

J. Cameron

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## Political.

PHILADELPHIA, May 21.  
THE TRIUMPH OF PATRIOTISM.

Great pains having been taken latterly to communicate an impression of the aversion of the First Congressional District of Pennsylvania to the energetic measures of the Federal Government, it was deemed proper to give this misrepresentation that emphatical and legitimate contradiction which the voice of the people themselves always unequivocally afford. Accordingly, on very short notice, the usual preparatory measures were taken for a General Meeting, at 3 o'clock, in the afternoon of Wednesday, the 20th instant. Before the time appointed, an immense concourse from the city and all parts of the county, with some from Delaware county, were already on the ground; and by half past three o'clock, the whole republican phalanx in all its renovated union and symmetry, consisting of not less than twelve thousand citizens, were at their posts. At 4 o'clock precisely, WILLIAM JONES, Esq. was called to the Chair, and JAMES WEST, appointed Secretary.

The purpose of the meeting having been briefly explained by the chairman, the following address was read by Charles Ingersoll, and adopted, not only unanimously, but with the reiterated peals of the heartiest assent, as were all the resolutions which were read and severally put by the chairman.

THE CITIZENS  
of the  
FIRST CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT  
of  
PENNSYLVANIA,  
TO THEIR FELLOW CITIZENS,  
The People of the U. States.

FELLOW-CITIZENS,

The Friends of the United States, and of their constituted authorities, residing within the First Congressional District of Pennsylvania deeply impressed with the solemnity of the impending crisis, and trusting that their voice will not be without some effect among the American people, have met together for the purpose of comparing and collecting the general sentiment in this quarter of the Republic, and submit the following as the deliberate unbiassed and unanimous result.

The story of American wrongs has been so often told, that the patriotic heart sickens at their disgusting recitation: Yet, as prefacing this last appeal, and for this, as we most anxiously hope, the last time, it may not be improper briefly to sketch an outline of that unparalleled, unmitigated, intolerable series of national outrages, against which, after too long an endurance, the only Republic extant is now at length about to exhibit the magnificent spectacle of an Empire of freemen in the armor and attitude of defensive war—war for their sovereignty, their rights, their blessings—war for the reclamation of their property, their persons—war for their homes and domestic altars—a war staved off till every possible effort at reconciliation has been put to beggary and shame—a war, to which not one distillation from the subtle and anti-republican essences of ambition or aggrandizement has contributed, but which will flow pure from the rock of self defence—a war, without which, or the rights it is to be waged for, our sovereignty is servility, our commerce a colonial trade, our persons exposed to pillage, our property to piracy, our boasted institutions piles of theoretical ruins, and peace itself, that most desirable of all political enjoyments, a contumely and a curse.

From the tremendous convulsions which have agitated Europe since the eruption of the French revolution, the U. States of America wisely kept aloof in an avowed impartial, unexceptionable neutrality; not, as those who envy us allege, fitting our soil with the disasters of the belligerents—nor for European wars and the British treaty restricted instead of expanding the immense commercial resources of the North American continent; but with characteristic enterprise, integrity and advantage, pursuing the broad highways of employment, and acquiring, in tranquility and forbearance, whatever was not withheld or wrested from us, by the great maritime powers. While havoc, famine and dilapidation were desolating the Kingdoms of Europe, peace, plenty and prosperity, driven from their abodes in that region, fled over the troubled Atlantic, and set up the ark of their covenant in the delightful wilderness of this modern land of promise.

With the exception of some commercial vexations in 1794 and 1797, the fortunes of the only republic seemed to be enhanced, as it were by an especial Providence, to give irresistible splendor and attraction to their contrast with the fallen fortunes of all those monarchies from which the original settlers of this country sprang. An advancement in population and affluence, an improvement in sciences and the arts, in agriculture and commerce, an exuberance of the products of the earth, and an accumulation of the profits of the sea, transcending all example, all calculation, all hope, distinguished the destinies of the American federation; and with certainly the lightest allotment of the evils inseparable from humanity that ever fell to any people, without foreign or domestic wars, without taxation, without any more of the pressure of government than was absolutely necessary to keep the bands of society together, the perfection of polity was accomplished, and the visions of philanthropists realised, in the establishment, administration and astonishing success of our free, republican institutions.

While thus situated, fellow-citizens, thus prospering among ourselves, the conflict in Europe persisted to rage with unabated violence; and, with a short, delusive interlude of cessation in 1802, its fury for 19 years has never intermitted. It was always evident, that commerce was, originally, one main object of the contest; and that it is now the only object, appears to be conceded on all sides.

