

THE RALEIGH MINERVA.

RALEIGH, N. C.—PUBLISHED (WEEKLY) BY WILLIAM BOYLAN.

[OR \$2 50 CENTS IN ADVANCE.]

VOL. 15.

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 18, 1810.

No. 759.

From the Alexandria Daily Gazette.
The gentlemen who have recently left France, who are well acquainted with the present prospects and projects, it appears that Bonaparte is causing every exertion to be made in his naval depot throughout his empire for the purpose of his navy. The same gentlemen state, for several years past all ranks of society have been anxious for a peace: there are also several indications of late of a disposition on the part of the Emperor to be at peace with England for a long time. After all his plans for conquering the "right little tight little snug little island" Great Britain; the building of numberless gun-boats, and the long encampment on the French coast of his 'Army of England;' after all his threats of being in London at a certain time, his assurances of success and promises of rich plunder throughout the soon-to-be-conquered territories of his enemy; he is at length fully convinced that he has no way to cope with England but by a navy; and it is said to be determined to have one fully equal to that of England. For which purpose every exertion is now every where making; and, the more speedily to accomplish which, it is extremely probable that he is now seriously desirous of effecting a temporary peace with Great Britain; one to last long enough for him to prepare himself for a war in which he hopes to have a better chance of success than his present situation can afford. It is of his designs the British government are not aware; nor will they suffer him to dupe them. The last war was closed only for the purpose of being better prepared on their part to retort hostilities, while the British should become so. But as long as these warlike preparations are making in France, the English will be content that the desire of permanent peace is not here, and therefore will continue open warfare, as there shall appear a disposition on the part of the French government, whether Bonaparte or a Bourbon be on the throne, to reduce Great Britain's naval superiority or to subjugate the kingdom, so long will the war continue, in the midst of angry peace perhaps occurring, even centuries yet to come. Notwithstanding the situations to which nations are subject, notwithstanding the great changes that may possibly take place in the English government, the nation at large will most sensibly feel the necessity of having the sword continue unsheathed, till the enormous power of France shall be lessened, the balance of Europe restored, and France herself shall be content to dream of annexing the British isles to her empire. The hopes of our democrats, such as they are groundless, that national bankruptcy is soon to take place in England, and national ruin of course, as they hope, will most assuredly be blasted. Whatever dissensions, or whatever changes may occur in England, the national large will be true to themselves; will re-energetically endeavor to impose a foreign yoke upon them. The day of French intrigue, as it respects England, has long since gone by. Had it been attempted when the sounds of liberty, equality, republicanism and the rights of man were ringing in every ear: when the amelioration of the human race, by the adoption of milder constitutions fired every expectation; when it was generally believed that the principles of the revolution were of the most beneficent nature; and when those principles had gained so great an ascendancy in England; when French intrigue and such principles were powerful enough to shake the ancient pillars of the British government:—Bonaparte then possessed his present power, and then laid the blow, the British government has trembled indeed.

When Mr. Gerry, at present governor of Massachusetts, returned to Boston from his embassy to France, in conjunction with Messrs. Pinkney and Marshall, he was asked when in his opinion the war between England and France would cease. He replied that a permanent peace would not take place in fifty years. Perhaps this opinion was founded on the expectation of the long continued power and ambition of Bonaparte while alive, and the exercise of the same enormous power and ambition by his successor or successors. It appears from this that he was under no apprehension of the conquest of England. Very different opinions are entertained by European politicians respecting the fate of the French empire after the decease of the present Emperor. Some believing that no successor will be possessed of those qualities which are necessary for uniting the love and the fear of the subjects; and for maintaining what his predecessor has gained. Should Bonaparte die a natural death, and leave no issue by his present wife, it is far more probable than otherwise, that for want of a successor in whom they can all unite, some one of the Bourbon family will be placed on the throne. Should he leave an heir to the imperial crown, and die during the minority of that heir, it is very doubtful whether the regents of the empire would be able to preserve the crown in his family. Should he live to old age and die without a diminution of his present political strength in Europe, leaving an heir in his majority possessing much of the spirit of the father, it is most probable that the crown will continue, per-

haps for centuries in his family, but the boundaries of France contracted to the ancient lines; and the nations he has conquered restored without great changes to their former situations.

