

# THE ELIZABETH-CITY STAR

## AND

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From the Democratic Press.

#### Jackson Circular.

TO JONATHAN ROBERTS Esq.

Fellow Citizens.—The cause of our country seems, at this juncture, so closely blended with the political elevation of

ANDREW JACKSON, that successful and vigorous efforts to promote the latter, must receive the aid & approbation of all sincerely attached to the former.

Our government is based upon the people's will. If this foundation be removed, or if, as in Europe, it be disregarded, the structure of our civil liberties must fall, or be ultimately overthrown, unless we are willing to change our system: to sink into the condition whence we are but just emancipated: and to entail upon our descendants all the degradation and wretchedness from which our fathers, at the hazard of life and fortune, rescued themselves and us: we should vigilantly and fearlessly enforce our rights against the encroachments of power and the subtle arts of ambition.

Until the period made memorable by the election of the present President of the United States, the principles of the revolution of '76, especially in reference to the duty of public agents and the sovereignty of the people's will, had been sacredly pursued and most happily exemplified. On that occasion, however, they were openly violated—and their violation accompanied by indications of corruption truly appropriate to the event, and well calculated to alarm our patriotism. Although the election was, by the provisions of the constitution, lawfully within the power of the house of representatives, who could expect that the people would be spurned by their delegates? Who could expect that the public servant would unblushingly deny his master? Who anticipated that the representative, known, existing in no other character, should defy, repel, and insult his constituents? And who, in the land of Washington and Jefferson; while the name was yet fresh in immortality, and the second still mortal; could expect to find political promotion to follow upon political infidelity, and the people's offices bestowed upon him who betrayed and shocked the people?

It will be remembered that in the case of representatives, the presidential election is conducted by states; that Gen. JACKSON, though far ahead of his competitors on the return of the electoral votes, there received but eight votes: that the representatives of Kentucky gave their state vote to Mr. Adams, in favor of whom not a single man of their constituents had, by suffrage declared himself; that the representatives of Illinois, in defiance of a public pledge, acted in the same manner: that the representatives from Missouri followed in this wake, after the repeated and protracted struggles of a conscious sense of duty: that Louisiana, whose soil had been deemed, and whose matrons had been libeled by the transcendent heroism of JACKSON from the barbarous pursuit of "beauty and booty," abused by two her representatives, turned upon her preserver, and against the will of her citizens, pierced him with the fang of unrelieved ingratitude. Nor can we forget that the master spirit, by the power of whose influence, mysteriously exerted, these effects, so opposite to republican principles, were produced, was himself instantaneously rewarded with the office of Secretary of State, long an object of his ambition.

Such examples warn us to be wary in our conduct; unless speedily and emphatically

condemned, they will ripen into precedents, and afford conspicuous apologies for future misconduct. It merits remark, that Mr. Adams elated perhaps to indiscretion by his triumph over the people, in his very first message to Congress, insinuates that our representatives should not be "palsied by the will of their constituents," in other words, that they should disregard that will, however ascertained, when inconsistent with their own personal views or opinions. Such is the inevitable tendency, as it constituted the groundwork of the principles upon which his election was accomplished.

In the fall of this year, we shall be called upon to select members to Congress; and they whom we select, will continue to act as such, until after the choice of another chief magistrate. It is within the range of possible contingencies, that they may elect the President for the ensuing four years. Is it not, then, our duty, to exert more than common circumspection? Does not the recent experience to which we have adverted, strongly urge us to confide this trust to those only by whom our will cannot be disobeyed or misrepresented? Although it be true, that the existing aspect of public opinion promises an easy and decisive triumph to the people's candidate, can we oppose too much precaution to the management and patronage of intriguing politicians? Ought we not at once, to make sure of the distant future, by resolutely restricting our suffrages for congressional stations, to those who are avowedly and firmly attached to the principle for which we contend?