England, the first maritime power in the world, who opened the batteries of her attack with all the kingdoms of Europe for her allies, being uniformly defeated in the successive coalitions she subsidized, finally, in 1805, was left alone to maintain the unequal conflict against all her former auxiliaries; then or soon after subdued into the ranks, and maintaining the quarrel, of her predominant enemy. At this juncture, foiled, oppressed and cast down, with a devouring navy to employ, a vast mass of manufacturers to dispose of jealous and apprehensive of our already well grown greatness and commercial competition, the ministry of G. Britain resorted to one of those expedients of national desperation, which like the dishonest contrivances of a delinquent individual, however they may serve the moment, and however they may injure others, always recoil with their worst reaction on their authors.—The ministry of Great Britain, behind the rampart of a navy deemed impregnable, set the execrable example of openly violating the laws of nations, and of trampling upon the immunities of neutrality, in order from its fragments to level with surer effect the blows she was aiming at victorious France. The voice of America, fellow-citizens, was instantaneously raised against this infamous inroad on the comity and usages of sovereign and neutral states. Not any town of any consequence on our seaboard, but applied to the federal government for redress, by so solemn protest at least, if not more energetic opposition, against British aggression. All parties, all classes were united; and the voice of the country descended by acclamation upon its rulers, demanding retribution.

Our English antagonists were engaged with a foe no wise slow to imitate their injuries. The conqueror of continental Europe, in the hour of overwhelming victory; in his exulting camp; amidst the crash of principalities and the groans of royal dissolution; the arbiter of dismantled thrones, at such a time; in such a scene; tracing as it were the fate of worlds with the point of the sabre on a drum head in the field of battle; the conqueror of continental Europe wrote his fiat in answer to the fiat of English defiance; and in an instant, by the sorcery of power, the east and west, the north and south were locked up in their respective precincts, and forbidden, on pain of confiscation, annihilation, to appear on the accustomed domains of all nations.

We were the happiest people on the earth, fellow citizens. We were reposing in profound peace. We were governed by magistrates who loved peace; and who had not learned from protracted, abortive negotiation, that negotiation avails nothing with the gigantic wrong doers we had to deal with. Our policy was neutral. Our system was pacific and precautionary. We shut our own gates and denied ourselves the profits, to avoid the embarrassments, of foreign traffic. We negotiated. When sent away, without satisfaction, our ministers returned, again and again, to the inexorable audiences of domination. Sullen silence or insulting menaces were the only answers we could obtain.

Such after, the murder of our countrymen in the Chesapeake was superadded to aggravate these injuries. The people rushed to arms. But a pacific administration, still not despairing of pacific redress, stayed the noble ardor of the country; that country which is always full of noble ardor; whose first burst will rebuke its calumniators and scatter its enemies in prostration and discomfiture.

The right of search, (as it is called) another of the catalogue of our wrongs, interpolations of various other indefensible claims into the code of nations, together with the rigorous enforcement of certain absurd and antiquated, but revived pretensions, were also brought to bear upon our almost exhausted patience. By way of retaliation for which impositions from one belligerent, the other exercised the more distressing, though not more unjustifiable, authority of actually burning and destroying our ships and cargoes on the ocean.

During these aggressions, Fellow Citizens, the deadliest of all, that late refinement upon outrage, which was reserved for the page of modern history; that foul and indelible stain on the bearings of our independence, the right of impressment as it is also miscalled, has been systematically exercised on our persons; and not less than seven thousand American citizens, have been dragged from their occupations, their country, their families—scourged like malefactors—chained like galley slaves to the side of British ships—exposed and slaughtered like pirates—and their wives and children subjected to an unnatural widowhood and orphanage, while these deplorable victims themselves, by force of British service and British law, are compelled to become denizens to that monarchy, which prohibits expatriation, and assumes to itself jurisdiction to reclaim, whenever found, the fugitives from its impressments, its taxation and its ignominious hardship of existence.

