

# THE RALEIGH MINERVA.

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## Political.

From the Baltimore American.

A "Citizen Soldier" has undertaken to criminate the motives of an "Old Soldier," who appeared in your paper some days past. The public have little to do with the motives of writers. Are the facts correct? Are the conclusions from those facts fairly drawn? If they are, then the people will have a fair opportunity of knowing those facts and of forming their opinions thereon; but agreeably to the Citizen Soldier, facts ought not to be made known to the people—he is afraid to trust the people with facts, lest their present rulers should appear to them weak and unequal to the task of supporting the nation. We, the people, must be taught to believe the president infallible. We must not, during the war, he says, permit ourselves to examine the conduct of the president lest it should weaken the exertions of the country. If after fourteen months notice by the president that he meant war; if after receiving all the support that congress could give him, we find that our army is wholly unprepared to make the contemplated attack on Canada, and in fact that he has scarcely a force sufficient to defend our exposed frontier, we must not be permitted to say or even to think that this is the result of incapacity in the president, lest our enemies should thereby be encouraged. This is a doctrine to which I cannot subscribe. The republican creed has heretofore been "measures and not men." Whenever men employed by the public conduct measures badly, and shew a neglect of the public welfare, dismiss such men, or they will ruin the nation, and of course their party. The people judge right nine times out of ten: give them time to consider, and although leaders adhere to an administration who illy manage national affairs, yet the people will see, will judge for themselves, and will leave such leaders.

I deny that there is any thing in my last piece calculated "to take shame from general Hull," as stated by the Citizen Soldier. On the contrary, as distinctly said that Hull "permitted himself to be intimidated by circumstances and disgracefully surrendered his army;" but I also said that it was an extreme neglect on the part of the president to permit a post all-important as that of Mackinac to be entrusted to a force less than a company, when it required 350 men to garrison it; that he ought to have reinforced that garrison in time, and placed it beyond the power of capture, by supplying it with provision and every thing necessary for a twelve months' defence; that his not doing so, and especially his not informing the officer commanding that post of the existence of war, was unpardonable—but this is no apology for Hull's dishonorable surrender, none can be offered for conduct so base.

The Citizen Soldier attempts to take the cause of delay from the president and place it on the congress; thus admitting that our measures have not been well conducted. He considers it perfectly correct to censure congress; this has become the fashion. It is time to place the saddle on the right horse. Congress are not to blame, as I hope to shew. Let the blame rest where it ought, on the president.

Congress were called for war, and met the first Monday in November. The documents submitted were voluminous: they were not printed for five weeks; (a first copy was sent to me) and I have understood that the committees never act until the documents are printed and laid before them; besides, the subject was one of great moment and required time for a due consideration. The public papers shew that congress proceeded to act immediately after the documents were printed, and on the day of passed a bill appropriating \$2,000,000 for the purchase of munitions of war, and on the 24th December the bill granting additional bounty to men enlisting for the old corps. With respect to the old regiments, congress could not if they would have occasioned delay. The law authorizing the additional regiments passed in 1808—Those, together with the peace establishment, if full, would have formed an army of 10,000 men. Those regiments were fully provided for by the unexpended balances in the war department of \$3,250,000, which sum was at the disposal of the president to be applied, as already stated, to the recruiting of men, to the purchase of clothing, tents, or any object of a military kind.

Congress did not contract—the president had full powers, yet no purchases of clothing (except for the men actually in service) were made. No recruiting was ordered for the old corps until after the 10th of February, five months after congress was called. The Citizen Soldier will, I trust, consent that so far as relates to the old corps, the means appropriated by congress were fully adequate to completing them; and that as no attempt was made from the time the president called congress until the 10th February, neglect is fairly attributable to him.

I have on a former occasion stated that at no time from the day the president called congress to the present moment, could a pretext be made of a want of money for the purposes of war; that there always has been a large surplus at the disposal of the president for the purposes of the war.