However desirous of peace Bonaparte may at present be for the purpose of better preparing himself for war, he will never obtain it till he gives ample satisfactory proof, that he has reached the scene of his ambition, and is undesirous of further conquests. And if England is never overcome till the French possess a naval force with naval commanders, naval skill, experience and discipline equal to her antagonist, the American patriot need not dread the fall of the British empire, the certain forerunner of our subjugation.

From the Freeman's Journal.

FRENCH INFLUENCE.

There are three important points which must always be considered in connexion, in relation to the present subject, else it cannot possibly be comprehended. The first is, that there was no boundary to the immense region called Louisiana, except the gulph of Mexico, none either west or north, no settled one even east, all which must have been well known to "The Sage," Thomas Jefferson, when he purchased the country; the second, that France had intimated a disposition to promote a settlement, not of all the boundaries, but of the eastern boundary only, upon terms, "analogous" to those which had been proposed to Spain, which could be no other than pecuniary terms, as there could be no analogy between offering to relinquish vast territories which we claimed on the west, and obtaining "a string of land" on the east; and the third, that this intimation was accompanied by a threat that France would come to a military "issue of some sort" with us, unless we recognized in their full extent her analogical propositions which alone can account for the declaration of Mr. Madison, the secretary of state, to Mr. Randolph, whom he at that moment considered the leader of the friends of administration, and supposed him prepared to go all lengths with them, that "France wants money, and must have it, or we must have a French and Spanish war." These last words, "or we must have a French and Spanish war" have not been generally understood to have been uttered by Mr. Madison, but such was the fact. Mr. M. let it be recollected, was speaking in the character of Mr. Jefferson's first cabinet counsellor to a gentleman whose sentiments and views they believed, fortunately for our country they knew him not, to correspond exactly with their own. The secretary of state was developing to the most prominent and influential members of congress the policy of the president, respecting our foreign relations, at that particular juncture, which policy was, not to buy Florida, any more to vindicate our own rights by energetic measures, not to buy Florida, or to make any purchase whatever of Spain, but to furnish money to FRANCE.—because—"France wants money, and must have it, or we must have a French & Spanish war." That Mr. M. made this extraordinary declaration, was repeatedly declared in the house of representatives by Mr. Randolph, first in a private session, and afterwards in public. Mr. M. had two brothers in law then sitting as members in the house, to whom it was particularly hinted that they did not dare to deny the fact and, indeed, they did not dare to deny it. One of them spoke at length in reply to Mr. Randolph, but was very cautious not to controvert his assertion.

Is it possible to put more than one construction upon that declaration, under the peculiar circumstances of the moment at which it was uttered? No explanation of it has ever been attempted in congress. And the only explanation which has ever been attempted out of doors, was founded upon the presumption that Mr. Madison said, "France wants money, and must have it," and said no more. It has been said, of course that it was merely the expression of an opinion, that France was so situated in respect to the want of money, that she must get it at any sacrifice whatever, thus affording us an excellent opportunity to make a good bargain in the purchase of Florida. But here these notable men of explanation keep entirely out of view the emphatical words, "or we must have a French and Spanish war." Taking the whole expression together, it does not by any means convey the idea that France was in such extreme want of money, but that she wanted money of us, and had told our government that she would have it, or we should have a French and Spanish war. Can candid minds make any thing else of it? For the honor of our government and country, we would put a more favorable construction upon that transaction, if it could be reconciled to common sense. But that does not appear to us to be possible.

The friends of Mr. Jefferson's administration have contended that the money was to be paid to Spain, for a valuable consideration—*quid pro quo*. But Mr. Madison said nothing about Spain, except that the war, if we did not buy off, was to be 'Spanish' as well as 'French.' It was 'France' that we were to deal with. It was France that 'wanted money,' and France that 'must have it,' and France that would give us 'a French and

Spanish war,' if we did not pay the cash. We do not color this thing at all. We give the plain words of Mr. Madison. He never has denied, he never will deny, he never can deny, that he uttered this language to Mr. Randolph.

