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The following are the remarks of the Editor of "the Frederick Town Herald" on the famous resolutions of the Virginia Legislature, declaring its entire disapprobation of the gross, indecent, & unprincipled attacks made by federal editors, on the character of "the enlightened, philosophic, benevolent, and patriotic republican THOMAS JEFFERSON." The remarks, from the ability with which they are made, are worthy of attentive perusal; and the subject, from its importance, deserves the full consideration of every friend to the liberties of this country. Our feelings and sentiments upon the subject have been heretofore fully expressed, but we shall not fail to present them again and again, in all their forms, and others in accordance with them. The object of the Jacobins to silence the republican presses becomes daily more apparent; but all efforts to stop the promulgation of truth must be successful, for the torch will burn until it is extinguished in the blood of its editors. [Gen. U. S.]

"Of the honourable mover of the above resolution we shall say nothing. What we have been told is very little to his praise, and we do not chuse to hazard direct censure on mere defultory intelligence however respectable its source. We can only observe, that at this time there is no want of personal consequence in the mover to prevent his resolution from being adopted by the Virginia Legislature, if they have not passed upon it an affirmative vote. Concerning the resolution itself we beg leave to detain the reader with a few plain reflections. If it were nothing more than a compliment paid to Mr. Jefferson, if it went no further than to declare an approving confidence in his administration, however we might have laughed at the uncouth and ridiculous rhapsody, we should certainly have cared very little about it. The legislative parasites of the president might have applied to him every term in the vocabulary of oriental adulation, without producing any other effect than to remind us of a college anecdote of the celebrated Galileo. As the story goes, when the Florentine was laid hold of for maintaining the heretical doctrine of the earth's motion, he threwly observed, "that the state might imprison him as long as it pleased, but in spite of all that the earth would still turn round." So we should have been contented with knowing that, let the Virginians have said what they pleased, Mr. Jefferson, still turning round in his circle of folly and wickedness, could not elude the full gaze of the American public. Had the most potent, grave and reverend signiors of the ancient dominion resolved a million of times over, that Thomas Jefferson is "ENLIGHTENED—PHILOSOPHIC—BENEVOLENT—and PATRIOTIC,"—it could not alter or hide a single circumstance against him:—it would neither send Tom Paine back to France, nor return Callender's fine into the treasury;—it would neither repair the constitution violated, nor the faith of inaugural engagements broken;—it would neither obliterate the black catalogue of proscription, nor throw a veil over the foulness of favouritism and the prostitution of patronage;—it would neither remedy the derangement of revenue, nor the waste of public money;—it would neither reduce official salaries, nor make genuine a counterfeit economy;—it would neither supply 'the mouth of labour' with the necessities for which it is taxed, nor arrest the nabob in his carriage for a duty to the government;—it would neither build up a navy decayed and destroyed, nor palliate the unhallowed breach of Judiciary Independence;—it would neither conceal the base arts and instruments of ambition, nor allure national confidence;—it would neither blot out the stamps of perfidy and hypocrisy, of cowardice,

of meanness, of imbecility and misrule, nor would it legalize injustice, slander, falsehood and fraud;—it would not alienate us from Washington vilified, and christianity insulted;—nor yet would it level Carter's Mountain to oblivion, nor efface 'the primrose paths of dalliance' at Monticello. In short, however extravagant the Virginia Assembly might have asserted the President's fame, we should have been satisfied that they would be merely viewed as treating *yahti*, like the angry Xerxes did the Hellespont, when he threw chains into its sea, and ordered its waves to be whipped, because the bridge over which his army was to pass had been broken away by the storm. It is not, then, for its preposterous flattery, that we are induced to notice the foregoing Resolution. But, considering Virginia as the great head-quarters of democracy, any political tone it assumes on a matter of general concern, must excite attention, because probably expressive of the sentiments and designs of the whole ruling party.—Such expression becomes doubly important, when it relates to the press, a subject certainly among the most interesting to every free people. On this latter account alone it is, that the resolution appears to merit complete enquiry. Hoping that it will meet with this from some adequate pen, we have now only to beg pardon for the few hasty remarks which present themselves to our view.

"The Resolution begins with denouncing the extreme licentiousness of the Federal Editors in their abuse of the President. Were it material to reply to this charge, it would be sufficient barely to observe, that if it appears that the democratic party have countenanced & practised in the management of the press a greater licence than any Federal paper of this day, it must follow that the accusation of the Virginia Assembly is unfounded, that it comes with a very ill grace from such a quarter. How were General Washington and Mr. Adams, the predecessors of the present President, treated by the friends of the latter, and the newspapers, and writers in his service? If Mr. Jefferson has forgotten the prospect before us, he must at least be still mindful of the files of the *Aurora*. Let them answer on this head. But nay, the very *Examiner* under the nose of the Virginia Assembly, the printer of which has been favoured with their particular patronage, might of itself prove to them that the palm of 'extreme licentiousness' is not due to the Federalists. To the latter we should think it highly insulting, were we to run a general comparison between them and their adversaries.—Nor is there the least occasion for it. As to the mere opinion good, or bad, which the majority of the Virginia Legislature may choose to express of the Federal presses, it is in itself a matter of perfect indifference to us. To be censured in the same breath in which Mr. Jefferson is applauded can be no disgrace. When the Barebone Parliament of Virginia pronounce the President as a pattern of excellence, they take from their judgment every chance of respect, & their abuse becomes harmless. Had we meant nothing else, than self justification against such accusers, the business might have been dispatched by a single paragraph. But no such superfluous wish has induced us to remark on their Resolution.—In other points of view it deserves the attention of the public, and will afford some useful reflections. The citizens of this country have perhaps not yet forgotten the hoarse clamours, with which two years ago their senses were stunned about the Sedition law. The law was a part of