The town meeting of republicans in the city and county of Philadelphia, whence this committee of superintendance and vigilance emanated, deemed the subject to which your attention is now drawn, worthy of distinct and strong remark. It was a leading object in their early movement; and they hoped by energetic measures to give a successful circulation to their sense of its importance. Our fellow citizens, considering the Presidential election to be remote, do not reflect that its fate may depend upon what they are at this moment doing. Their dexterous adversaries, with honey on their lips, but poison at their hearts, would lull them into apathy, preaching the beauty of tranquility, and the folly of premature contest; while, in secret, they labor every nerve to make the next Congress hostile to Jackson, and subservient to Adams.

We do not think it necessary to impel you to efficiency and zeal, by dwelling upon the peculiar claims which the hero of New-Orleans has to the untiring devotion of his fellow citizens. His eminent virtues, his intelligence, his valor, and his pure republicanism, have been known, witnessed and felt by all of us.—In war and in peace—in the scenes of retirement, or when surrounded by faction and temptation—at the plough, or the senate—he has, every where, uniformly proved that he deserves to be the chosen champion for the cause of his country.—In this respect, he is alone in America. Providence furnishes, for the safety and pride of any nation, but one such a man at a time. Let us avail ourselves of the gift, and reinstate the principles of WASHINGTON under the auspices of JACKSON.

As it has been made our duty, so undoubtedly will it be our pleasure, industriously to advance the cause for which the people of the United States, and their favorite citizen, have embarked together. We will receive thankfully, and employ appropriately, with all the means in our power, and to the best of our ability, whatever information relating to your district you may be good enough to convey to us, as worthy of general dissemination. Let us, however, not forget, while steadily bent upon securing the election of our candidate at the close of the present presidential term, we must, in the mean time, avoid the acts, as we disclaim the title of faction; not suffering our just indignation against those who have by artifice usurped the rights of the people, to lead us into an indiscriminating opposition to public measures, or a vindictive bitterness against persons.—Let us uphold what is beneficial, with the same resolute spirit that we condemn what is injurious to our beloved country: adopting the frank declaration of an energetic statesman, "We shall judge of the administration by their own intrinsic merits; but we will not judge of the administration by their measures only, when they come to settle the account of stewardship, and ask for a renewal of their trust," we will, then, advert to the vice of their origin, to the treachery and

corruption which characterized their political birth.

We are, fellow citizens, respectfully, your friends,

CHANDLER PRICE, President.  
JACOB HOLGATE,  
HENRY HORN, Secretaries.

To CHANDLER PRICE, Esq. Chairman and Jacob Holgate and Henry Horn, Esqs. Secretaries of a Committee of Superintendance and Vigilance, for the City and County of Philadelphia.

GENTLEMEN.—I have had the honor of receiving your printed circular, without date, bearing the Philadelphia post mark of the first of July. I recognize in this evidence of your recollection, a friendly regard. I can very truly reciprocate, though our opinions in relation to who should be supported as a presidential candidate, differ as widely as formerly. I am aware that your names are affixed to the circular as matter of form, and that you are only in a limited degree responsible for its contents. Its style and tenor tempts me to a hasty review of some of its leading features. Though I may speak with freedom, it will be under feelings of personal regard for you severally.

The circular states that "the cause of our country is so blended with the political elevation of Gen Jackson that the latter must receive the aid and approbation of all sincerely attached to the former."—Not necessarily so!—I yield to no man in attachment to the cause of our country, yet I sincerely believe, that cause would be much injured by Gen. Jackson's political elevation.—I soberly inquire of you, has he been prepared for the discharge of the executive duties of this government, by previous habits, experience, and study?—Has he displayed that control of temper, of respect for the feelings of his fellow citizens, which the exalted station to which he aspires call for? Hitherto our Presidents have had some previous experience in international concerns, and have been fitted efficiently to direct that branch of the Presidential duties. Little conversant with the duties and responsibilities of civil magistrates, he has but recently retired from the command of an army. The habits of military command are strong upon him. He is accustomed to implicit obedience.