It would be easy, Fellow Citizens, to magnify this retrospect with many other indignities, and with the hideous details of those thus cursorily noticed. But the volume is already overcharged; and it is necessary to break off the narrative, which has been so often, so much more strikingly unfolded, that its images must be engraven on the memory of every lover of his country. We might

else carry your attention from the sea to the land; and arresting it first on the frontier, where the tomahawk of the savage is prompted to the butchery of our unconscious settlers by the infernal stratagems of ruthless England—direct it afterwards to the more civilized department of the union, to our cities, to our firesides, where the mode of attack again appears adapted to the scene of its operation, and a glowing, civilized British Spy, is found, like the Serpent in Eden, tempting our weakness with untried changes, and with all the willingness of his nature beguiling us to our perdition.

But it is unnecessary, we repeat, to dwell on the host of excitement, which march before and beckon us to combat.—We have borne more than ever any people did, without an appeal to arms.—We have left unattended no striving for adjustment. We have expended all the stores of pacification; and do not brandish the keen-edged sword with the right hand, till the olive branch has withered in the left. We have deprecated long enough our unappeasable, insidious assailants, more dreadful, more pernicious in their ambush, than they could be in flagrant war. We have been more plundered of our treasure, while suing for accommodation, more abused, more injured, than we should have been, in the same period of hostilities; and the current of our national character, of our national existence, flows citizens, is gliding out of view, while we linger on the shore, vainly imploring the monsters of the deep to spare us.

The season for action has arrived—arrived, did we say? As our fruitless but laudable exertions to avert the last resort painfully prove, it arrived but too long ago: And placing our highest trust in that being, who sometimes in his inscrutable providence afflicts the just, but oftener requites their constancy, we are likewise full of confidence in the people of these United States, in the righteousness of their cause, in the alacrity and energy of their aroused endeavors. We call to mind fellow citizens, the former struggle with Great Britain; when without arms or ammunition, soldiers or officers, garrisons or ships, treasury or preparation of any kind, without even compact or government besides a common sympathy, and common enthusiasm, the then thinly scattered people of the Atlantic coast, snuffing subjection on the gale at a distance, precepted themselves like a column, on whose summit floated the banners of liberty, and alone on the defenceless beach breasted the onset of vain glorious invasion—undismayed at reverses, unsubdued by privations—preserving, indelible, invincible—gradually advancing to discipline, organization and victory—achieving at the end of seven years toil and alternate fortune, that independence we are now in our turn challenged to sustain.

We call to mind, fellow citizens, the yet more distant annals, the discovery of our beloved country, when Columbus, the type of the American character, in a frail bark, with a disaffected and coward crew, buoyant on the trackless and unknown deserts of the western ocean, braving all dangers and doubts more terrible than dangers, still kept due onward his undaunted course, till these shores appeared—the reward of resolution and a just confidence—these shores now covered with a populous, powerful and martial republic, whose citizens need nothing but to be resolved and justly confident in themselves, to conquer, like Columbus, and the heroes of their own revolution, the seemingly stupendous obstacles which intimated injustice opposes to the accomplishment of their final and permanent emancipation.

Resolved, As the opinion of this meeting, that the only efficient remedy for the protracted and aggravated evils which afflict our country, will be found in a prompt, vigorous, open war; with that power whose edicts blockade the entire continent of Europe: save only such parts as require our instrumentality to circulate her products and supply her navy and military expeditions—whose fleets not only plunder our lawful commerce upon the high seas, the liberty of our citizens by the flagitious crime of impressment—Whose councils have the audacity to avow these crimes as their permanent system of maritime rights; and stimulate our citizens to acts of fraud and violence, in order to sustain her monstrous scheme of universal monopoly, piracy, and smuggling.—

A prompt and vigorous war! not for the limited and impoverished commerce of the moment, but for our imprescriptible rights of sovereignty, the liberty of our citizens, and the future free circulation of the immensely accumulating surplus products, of this free, fertile, and extensive continent. These are legitimate and inevitable causes of war.

Resolved, That the liberal and impartial conduct of the executive of the United States, more especially in the military and naval appointments; instead of producing a candid and generous sacrifice and prejudice and party passions, on the altar of union, at the shrine of our country; has from a virulent faction, the fungus of party opposition, been returned with a malevolent and traitorous conspiracy to withhold and impede the national resources—discourage and obstruct the recruiting service—traduce the character and motives of the government—and organize discontent, disaffection and criminal resistance.

Resolved, That without distinction of party, we respect and esteem all who are devoted to the true interest, honor and independence of our common country—who recognize the only principle upon which free governments can exist; the will of the majority constitutionally pronounced, and who are ready to obey that will with zeal and fidelity.