Having proved (as I trust I have) that congress are free of censure as it relates to the old corps, I proceed to the new army. The act was signed the 11th January last. That bill was not tossed from one house to the other, as stated by the Citizen Soldier: it passed the senate, as appears by the papers, rapidly and without much debate, and

more speedily in the lower house than such bills usually do—how it was executed I have stated formerly. The Citizen Soldier is mistaken; there was no want of applications for commissions from this state—I am informed more offered than was required—he says the pay of officers was withheld until in actual service—this must be a mistake except in the case of general Dearborn; but if true, every officer is considered in actual service from the moment he receives an order to recruit or attend his regiment. The Citizen Soldier censures congress for not declaring war sooner. He says that they were in session eight months before they declared war—and why? They had passed the bills for raising an army early in the session; and it was prudent and proper to wait till the president should say he had made the necessary preparations. It certainly would have been extremely imprudent to have declared war sooner. The Citizen Soldier would have us believe that the president had every thing to do after the declaration of war. It is of this I complain. I contend that he had time and money to have made every preparation before that period, and that if we had had a competent man at the head of our government, he would have been and ought to have been ready to march an army into Canada the moment that war was declared. What a figure do we make! War declared four months, and the great and powerful nation of the U. States has not yet a force capable of attacking a poor trifling colony of the enemy, protected only by its peace establishment. What will be the consequence of this unaccountable negligence? Why, that Great Britain will have time to reinforce her army and hold us at bay until a more efficient man is placed at the head of our government.

AN OLD SOLDIER.

\*General St. Clair received his commission as a colonel from the old congress on the 22d of Jan. 1776, raised his regiment and was actually in Canada on the 11th of May following.

## EXTRACT

From an Address of a Democratic Delegation in Pennsylvania, to their fellow citizens.

FELLOW CITIZENS—We are engaged in a war with the greatest naval power upon earth, the second military power in the world.

It is their duty, and will be the pride of freemen to exert all their energies to bring that awful and unhappy state of things to a just, a speedy and an honorable conclusion.

What will be the best means of effecting this mighty object, is a question big with the fate of republican America, and the liberty of the world.

We believe that it can be effected alone by wisdom, firmness and intrepidity in the cabinet; activity, enterprise and capacity in the field. Let us then, fellow citizens, with that cool deliberation which becomes this most solemn occasion, take a view of some of the most prominent features of the present administration, to ascertain whether they possess those exalted qualifications which alone can carry us with honor and safety through the mighty conflict.

The course of conduct pursued by the executive, both before and since the declaration of war, has filled the public mind with melancholy forebodings, with doubts and apprehensions. The military peace establishment was neglected to be filled up by the president, when he possessed \$1,100,000 appropriated before the last session of congress for that purpose, though it might have been easily effected, and although he had officially declared in his message to congress, on the 5th of last Nov. that the necessity of war existed.

When the house of representatives, in compliance with the president's call to put the nation in the armor and attitude for war, passed the bill for raising 20,000 men, his secretary of war, in an interview with a committee of the senate, stated the wish of the administration to be for 10,000 men only.

Such views strongly evince that the open official language of the administration upon the question of war was secretly counteracted, while preparation was neglected, time lost, and the enemy left to provide his best means of defence.

A war commenced under the guidance of such an administration could not fail to overwhelm the American name with disgrace, and cover our concerns with confusion.

Accordingly, we soon find that our frontier fortresses, which had been neglected to be strengthened and provided before the war, were surprised and taken before they knew the war was declared, by a handful of traders and Indians.

The navigation of the lakes, with our small naval establishment, the baggage and hospital stores of our invading army, were perhaps never thought of, certainly never attended to, until swept into the hands of our feeble but vigilant enemy.

By a system of warfare, devised by the cabinet, as incomprehensible as it was unfortunate, our two armies designed for invasion were left to act without concert.

The fall of Michilimackinac and the usurpation of the Lakes by the enemy, have dissolved the neutrality of the savages, and confederated them in the most barbarous and extensive hostility along our whole Northern and Western frontier. Every mail brings new accounts of the ravages of the Indians, and the murder of our citizens.

If we are to judge the future by the past, fellow citizens, what is there in the catalogue of misfortune, disgrace and ruin, that we have not reason to apprehend from the continuance of our present feeble, irresolute and distracted cabinet, to conduct the war.

And remember, we entreat you, that to give to such men your votes at the ensuing election, per-

petuates their weak and timid policy in these tempestuous times, for four years beyond the control of the people.

