

# RALEIGH REGISTER,

## NORTH-CAROLINA WEEKLY ADVERTISER.



"Ours are the Plans of Peaceful Peace,  
"Unwar'd by Party Rivalry like Brothers."

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FOR THE REGISTER.

### AN ADDRESS

TO THE  
PEOPLE OF THE UNITED STATES;  
WITH  
An Epitome and Vindication of the  
Public Life and Character  
OF  
Thomas Jefferson.

Fellow Citizens,

USURIOUS to the best hopes  
of Americans, for the unal-  
tered success of Republican liberty,  
revolving year 1800, presents  
with the periodical right of  
age in the election of a Presi-  
dent of the United States.

of this right, and  
which involves for  
our common  
and your im-  
peaching and  
Impartial,  
dependent, it remains  
to vindicate the rights of  
Republican liberty, and to crown  
with success the noblest and fairest  
experiment the world has ever yet  
seen, attempted by freemen, to  
establish self-government.

The probationary period of ten  
years, since the institution of a Fed-  
eral Government affords much  
ground to hope and fear, amidst  
that continued condition of nations  
which still agitate the European  
world, and threatens to involve our  
western hemisphere in its ruinous  
vortex. Your sacrifices for peace  
and the virtuous efforts of your re-  
publican sons, have hitherto pre-  
served you from the fatal curse and  
calamity of war.

Pursuing, with unshaken confidence,  
the measures of men, whose hostility  
to the fundamental principles of  
your government, conceived the  
only hope of success, amidst scenes  
of war and confusion, you have  
been placed, more than once, on  
the precipice of destruction. Sec-  
eding from the principles avowed  
to the world as the basis of your  
Republican Institutions, the pillars  
of Aristocracy have arisen, and in  
the direful election of American truths,  
the world has been astonished at  
your retrograde turn and rapid  
advance to Monarchy.

A review of past events will but  
present the painful spectacle of po-  
litical apostasy, amidst the wreck  
of principle; and the creation of  
systems equally subversive of li-  
berty, peace and happiness. Suffi-  
ce it to say, that new and unheard  
of doctrines have been advanced,  
precedents established, and laws  
enacted, which go to sap the very  
foundations of public liberty—  
Hence have we seen, in the aban-  
donment of constitutional truth  
and principle, constructive treason  
avowed, and the right of trial by  
jury of the vicinage exploded in our  
courts of justice, whilst there have  
been begotten new and arbitrary  
principles of alienism and sedition,  
with an extended and boundless  
system of common law, adopted  
by a foreign nation, and never yet  
incorporated into any Ameri-  
can code. And executive func-  
tionaries have not been slothful  
in pursuing, under colour of law,  
persecutions and proscriptions, of  
personal disqualifications for po-  
litical opinions, and restraints on the  
liberty of the press; or in pro-  
moting, by every faculty they pos-  
sessed, systems of extended influ-  
ence and wasteful expenditure;  
abetting the creation of heavy and  
oppressive public burdens, in nu-  
merous and unnecessary appoint-  
ments to office, a standing army, a  
permanent navy, augmentation of  
public debt, loans at excessive and  
exorbitant interest, and finally, ad-  
ditional and aggravated impost du-  
ties, excises, salt-tax and land-tax.

But, fellow-citizens, if in addi-  
tion to this dark catalogue of  
public evils, you are told from the  
mouth of the now President of the  
United States, that "Republican  
Government may be interpreted to  
mean any thing;" that "the British

Constitution is, in the strictest  
sense, a Republic;" that "an He-  
reditary President, and Senate for  
life, can alone secure you happi-  
ness;" and that in the conflict of  
political opinions which prevail in  
our country, "It is admissible for  
one faction to seize the persons of  
their opponents, and transfer them  
within the lines of an invading  
enemy"—When and where will you  
look for relief?

Heaven has wisely ordered,  
that on your virtuous efforts alone,  
shall it depend, to disavow the  
principles, revoke the measures,  
and discard the men, that have thus  
afflicted you. Happy, in the pos-  
session of a citizen, to whom, under  
God, America, is principally in-  
debted for that share of political  
well-being she now enjoys—JEFF-  
ERSON, mild, amiable, and phy-  
sically philanthropic, refined in manners as  
enlightened in mind, the philosopher  
of the world, whose name adds lustre  
to our national character, and as  
a legislator and statesman stands  
cond to no man—JEFFERSON,  
yet lives. On him then concentrate  
your present views and your future  
hopes.