It is your purpose to collect information favorable to, or which may be made useful in procuring, the election of Gen. Jackson in 1829. I have no means of satisfactorily estimating the public feeling in regard to him, nearer near, nor more remote but my impressions are, his prospects are not encouraging for the ensuing election. There are no peculiar evidences of hostility to the present administration in a large portion of the Delegation of this state in the late session of Congress; nor are there any strong evidences that they were not in perfect harmony with a large portion of their constituents. You wish to influence public opinion in favor of your candidate, but a discerning public will want some other and better proof of his merit than your assertions, that he is eminently virtuous, intelligent and valiant, and a pure, Republican. Where is the evidence of his virtues, public or private, for the first half century of his life? They were not heard of in Pennsylvania; and in what way have they been exhibited since the commencement of his military career in 1813? That he has been a brave successful commander has never been denied; but you search in vain, among his achievements for those acts of humanity and magnanimity which essentially constitute the hero. Valour is a common virtue among men, the absence of it would be rare if not regarded as a vice among Americans. So far as valor is concerned, Gen. Jackson has many equals whom fortune has not favored with occasions to display it. But martial valor, unless you part for war, and want for your President a military chieftain, is an attribute of character not particularly desirable in a Presidential candidate.—Let your President once assume the actual command of your army, and you may ere long mourn over your fractured constitution and departed freedom. The intelligence of your candidate is certainly not pre-eminent, when his biographer claims merit for him for having retired from inferior stations to make way for those who could be more useful. He has resigned every civil public station he ever held.

Lastly, as to his pure republicanism which you say we have all known, witnessed, and felt. Was it his mildness and respect for the laws that subjected

him to a heavy fine at New Orleans, the theatre of his glory, while his laurels were yet fresh on his brow? Was the policy he urged on the late President to make his selections for office without regard to political opinions, and his declaration that he would have brought the leaders of the Hartford convention before a court martial on a capital charge of a Republican character? Had Mr. Monroe followed his advice, would you have thought his appointments Republican? Was his appearance at Washington while his Florida Campaign was the subject of his discussion, and legislative inquiry, an evidence of his respect for the public authorities? It was in his division that Neale Cameron was put to death without the form of trial, and his body left unburied a prey to Vultures. As governor of Florida men were banished and subsequently imprisoned, under his good pleasure, and released by express from the President, while their petitions were debating in Congress. These, gentlemen, are a few of the many stubborn facts that ought to admonish you to hold forth on the purity of his Republicanism rather distrustfully.

But fulsome as is your panegyric on Gen. Jackson, your sweeping denunciation of Messrs. Adams and Clay is more exceptionable and equally unsupported by facts. Why assume the prerogative of the good People of Kentucky and denounce their Representatives, while they received Mr. Clay most courteously, and others who voted for Mr. Adams, for aught that appears, stand as well as ever with their constituents. You charge the Representative from Illinois, with acting regardless "of a public pledge," and the one from Missouri as following in this wake, after "protracted struggles of a conscious sense of duty," and "that Louisiana whose soil had been redeemed by the transcendent heroism of Jackson, was abused by two of her Representatives, who turned upon her preserver, and pierced him with the fangs of ingratitude. Nor can we forget, you add, that the master spirit, by the power of whose influence mysteriously exerted, these facts, so opposite to Republicanism were produced, was rewarded with an office long an object of his ambition."—Really, gentlemen, this is dealing freely with the characters of men, who have some title to respect, who may think it necessary to call you to the proof of what you assert of them. But how stands the account between your hero and the two "ungrateful representatives from Louisiana." Mr. Monroe's extraordinary exertions, with Madison's co-operation, prepared the defensive force for that point and urged Gen. Jackson to repair there. In your ardor to exalt the hero these things are overlooked. The enemy were checked on their first landing, in which action the Orleans Riflemen conspicuously and bravely served. Gen. Humbert, the invader of Ireland, is acknowledged to have been serviceable, in the official despatch, speaking justly, the government and the citizens of Orleans, Gen. Jackson, and those under his command, each performed their duty, and the result was a signal repulse of the invading foe. When the question was whether Messrs. Adams or Jackson should be President, was it any cause of blame that the representatives from Louisiana should prefer the former?—Could gratitude only be shown by conferring the Presidency? Or was the repulse of the enemy at New Orleans to be the exclusive warrant for this honor? If so why was the election of 1816 and 1820 passed over and the name of Andrew Jackson never lifted as a candidate.