The position which we have here taken is fortified impregably by the fact, that the majority of the house of representatives, at the instance of their leader, Mr. Bidwell, REJECTED an amendment which the minority proposed to the bill appropriating Two Millions of Dollars, the object of which amendment was to prevent the money from being applied to any other purpose than the purchase of "the country east of the Mississippi." They obstinately persisted in leaving the appropriation open and unlimited, applicable to the purposes of foreign intercourse generally.

A private appropriation of the People's money, without their knowledge or consent, might possibly be made for an honorable object. But in this case there must have been a dark and secret influence of some sort. If it were not 'French Influence,' what under Heaven can we call it?

Abstract of federal principles.—The federalists believe that all political power is derived from the people.

That the people are the only true and rightful sovereigns.

That the only legitimate exercise of power must be for the happiness of the people.

In a great nation like ours, where it is impossible for all the people to meet together, in order to transact public business, it becomes necessary to appoint delegates for that purpose. The people therefore have formed a high and solemn compact among themselves, called a constitution, pointing out how these delegates shall be appointed, and their powers.

At the close of the revolutionary war, the people found themselves divided into 13 distinct, independent sovereignties. Divided, they would have been weak—United, they might have bid defiance to Europe. Those who were in favour of the union of the states, under our present constitution, were called federalists.

Those who were opposed to the constitution, were called anti federalists, and lately democrats.

Washington was the leader of the federalists, and glorious it was, I trow, to follow such a chieftain.

The federalists believe that the farmer should be protected at his plough, the hatter at his bow, and the sailor at his prow. Agriculture, manufactures and commerce, ought, as handmaids, and supporters of each other, to be all protected.

If England or France attack us, don't abandon our rights, but defend them. Your embargoes, your non-intercourse, your torpedoes—your gun-boats—your proclamations. Lud, how I sicken at the disgraceful catalogue of nonsense, federalists would have nothing to do with—Washington, and Putnam, and Franklin, and Greene, and Montgomery, and Wayne—such such things never entered their heads. [Luz. Fed.]

WHO'LL TURN GRINDSTONE?

When I was a little boy, I remember one cold winter's day, I was accosted by a smiling man, with an ax on his shoulder, 'My pretty boy,' said he, 'has your father a Grindstone?' 'Yes sir,' said I. 'You are a fine little fellow,' said he, 'will you let me grind my ax on it?' Pleased with his compliment of 'fine little fellow,' 'O yes sir,' I answered, 'it is down in the shop.' 'And will you, my man,' said he, patting me on the head, 'get a little hot water?' How could I refuse. I ran and soon brought a kettle full. 'How old are you, and what's your name,' continued he, without waiting for a reply. 'I am sure you are one of the finest lads that ever I have seen, will you just turn a few minutes?' Tickled with the flattery, like a little fool I went to work, and bitterly did I rue the day. It was a new ax, and I toiled and tugged till I was almost tired to death. The school bell rung, and I could not get away, my hands were blistered, and it was not half ground. At length, however, the ax was sharpened, and the man turned to me with "Now you little rascal, you've played the truant—scud to school, or you'll buy it." Alas, thought I, it was hard enough to turn grindstone this cold day, but now to be called 'little rascal,' was too much. It sunk deep in my mind, and often have I thought of it since.

When I have seen a man of doubtful character, patting a girl on the cheek, praising her sparkling eye and ruby lip, and giving her a sly squeeze—Beware, my girl, thought I, or you will find to your sorrow, that you have been turning grindstones for a villain.

When I see a man flattering the people, making great professions of attachment to liberty, who is in private life a tyrant—Methinks, look out good people, that fellow would set you to turning grindstones.

When I see a man holding a fat office, sounding 'the horn on the borders' to call the people to support the man, on whom he depends for his office. Well, thinks I, no wonder the man is zealous in the cause, he evidently has an ax to grind.