Illustrious by an active life, of  
great and consistent efforts to pro-  
mote the universal establishment of  
republican liberty, and the perma-  
nent happiness of the great family  
of mankind, he will neither disap-  
point your hopes nor defeat your  
wishes. Look into his past life, ex-  
amine all his conduct, and if you  
can discover one instance of politi-  
cal apostasy or the dereliction of a  
republican principle, then withhold  
from him your confidence and your  
suffrages.

Neither suffer yourselves to be  
deceived by the calumnious efforts  
of electioneering partizans, the real  
enemies of America, to depreciate  
the moral and political character of  
the man whose name should be dear  
to every republican heart. It is  
through the turpitude of these ene-  
mies, that the pure virtues and pre-  
eminent talents of Jefferson stand  
reflected, with undiminished lustre,  
and present him to the world as the  
friend and benefactor of the human  
race. See the testimony of the ve-  
nerable Judge Pendleton, President  
of the Virginia convention, pages  
100 and 101, on the question for ad-  
opting the federal constitution,  
who speaks in the following em-  
phatic words: "I know and highly  
respect the great abilities of Mr.  
Jefferson—Providence has, for the  
happiness of mankind, accompanied  
those abilities with a disposition to  
make use of them for the good of  
his fellow-beings."—Honourable  
testimonial of an aged and veteran  
statesman, who could contemplate  
with pleasure the support and pa-  
tronage he had yielded to the youth-  
ful virtues and rising talents of Jef-  
ferson, in early life—a testimonial  
as honourable to him that gave, as  
to him that received it.

But resting on the same high and  
respected authority of Judge Pen-  
dleton, see what he further says in  
the same debate, in reply to the art-  
ful insinuation then made, that Mr.  
Jefferson, who was at that time ab-  
sent as minister of the United States  
in France, had written sentiments  
hostile to the adoption of the federal  
constitution, and advising its rejec-  
tion.—"I have seen, says Mr. Pen-  
dleton, the letter in which Mr. Jef-  
ferson has written his opinion upon  
this subject.—It appears that he is  
possessed of that constitution, and  
has in his mind the idea of amend-  
ing it.—He has in his mind the very  
question of subsequent or previous  
amendments, which is now under  
consideration. His sentiments on  
this subject are as follows: I wish  
with all my soul that the first nine  
conventions may accept the new  
constitution, because it will secure  
to us the good it contains, which I  
think great and important. I wish  
the four latest, which ever they be,  
may refuse to accede to it, 'till a  
amendments are secured.' He then

enumerates the amendments\* which  
he wishes to be secured, and adds  
—"We must take care however that  
neither this, nor any other objection  
to the form, produce a schism in our  
union. We would be an incurable  
evil—because friends falling out  
never cordially re-unite." Are  
these sentiments (asks Mr. Pendle-  
ton) in favour of those who wish to  
prevent the adoption by previous a-  
mendments? He wishes the first nine  
states to adopt it.—What are his  
reasons? Because it will secure to  
us the good it contains which he  
thinks great and important, and he  
wishes the other four may refuse it  
because he thinks it will tend to ob-  
tain necessary amendments.—But  
he would not wish that a schism  
should take place in the union on no  
consideration. If then we are to be in-  
fluenced by his opinion at all, we  
will ratify it, and secure thereby  
the good it contains.

Republican citizens of America,  
do you believe it, and shall the  
groundless calumny yet find curren-  
cy in our land, that Jefferson is an-  
tifederalist and enemy to the consti-  
tution of the United States? Reflect  
and ask yourselves, whether, if in  
the prophetic spirit that dictated his  
remarks on the constitution, as be-  
fore quoted the convention of four  
states had refused to accede to it,  
until amendments were obtained,  
you would probably now have cause  
to regret the existence in your  
country of an alien and sedition  
law, of the lately adopted doctrine  
of constructive treason, and above  
all, of the ruinous and disgraceful  
treaty with Great-Britain?