You remark, that "the principles of '76, were violated in the late election, accompanied by indications of corruption, calculated to alarm your patriotism and truly appropriate to the event. With such a charge what are the facts?—Jackson came into the house with a constitutional minority of votes only, the majority was with his competitors. By your own admission, the voice of the people were not with him. Out of the three highest, the house were to choose a President voting by states. It had fallen to the lot of Mr. Clay, in his representative capacity, to scan the conduct of Gen. Jackson, which produced in his mind, convictions that he was blameworthy. Those convictions, resting strong with him, was it for him to smother the dictates of conscience, and aid to elevate him to the Presidency? Was it for the Kentucky delegation to raise a man to the highest civil honors who had stigmatized the citizen soldiers of that state, on the memorable 8th of January, with a failure in duty; who had charged them with having "ingloriously fled" before the

enemy and no correction of the mistake having followed under better information. The election resting between Mr. Adams and Gen. Jackson, was a necessary consequence of Mr. Adams' election, that it must have been the product of corruption? Better consideration, I am sure will allow you to admit the contrary. Mr. Adams being elected, was it not obvious Mr. Clay's standing, talents, and local situation, all conspired to point him out for the office he now holds. Under the influence of recent mortification and disappointment, it was to be expected, though not less to be regretted, that harsh things should have been uttered and groundless charges advanced.—The public will judge with what weight they can now be repeated, after an investigation was anxiously sought and avoided by exempting to the jurisdiction of the house; such a course, gentlemen, must work injury to your cause.

What was the course they took at the former election, and how was it that Gen. Jackson became the candidate of the people of this state? A paper at Harrisburg, under the control of the late state administration, first put forth his name, and from policy it was borne along on both sides during the election then pending. It became an object with the friends of all the candidates, except those of Mr. Crawford, to forego the long established mode of nomination by caucus. This, however, but partially succeeded. In the mean time, a Jackson convention was proposed at Huntingdon, and delegates partially appointed.—Another was proposed at Harrisburg, by the members of the Legislature. Calhoun was suddenly given up by his friends in a body, and they joined Gen. Jackson's standard. The result was, an abandonment of the Huntingdon project, and an almost entire concurrence in Jackson's support at Harrisburg. Thus was effected, by a course of events, sudden and little to have been anticipated, a caucus nomination, at the seat of the State Government, while the same persons hooted and derided one at that of the National Government.

That nomination was in the public mind generally identified with the organization of the party in Pennsylvania, and the election of the ticket was a matter of course. Of the electors chosen, some individually did not approve of Jackson. They voted as mere agents. That the sound feelings of a majority of the people of this state were ever interested in his favor, I must have better proof before I can believe. The papers most noisy for him declined and disappeared on his failure, and there has been, since, to my knowledge, no indications of impatience or dissatisfaction in Pennsylvania until the call of the meeting under which you act, which has not been reciprocated from any part of the State.

Gen. Jackson has been nominated by the Legislature of his own State, and in a prolix communication resigning his seat in the United States Senate, he recurs to it and accepts of it with satisfaction. He also urges the amendment of the Constitution in a long argument, notwithstanding which and the arguments of those who felt with him in Congress, the proposition has ascended to the tomb of the Capulets. I can neither feel approbation nor respect for a state nomination put forth their own fellow citizen. In every way more objectionable than a Congressional caucus. What peculiar fitness has the legislature of a single state to nominate a President. For 25 years the nomination by congressional caucuses preserved the harmony and integrity of the party. It was then abandoned; and tell us, is the party integral and harmonious now, or can it ever be, without a recurrence to the old mode of nomination, or by a convention of delegates at some central point of the union? A persistence in the error of 1825, can only produce division and controversy. Take the paper, the Cir-