Resolved, That judging from the firm, decisive tone of the executive message to congress, followed by co-operative measures of preparation for the

“armor and attitude demanded by the crisis; (irresistibly impelled by unceasing provocation).—the recent call of the house of representatives with the manifest intention of assuming that attitude; and our own convictions of the immediate necessity of that lawful appeal: We pledge to the constituted authorities of our country, in the most solemn and deliberate manner, all the faculties of body and mind, and all the resources and means with which it has pleased the Almighty to endow us; to sustain to the last extremity the war they may cause to be waged against Great Britain, the most atrocious and obdurate aggressor.

Resolved, That the thanks of this meeting be presented to those members of Congress who have supported and shall continue to maintain the rights, honor and independence of the nation, and in particular to that noble phalanx the democratic Delegation of Pennsylvania—the keystone of the splendid arch, whose base is the solid, and we trust, immutable rock of the union.

Resolved, That attested copies of the proceedings of this meeting be forwarded by the Chairman to the President of the United States—the President of the Senate, and the Speaker of the House of Representatives, and each member of the Pennsylvania delegation.

Resolved, That the proceedings of this meeting signed by the Chairman and attested by the Secretary be published in the Democratic papers of this city, and that 5000 handbills of the same be struck off for circulation under the direction of the following committee, viz. Robert Patterson, John Binns, Charles J. Ingersoll, James Carson, John Lein, William Duncan, Wm. West, Frederick Hockley, A. Hargesheimer, Robert McMullen, Jacob Holgate, T. D. Anderson, Jacob Richards, and G. G. Lieper.

Resolved, That the thanks of this meeting be and they are hereby given to the Chairman and Secretary.

Resolved, That the thanks of this meeting be given to the Secretary of the sub committee of Delegates (Charles Ingersoll.)

WILLIAM JONES, Chairman.  
JAMES WEST, Secretary.

From the Norfolk Ledger.  
[Many of our friends having expressed a desire to see the address of the Honorable EDWIN GRAY, to his constituents, and being ourselves impressed with a conviction of the importance of the subjects of which it treats, we insert it with pleasure, in this day's paper. It will be remembered that Mr. Gray is of what is termed the republican party. No man was a warmer supporter of Mr. Jefferson's election, but this gentleman has not been so blinded by party spirit, as to approve in one set of men, that which he condemned in another.]  
April, 1812.

SIR,  
The present session of congress being about to end, I take the liberty to address you once more on the subject of our political affairs; and, as in my former communications, I will present to your view the annual statement of the receipts and expenditures of the general government.

[Here Mr. Gray presents his constituent, with an accurate and detailed statement of the receipts and expenditures of the general government, which, as we have already published, we shall omit, and proceed with his address.]

The government has been compelled to borrow money to meet the extraordinary expenses, and an act has been passed authorising a loan for eleven millions of dollars; the interest of which is to be secured by a renewal of the system of internal taxes, in operation under the administration of Mr. Adams, to take effect in case a state of actual war shall ensue. The consistency of the republicans, who turned out Adams because he was in favor of war, of standing armies, of navies, of loans, of still tax, stamp tax, direct taxes, &c. &c. will be duly estimated by those who take the trouble to compare their conduct now with their professions when they came into power.

An act to authorise the raising of twenty five thousand regular troops, fifty thousand volunteers; and to call out one hundred thousand militia, are the principal measures preparatory to war. The objects of the war proposed to be entered into, are apparently the protection of neutral commerce, and to compel the British government to repeal the orders in council, by taking possession of Canada. As I do not believe we have the power to coerce either France or England to render us that justice which they have so long withheld; and well knowing that a great majority of my constituents are unwilling to engage in a war for objects beyond our means to accomplish, believing that war is a greater evil than any we now suffer, and perfectly convinced that the safety and tranquillity of the southern states require that we should never engage in war, except in case of an actual invasion of our territory by a military force, I have therefore opposed the war measures adopted by congress. For a defensive war, I would go as far as any man in the nation, who never we are invaded; but to an offensive war, for foreign conquest, or for objects beyond our reach, I am decidedly opposed. Whether a declaration of war will be made this year or not I am unable to say; but I cannot suppose it probable. Without an army; which, when raised, is to be supported and equipped by the precarious dependence on loans; the eastern states almost unanimously opposed to war; the great mass of the people of the southern states also averse to it; their personal safety at hazard from causes sufficiently obvious to every man of reflection, and which I forbear to express; I cannot believe that Congress will, under such circumstances, propose