Let us then turn from these dark and gloomy prospects, reanimate hope, and create new confidence, by rallying around the ticket now submitted to you, which will bring into the councils of our country men surpassed by none in the qualities of the mind, or in the virtuous and patriotic feelings of the heart.

In Mr. Clinton you have the tried and inflexible republican, who in his native state has, by his pre-eminent talents, deserved and received from a grateful and free people, the highest and most confidential appointments they had to bestow. His wisdom, firmness and intrepidity are wanted to invigorate the arm of the executive. Such republican worthy such commanding endowments, will in your virtuous bosoms identify itself with the sacred and endearing recollections of his father's and his uncle's great revolutionary services, and the distinguished republican and political standing of George Clinton in the councils of his country.

PENNSYLVANIA, in Mr. Ingersoll you will find the man whose exalted public and private worth will refute calumny, and bring your just national pretensions into public estimation. As a member of the continental congress, appointed by the old whig legislature; as a member of our convention, who formed the federal constitution, chosen by the people; as an executive officer appointed by governors of all parties—he has discharged every duty to his country with unbounded approbation. The friend and fellow laborer in the old whig party, with your Read, your Bryan, your Sergeant, your Bradford and your Hutchinson, the retired and unassuming citizen, is presented to Pennsylvanians for their enlightened and virtuous support.

With the zealous and undivided support of such men, we sacredly believe, is involved the union of America, the salvation of your beloved country, and the remaining deposit of liberty in the world.

From the Boston Centinel.

## TO THE PUBLIC.

My name being mentioned in an article from the National Intelligencer, I deem it to be my duty to declare, that having been present at the meeting at New York therein alluded to, the statement of the proceedings of that meeting is entirely false. I also know that no persons were authorized by that meeting to make any communication to Mr. Clinton, nor was any made or reported to the meeting from him. I cannot vouch for that gentleman's opinions, having never spoken to him in my life, nor seen him but once, and then while he was presiding in a Court of Justice, but the intimation of the expressions or sentiments ascribed to Mr. Clinton, as "made to a certain number of the caucus," is entirely new to me, and repugnant to every representation of his political creed which has come to my knowledge.

H. C. OTIS.

October 20, 1812.

From the Connecticut Courant.

## THE FINGER OF HEAVEN.

Pending the question of war, the people of the western states were zealous for that measure almost to a man. The Kentucky delegation to Congress, seven in number, were all clamorous for war, and all voted for it. They had no fellow feelings for the inhabitants of the sea coast. The destruction of their commerce, the capture of their ships and cargoes, and the exposure of their opulent cities and towns, they viewed in perspective with cold-hearted indifference. When the exposed situation of New York was mentioned in Congress, the taunting reply was, that if New-York was laid in ashes, its inhabitants might flee behind the mountains, and there find safety. Little did they think, even in its outset, it would be brought home to themselves, and that with such attendant horrors as will make them tremble for the safety of their own wives and children. They considered the conquest of Upper Canada as a matter of pastime rather than that of serious warfare; and some of them, their leading ones, probably expected to enrich themselves by it. These hopes are now turned into despair and wild affliction—The war, which they were signally instrumental in bringing upon the country, is signally visited upon themselves. God is just!

It appears by the subsequent articles, copied from a democratic paper printed at Baltimore, that the intolerance of the Democratic young of Philadelphia is strongly reprobated by the democrats of Baltimore:

The reign of Proscription commenced.

"DEMOCRATIC YOUNG MEN.

"At a special meeting of the 'Association of Democratic young men of the city and liberties,' [of Philadelphia] held on Friday evening, October 16th, 1812, the following resolution was unanimously adopted:

"Resolved, That all those members of this association, who are opposed to the re-election of James Madison, as president of the United States are at liberty to resign, and if they do not avail themselves of such liberty, as soon as their names are known, they shall be immediately expelled.

"A. PERLEE, Sec'y."