When I see a foreigner expelled from his own country, and turning patriot in this, setting up a Press, and making a great ado about our liber-

ties, I am very apt to think—though that man's ax has been dulled in his own country, he evidently intends to sharpen it in this....Luzerne Federalist.

ALEXANDRIA, October 2.

Longevity.—There resides in Fairfax county, about five miles from this place, a person by the name of Philip Peter Scholl, now nearly one hundred and seven years of age.

The writer of this article was conversing with a gentleman in the street, when the gentleman observed, "there comes old Scholl, who is above 100 years old; let us stop him and ask him his age; he will tell it for a pint of wine." He was then walking with a firm quick step, at the rate of about four miles an hour—When even with us he was accosted with

"How are you old man?"

Old man. Hoh, pretty well. What do you call me old for? I shall be old fifty years to come.

Question. Pray how old are you?

Old man. That's none of your business. That's my business. But I'll tell you for a pint of wine.

Question. Why a pint of wine is too much for you. We'll give you as much as you wish to drink. What is your age?

Old man. Give me some wine first. I was born near Manheim [mentioning the name of the place] in 1703, in the fall of the year. My father was a miller, and I am a miller, and always have been, and always shall follow it. I was a Hessian under prince—, [in the reign of George the I. Here he related skirmishes in which he was engaged.] I was married, and when I was 26 I came to Philadelphia. Peter Poreese, a tobacconist, came with me. He lived in Philadelphia, in a little house on the outside of the town. About 50 years afterwards I was in Philadelphia, and Peter's house was in the middle of the town, on a great street, instead of being in the woods where I left him. He was rich, but he was glad to see me.

Question. What was Alexandria when you first knew it?

Old man. Alexandria; that was Bell-haven. There was only one house. Now what a great town.

Question. Is your wife alive?

Old man. Hoh, my wife has been dead 4 or 5 years. She was one year younger than I. She was 101 when she died. I was married again in a year. I always love the girls. I got a brand new wife.

Question. Have you any children?

Old man. My first wife had nine or ten. I've more children than I want. They plague me. My mill is gone. I want to build a new one. They won't help me. I must build my mill again.

Question. Had you any children by your new wife?

Old man. No. She was an old girl; she was 45 when I married her.

Question. How have you lived?

Old man. I eat and drink any thing.—B I came to this country, I drank half a gal wine a day; but never was drunk without. Sometimes I drink ladies' drink; whisker water, sweet, sweet. Sometimes I eat drink meal, and eat no more for 2 or 3 days, milk or water.

Question. Was you never sick?

Old man. No; only rheumatism, some such once in a while, so that I can't put my hand to my head; but not much—Sometimes I have a little pain, but I pray God heartily, and it is gone in a minute.

Question. You expect to live these 20 years, do you not?

Old man. Twenty; yes, a hundred, just as well as not; I can mount a horse as quick as you walk as far.

On enquiring of his eye sight, hearing, &c. he said that his hearing, as evidently appeared, was but little impaired. He had not used spectacles for reading till 4 years ago. His double teeth were all gone; 7 or 8 fore teeth of the under jaw remained; but his gums served him very well for mastication. His hair is the only evidence of his extreme age; that of his head and whiskers long and white. He is about 5 feet 3 inches in height, his head erect as any person's. His memory, he says, rather fails him within a few years. He remembers better transactions of 90 years ago than those of ten years past. He was quite facetious and talkative; and after spending half an hour, and drinking several glasses of wine, he retired, expressing a strong wish that we should come and see him.

Among the causes of longevity Willich mentions a constitutional aptitude to long life, not altogether depending on the organization nor the diet and regimen. In examining a list of nearly 152 persons who have exceeded a century, it will be found that their longevity is attributed to very different causes. One supposed it occasioned by eating raw eggs; another by abstaining from animal food; another, in the West Indies from an excessive use of saccharine aliment, another from spare diet; another from totally abstaining from any species of alcohol; another from natural cheerfulness; another from labor; another sedentary ease; one from raw animal food, &c. There