Equally repulsive to the malig-  
nant suggestion that Mr. Jefferson  
is an enemy to religions the public  
records of his native state, present  
to the world in the statute book of  
their laws, the celebrated act "for  
establishing religious freedom"—  
drawn by the pen, and offered to  
the assembly of Virginia, by the  
hand of their enlightened and illu-  
strious fellow-citizen: Read, ye fan-  
atics, bigots, and religious hypo-  
crites, of whatever clime or coun-  
try ye be, and you, base calumni-  
ators, whose efforts to traduce are  
the voluntary tribute of envy to a  
character more pure and perfect  
than your own, read, and learn,  
and practice the religion of Jef-  
ferson, as displayed in the sublime  
truths and inspired language of his  
ever memorable "Act for establish-  
ing religious freedom," thus:—

"Well aware that Almighty God  
has created the mind free; that all  
attempts to influence it by temporal  
punishments or burdens, or by civil  
incapacitations, tend only to beget  
habits of hypocrisy and meanness,  
and are a departure from the plan  
of the holy author of our religion,  
who being lord both of body and  
mind, yet chose not to propagate it  
by coercions on either as was in his  
almighty power to do; that the im-  
pious presumption of legislators and  
rulers, civil as well as ecclesiastical,  
who, being themselves but fallible  
and uninspired men, have assumed  
dominion over the faith of others,  
setting up their own opinion and  
modes of thinking as the only true  
and infallible, and as such endea-

\* The Federal Constitution was  
opposed by many of the best Friends  
of the country in the state in which it  
was first presented to the Conventions  
for ratification, because it was feared  
that, if it was suffered to pass without  
amendment at that time, the oppor-  
tunity might be lost for making any  
attempt to amend it. It will be seen,  
however, that from the efforts of  
the most enlightened men in the  
United States, and of the Virginia  
Legislature in particular, after the  
ratification of the Constitution, those  
amendments were added, which now  
form so essential a part of it, and  
which it is more than probable have  
formed a powerful check upon the  
aspiring temper of those factious de-  
magogues, who, under pretensions to  
Federalism, are endeavouring to pro-  
mote the most slavish and destructive  
systems of the Old World.

avouring to impose them on others,  
hath established and maintained false  
religion over the greatest part of  
the world, and through all time;  
that to compel a man to furnish  
contributions of money for the pro-  
pagation of opinion which he dis-  
believes is sinful and tyrannical; that  
even the forcing him to support this  
or that teacher of his own religious  
persuasion, is depriving him of the  
comfortable liberty of giving his  
contributions to the particular pas-  
tor, whose morals he would make  
his pattern, and whose power he  
feels most persuasive to righteous-  
ness, and is withdrawing from the  
ministry those temporary rewards,  
which, proceeding from an approba-  
tion of their personal conduct, are  
an additional incitement to earnest  
and unremitting labours for the in-  
struction of mankind; that our civ-  
il rights have no dependence on  
our religious opinions, more than  
opinions in physics or geometry—  
that therefore the proscribing any  
citizen as unworthy the public confi-  
dence, by laying upon him an inca-  
pacity of being called to offices of  
trust and emolument, unless he pro-  
fess or renounce this or that religious  
opinion, is depriving him injuri-  
ously of those privileges and advantages,  
to which in common with his fellow-  
citizens he has a natural right; that  
it tends also to corrupt the princi-  
ples of that very religion it is meant  
to encourage, by bribing with a  
monopoly of worldly honours and  
emoluments, those who will exter-  
nally profess and conform to it; that  
though indeed these are criminal  
who do not withstand such tempta-  
tion, yet neither are those innocent  
who lay the bait in their way, that  
to suffer the civil magistrate to in-  
trude his powers into the field of op-  
inion, and to restrain the profession  
or propagation of principles on  
supposition of their ill tendency,  
is a dangerous fallacy which at once  
destroys all religious liberty, because  
he being of course judge of that ten-  
dency, will make his opinion the  
rule of judgment, and approve or  
condemn the sentiments of others  
only as they shall square with or  
differ from his own; that it is time  
enough for the rightful purposes of  
civil government, for its officers to  
interfere when principles break out  
into overt acts against peace and  
good order; and finally, that truth  
is great, and will prevail if left to

