond the time for which the members who make them are elected. The constitutional power to "punish members for disorderly behaviour, and, with the concurrence of two thirds, expel a member," is connected with the power, to determine "rules of proceeding," and this connection shews clearly that it was not contemplated that the rules should operate upon persons other than members, or upon members beyond the time for which the House should be elected, which should make such rules. The letter of the constitution does not, therefore, enable the House to do more, in this respect, than "determine the rules of its proceedings," that is, the rules that shall govern the House, that shall govern its proceedings while it exists, and neither letter nor spirit authorises the House to impose, by any such rule, an injunction of secrecy upon any individual whatever, upon any subject whatever, beyond the period of its own constitutional existence.

If these arguments be exclusive, as to the writer they appear to be, there is nothing on the score of duty that can prevent him from making as full a disclosure of concealed documents and debates as he may deem essential to the great object he has in view. But duty is one thing, policy another. A certain sense of decorum and propriety, also, is always to be regarded. All things that may be lawful may not be expedient. The government should be treated with some respect, even when it has ceased to respect itself. However, as the point of duty has been made clear, that of policy will only be incidentally examined in the progress of the main subject, to the view of which the reader will be introduced without further delay.

The writer could never for one moment entertain the idea of violating his oath to support the constitution of his country. Sooner should his arms drop from his shoulders, and his tongue become mute forever. But having given to the public the reasons which convince his own mind that he is not about to be guilty of such a violation, he must now act under the impression of a sense of duty to the cause of Liberty and National Independence, paramount to all other considerations.

LONDON, May 14.

The Gazette contains general Graham's and captain Maclaine's official account of the evacuation of the fort of Matagorda, situated on the main land opposite to Fort Punta, in the inner harbour of Cadiz. It was garrisoned by 142 British soldiers and seamen, under captain Maclaine. It stood a two months investment, and was a heap of ruins when left. The gallant defence cost us the lives of Major Lefebvre, of the Engineers, and 15 privates; we also had a lieutenant, two midshipmen and 53 privates wounded.

The French papers are full of official accounts and skirmishes in Spain; in at least half of which the Spaniards were the assailants, but who, as is always the case in the French accounts, were dispersed and cut to pieces.

Letters from Gibraltar state, that Count Tilly and a French spy had been sent from that garrison to Cadiz, to be tried. The reports of victory over the French in Catalonia, by general O'Donnell, are corroborated.

Our squadron under Sir James Saumarez, has safely arrived in the Baltic.

The Emperor Napoleon is on a visit to Holland. On the 4th of May, King Louis sat out to meet him.

We learn from Malta, that the Sublime-Porte had given Mr. Adair the most positive assurances of the Grand Seignior's determination to maintain inviolate his alliance with Great Britain.

LONDON, May 15.

American vessels are not excluded from Swedish ports, as was expected. All the American vessels which arrived between the 25th ult. and the period at which the last letters came away, were admitted at Gottenburgh.

Foreign Office, May 10.

The king has been pleased to appoint JOHN

PHILIP MORIER, Esq. to be his majesty's Secretary of Legation to the United States of America.

BRITISH PARLIAMENT... May 7.

In the house of lords Earl Gray and Lord Grenville declared their intention to support the dignity and privileges of Parliament; and Lord Erskine expressed his determination to support the Supremacy of the Law.

In the Commons a petition was presented from the Lord Mayor, Aldermen and Livery of London, praying for the release of Sir Francis Burdett and Mr. Jones. It was moved that it lie on the table.—This was opposed, as the petition was disrespectful and insolent; and after a second day's debate was negatived, 123 to 35.

May 11.

The speaker acquainted the house that earl Moira had been served with a process at the suit of sir Francis Burdett, as Constable of the Tower. The committee on the privilege of the house reported that the speaker and sergeant at arms should be suffered to appear in court, and plead to the action brought against them by sir Francis Burdett, for false imprisonment, which was agreed to, and the attorney-general was ordered to defend them.

PLYMOUTH, Eng. May 4.

Last evening 72 prisoners were landed from the Valiant, and escorted to Mill prison; they are mostly Americans taken on board French privateers; several officers are among them, who have considerable property about them.

PARIS, April 29.

The minister of police (Fouche) has announced to the Emperor, that the commandant of the castle of Valançay has given information of the introduction into that castle of a Baron De Kolli, calling himself a minister of England, to Prince Ferdinand, (the legitimate king of Spain, a prisoner in that castle.) Kolli is now a prisoner in Vincennes. The diamonds, &c. of which he was the bearer, are deposited at the Police office.—[Here follows a letter from Ferdinand apprising the French government of the conduct of Kolli:—Also, a certificate of the Marquis Wellesley, as a credential for Kolli;—Also, a letter from the British King to Ferdinand, assuring the latter of his friendship and alliance; of the means employed to rescue Spain from her invaders; and exhorting him to escape from his servitude. Then follows a letter from the governor of Vallançay, giving an account of the celebration of the 1st April, in honor of the Emperor's marriage: at which the Spanish Princes testified their joy on the event, and when Ferdinand 7th gave as a toast—"Our August Sovereigns NAPOLEON the Great, and MARIA LOUISA his august Spouse!"—and also a letter from Prince Ferdinand, declaring his wish to become the adopted son of Napoleon.]

On the examination of Kolli, he said he was Charles Leopold, Baron de Kolli, aged 32, a native of Ireland, and minister to Ferdinand 7th:—That he came to France with proper credentials and letters to Ferdinand; that he had funds with him to the amount of 200,000 francs; that his project was to effect the escape of Ferdinand from his confinement; by stationing relays of horses and carriages to the coast, where a squadron of one sail of the line, a frigate, a brig and a galliot, under Commodore Cockburne, were stationed to receive them:—That he was accompanied by M. de St. Bonnel; that under pretence of having some curious articles [diamonds] to sell, he attempted to obtain an interview with Prince Ferdinand, in order to put into his hands the letters he was entrusted with; but that the Prince refused either to hear or see him; and he had reason to believe that he sent information of his proposals to the governor of the castle, which occasioned his arrest.

[Translated for the Philadelphia Gazette.]

MEXICO, April 26, 1810:

The faithful city of Mexico, in conjunction with the illustrious Vice King, gave yesterday a signal proof of their energy, and the contempt in which they hold the vile efforts of the detestable Joseph Bonaparte to subvert our loyal minds. During last week, and while the faithful were celebrating the mystery of our redemption, and imploring at the foot of the altar assistance in these trying times, there fell into the hands of the government, through an act of Divine Providence, a number of Proclamations which the infamous Joseph Bonaparte had sent to America by faithless emissaries, equally ignorant as himself.

These proclamations abounding with promises, threats, foolishness, perfidy and brutality, met the reception they justly merited, it being ordered that they should be committed to the flames, which was done yesterday morning, with all the solemnity usual in cases of flagrant delinquency.

The portrait of our beloved legitimate sovereign Ferdinand VIIth, was elevated in the grand square, in front of which was constructed a pyramid where in the presence of a Notary and Constables of the Court the public Executioner set fire to the despicable and indecent proclamation of the Quixotte King.

The whole square was lined with troops of cavalry and infantry; and a concourse of at least a hundred thousand persons filling the vast extent of this square, the tops of houses, steeples and balconies, who had united to pronounce the public Anathemas with which a religious and faithful nation condemns in its heart a tyrannic usurper,