It appears that in Philadelphia, the democratic young men who refuse to subscribe to the infallibility of president Madison, are to be put under the ban of the association to which they belong. There is nothing in the whole history of federalism, nothing in the history of usurpation and tyranny which equals the baseness of the principle

whence the above resolution flowed. Gracious Heaven! In this country, where the right of opinion has ever been deemed one of the most sacred; the tolerant principle of scrutinizing the merits of public characters, cherished with a holy, enthusiastic reverence; in this country, and that too by a party exclusively applying to itself the proud appellation of "democratic republican," we see this attempt made to destroy the best foundation of our liberties. It is time for the people to feel alarmed at the dangerous progress the sentiment which substitutes men for measures, has already made, and by one manly effort to rescue themselves from the evil which awaits them. We ought to rejoice that the opportunity of doing so is so near at hand, since the earlier a remedy is applied to a disease, the stronger is the hope of a radical cure. In the election of Mr. Clinton to the presidency, the best hopes may be indulged, that the Augean stable will be cleansed of filth and corruption, & democracy appear as it ought to appear, the guardian angel of our liberties, our commerce, our national honor.

A CONSISTENT DEMOCRAT.

## THE PLOT DETECTED.

From the Pennsylvania Farmer.

AMERICANS, PENNSYLVANIANS,

FREEMEN, PATRIOTS,

Read and learn from the following base and infamous propositions, how an unprincipled set of intriguers emanating from the corrupt Washington caucus, audaciously and traitorously presume to buy and sell the people's rights. Gallatin visited Albany lately. Freemen will say whether they do not see in the corruption of these libetricide propositions the unexampled and unequalled intrigues of this Genevan secretary for his continuance in office.

Men of Pennsylvania, will you allow the inestimable blessings of self government, purchased by the heroism the blood and the treasure of our glorious revolution—to be ravished from the people, to become the heritage of an unprincipled set of intriguing office hunters! Forbid it Patriotism! Forbid it Justice! Forbid it Heaven!!

Americans save your country by making the deep damnation of such deeds recoil on their guilty authors, by driving them from the people's confidence forever.

ALBANY, September 26 1812.

Dear Sir—Permit us to introduce to your acquaintance General King, of Massachusetts. It is his wish to communicate freely with one or more of the lieutenant governor's friends in your city, in relation to the presidential question.

The general's character and standing, entitle him to the greatest consideration; and allow us to say, that nothing could be more gratifying to the real friends of Mr. Clinton, and to the republican party in this section of the state, than an arrangement which would avoid a competition in the choice of president.

At a period like the present, big with events, in which we are contending for every thing dear and valuable, and when a portion of our citizens are systematizing measures calculated to deaden the energies of the nation, rely upon it, the supporters and friends of the constitution cannot but view with emotions of the deepest regret, a struggle between men who think alike on general measures. We acquit ourselves when we solemnly declare to you, as our firm belief, that no event could exalt Mr. Clinton higher among his republican friends than a surrender of his pretensions to the presidential chair at the ensuing election; and a different course would consequently, in our opinion, destroy his prospects, and deprive this nation at a future period of the services of a man whose talents we highly estimate.

With much respect,

Your obedient servant,

A. SPENCER.

JOHN TAYLOR.

Richard Riker, Esq.

New York Oct. 7, 1812.

Gentlemen—Your joint letter, by which you did me honor to introduce to my acquaintance Gen. King of Massachusetts, was duly delivered to me. I have conversed with him fully on the subject referred to by you; and have explained to him at large, the reasons which induce me to give it, as my unequivocal opinion, that Mr. Clinton is not at liberty consistent with a due regard to the rights and interests of the American people, to withdraw himself as a candidate for the office of president at the ensuing election. The suggestion of general King, that in case of Mr. Clinton's retiring from the competition, the republicans of Massachusetts would support him at the end of four years, for the presidency, can never be listened to on the part of that gentleman or his friends. The electors ought always to be left free to act according to the future merits of the candidates. Arrangements between political parties, or members of the same party binding, or attempting to bind, the suffrages of the people, and to control the free current of opinion, are incompatible with the purity and dignity of republicanism. Upon what ground can Mr. Clinton relinquish the presidential chair? By so doing, he would disappoint the just expectations of the people, and defeat a decision by them upon the principles and measures of no ordinary magnitude to the republic. I have consulted several of Mr. Clinton's particular friends in whose judgments I repose very high confidence, and they agree with me, that it is unnecessary to confer with him.

He never will, and he never ought, to surren-