+ The 'Friends of Good Order'  
have almost exhausted all their low  
abuse upon Mr. Jefferson for his li-  
beral sentiments upon religious toler-  
ation, without producing any material  
proof that he is not a Christian. The  
drift of his observations upon the  
subject of Religion, are certainly the  
most friendly towards Christianity.  
But, amidst all the rancor displayed  
against the Republican candidate, no  
contrast is made of the characters  
of the Federal candidates. What are  
they? Is Mr. Pinckney celebrated  
for his piety? Or is Mr. Adams  
famous for his Evangelical tenets?  
He is certainly no Puritan, nor is he  
a disciple of either Luther or the Pope.  
Nay, there is more than probability,  
that his ideas of Christianity only  
extend to an opinion that it is good  
for example, while it is by no means  
of necessary importance, except as a  
political instrument. And what are  
those men who are most clamorous for  
a religious President? The greatest  
Bigots, allied with the greatest Infidels  
in the Union!—Let the intolerance of  
the established clergy in the Northern  
States, their equivocal tenets as indi-  
viduals (which are generally in oppo-  
sition to their ancient platforms) the  
want of religious principle amongst  
their congregations, and the characters  
of all the leading Federal champions  
for Christianity, be duly considered,  
and it will be seen, that the great ob-  
ject in view, is to establish a prop for  
impolitic measures of Government,  
composed of A PRIESTHOOD  
WITHOUT RELIGION, sup-  
ported by A COMMUNITY OF  
INFIDELS! Avant, then, ye de-  
ceivers, with your hypocritical cant;  
and let the pure principles of Chris-  
tianity stand and flourish upon their  
own independent basis.

herself; that she is the proper and  
sufficient antagonist to error, and  
has nothing to fear from the con-  
flict, unless by human interposition  
disarmed of her natural weapons,  
free argument and debate, errors  
ceasing to be dangerous, when it is  
permitted freely to contradict  
them:

Be it therefore enacted by the Gen-  
eral Assembly, That no man shall be  
compelled to frequent or support any  
religious worship, place, or ministry  
whatsoever, nor shall he be enforced,  
restrained, molested or burdened in  
his body or goods, nor shall otherwise  
suffer on account of his religion or  
belief; but that all men shall be  
free to profess, and by argument to  
maintain, their opinions, in matters  
of religion, and that the same shall in  
no wise diminish, enlarge, or affect  
their civil capacities.

And though we well know that  
this assembly, elected by the people  
for the ordinary purposes of leg-  
islation only, have no power to restrain  
the act of succeeding assemblies, con-  
stituted with powers equal to our  
own; and that therefore to declare  
this act to be irrevocable, would be  
of no effect in law; yet we are free  
to declare, and do declare, that the  
rights hereby asserted, are the natu-  
ral rights of mankind, and that if any  
act shall be hereafter passed to repeal  
the present or to narrow its opera-  
tion, such act will be an infringement  
of natural right."

Further, if the opponents of Mr.  
Jefferson require additional proof  
of the ardent piety and religious  
fervour of his mind, let them read  
in his "Notes on Virginia," page  
237, his reflections on the subject  
of slavery, expressive of his wishes  
for a gradual emancipation, which  
are concluded by the following  
pious apostrophe. "Can the li-  
berities of a nation be thought se-  
cure when we have removed their  
only firm basis, a conviction in the  
minds of the people, that those li-  
berities are of the gift of God? That  
they are not to be violated but with  
his wrath? Indeed I tremble for my  
country when I reflect that God is  
just: that his justice cannot sleep for-  
ever; that considering numbers,  
nature and natural means only, a  
revolution of the wheel of fortune,  
an exchange of situation, is among  
possible events; that it may become  
probable by supernatural interfe-  
rence! The Almighty has no attri-  
bute which can take side with us  
in such a contest.—But it is impos-  
sible to be temperate and to pursue  
this subject thro' the various consi-  
derations of policy, of morals, of  
history natural and civil. We  
must be contented to hope they will  
force their way into every one's  
mind. I think a change already  
perceptible since the origin of the  
present [American] revolution.  
The spirit of the master is abated,  
that of the slave rising from the dust;  
his condition mollifying, the way, I  
hope, preparing, under the auspices  
of heaven, for a total emancipation,  
and that this is disposed, in the order  
of events, to be with the consent of  
the masters, rather than by their ex-  
tirpation."

Again, in the same Notes, page  
240, evincing his anxiety to culti-  
vate a spirit of genuine virtue in  
the public mind, as the sure prefer-  
vative of republican liberty, he ex-  
presses a no less exalted sentiment  
of the cultivators of the soil, the  
yeomanry of our country, than a  
just confidence in the order of Pro-  
vidence to perpetuate, thro' them,  
the sacred flame of moral and reli-  
gious virtue.

Those, says Jefferson, who la-  
bour in the earth are the chosen peo-  
ple of God; if ever he had a chosen  
people whose breath he had made  
his peculiar deposit for substantial  
and genuine virtue. It is the tocius  
in which he keeps alive the sacred  
fire which otherwise might escape  
from the face of the earth. Cor-  
ruption of morals in the mass of  
of cultivators is a phenomenon of  
which no age or nation has furnish-  
ed an example. It is the mark set  
on those, who, not looking up to