the defensive system, and was enacted by the Federalists to publish 'false scandalous and malicious writings.' The democrats rose in fury against it, and proclaimed the acts as unconstitutional and tyrannical. To enter into a vindication of that act is not the purport of this article. We only want to call to mind the opposition made to it by the democrats, and the doctrine they then maintained relative to the Press. They contended that the press should be free from all restriction and control whatever, that its licentiousness was a necessary evil, and that to exert any kind of influence over it was to invade the sanctuary of liberty. The famous resolutions of the Virginia assembly, fulminating anathemas against the Sedition law, among other measures of the Federal administration, are all extant. At the next session after those resolutions passed, Mr. Madison went into the assembly on purpose to defend them, and accordingly his famous report was ushered forth under the sanction of the assembly, and circulated through the whole country. A copy of that Report we have mislaid and cannot find another in town to refer to. The tenor of his argument is however perfectly remembered and was just such as has been stated. One remarkable passage in it seems so apropos to the present occasion, that we cannot help adverting particularly to it.—The Report observed, that the advocates for the sedition law had urged the propriety of punishing scandalous publications, 'because they tended to bring the President, &c. "into disrepute." Against this reason the report protested; for that it might be necessary and proper that the President should be brought "into disrepute." With the latitude then claimed by the Virginians, let us next see how far the spirit now manifested by them and their party is consistent?—What says the resolution before us?—That the Federal Presses "require a corrective," for the purpose "of counteracting their baneful effects." Formerly the democrats insisted that no "baneful effects" could arise from the most unlimited freedom in publishing; because the truth could not do harm by being told, & falsehood would always be detected and disbelieved. But it seems that this "corrective" is not to be had by "placing any legal restraint on printing presses," which would be "impolitic as well as unconstitutional," but "by an expression of the public will." This is a distraction indeed, but we may look in vain for the difference. If 'the expression of the public will,' as the resolution calls itself, is not to operate as a 'restraint on the press,' what is the end and use of its being made? If it is to operate as a 'restraint,' how is its design less 'unconstitutional,' than when put into 'legal' form? In both cases the assembly would be acting in their public capacity. The resolution indeed professes to be a declaration of the Legislature as a component part of the community. But if that were not absolute nonsense, if they are merely to be considered in their private characters as members of the community, what business have they under the shape of legislative proceedings and in legislative sitting to resolve any thing on this subject? And how could they stile such resolution 'an expression of the public will'? The fact is, that the framers of the Resolution was hampered between an unwillingness to acknowledge the principle of the Sedition law, and a desire of wreaking vengeance on the federal editors. He has at last just worded his Resolution for the taste and comprehension of the mob, and to serve them as a signal of outrage and violence on the fe-

deral presses. At any rate it is a symptom of the temper, and views of the party. If the means of information are not suppressed, they know the people must soon revolt from their ruinous subjection. Already have we seen several attempts to smother discussion and enquiry and to crush the anti-ministerial newspapers. Nay, has not Mr. Jefferson's first law officer told us himself, that even 'opprobrium and disrespect are treason, sedition and rebellion?' The plan seems nearly ripe, when this doctrine is to be carried into effect by more direct methods than the Virginia Resolution. The tyrant governor of Pennsylvania, in his late address to its Legislature, has in plain terms doomed the federal papers to 'the authority of the Magistrate' & 'the discipline of the laws.' Such is the consistency of the bawlers against the sedition law, and the noisy pretenders for the rights of the people! When their system gets into complete action, we shall discover more fully the nature of their regard for the liberty of the Press. Their regulations on the subject will not be embarrassed by any such inconvenient indulgence, as that of giving the truth in evidence. Their course will be readier and shorter. Arbitrary punishments for indefinite crimes will save our discreet rulers a world of trouble. In an emergency, demagogues may be always at hand to raise a popular storm for the chastisement of the obnoxious and unyealding. Such were the irregular expedients foreseen by federalists in Congress, when they offered the democrats in power a continuance of the same law, which they had created for themselves as a shield against libels. They refused it under a pretence of conscientious aversion, but with an eye of popularity, and a hope of availing themselves of more than all its advantage by stratagems of oppression and usurpation which begin daily to shew themselves. Against every hostile or suspicious movement the federal prints should present an erect and manly attitude of defence. Watching and acting together in liberal and faithful concert with a temperate and persevering firmness, they may secure their own safety and partake in the glory of yet working out the final deliverance of their country.

STATE OF TENNESSEE,
Mero District,
In Equity, November Term, 1802.
Reuben Searcy, Complainant,
vs.
John R. Eaton, & Stephen Merritt, Defendants.
WHEREAS the complainant obtained an order to amend his bill, here to be filed against the defendants, and caused process of Subpoena to issue, commanding them to answer the allegations set forth in the said amended Bill which was returned not found. And it appearing to the satisfaction of the said court that they are not residents of this state, it is therefore ordered, that unless the aforesaid defendants appear at our next Court of Equity, to be held for the District aforesaid, at the court house in Nashville, on the second Monday in May, and either plead, answer, or demur, the bill will be taken pro confesso.

BENNET SEARCY, C. M. C. E. LAND FOR SALE.

THE subscriber has for sale in Cumberland county, about 1300 acres of Land, well timbered with Pine—running through the same is a stream which affords several good mill seats, not more than three miles from an excellent landing on the north-west river of Cape Fear, about 18 miles above Fayetteville. It contains an excellent marsh and swamp, adapted to rice or indian corn. There is a sufficiency of light-wood to make two thousand barrels of merchantable Tar. The land may be had for the moderate price of one dollar per acre, either in cash or negroes.
Dec. 16. JOHN M'KETHEN.