

From the Virginia Federalist.

J. RUSSELL, of Boston, has published proposals for printing an elegant and cheap edition of Mr. Adams'...

DEFENCE

OF THE AMERICAN CONSTITUTIONS.

To the many, who are in the habit of betraying their ignorance by professing an acquaintance with, and condemning an Author they have never read—to those who mutilate and misquote him, with intent to induce the approaching election of...

"THERE never was, perhaps, a literary work so much talked of, and so little known in this part of the Union, as Mr. Adams' Defence of our Constitutions. Let candid and enlightened men judge of its merits and its defects by a temperate perusal. Let every man of honor pause before he passes sentence. Is it not to try and condemn without the common forms of justice, if any man shall, without having even seen it, hazard a condemnation of this work, and of course of the character of one of the earliest and most conspicuous men of our revolution? Let the man of charity resume his impartial principle; and before he condemns such a character, read the work.

"As far as I am capable of judging, the following appears to my mind a short outline of his main doctrine, in the 'Defence of our constitutions.' He calls his work a defence of our free governments, and it is so. These governments were censured by a M. Fugot, of France, because they had a legislature of two branches, and an independent executive. He charged, upon those who formed them, too servile an imitation of the English constitution, Mr. Adams had heard of the intended views of a faction in Massachusetts to introduce Monsieur Fugot's theory there; to abolish their separate executive and their senate; and wrote his book, vol. I to prevent this anarchy. Before he finished his volume an insurrection had actually taken place in Massachusetts, (1786) the object of which was to establish one supreme body to govern the state. The anarchyists were then, as they have since been throughout the union, defeated. In order to vindicate the established republican forms of three branches, each branch having a negative, Mr. Adams wished to review the several governments in Europe, wherein the people had any share. He and every man in America knew that we not only imitated the parts of the English government which were proper to be adopted here, to wit, a separation of the different powers of government into three branches—the complete independence of the judiciary; a bill of rights; the habeas corpus, and the inalienable trial by jury; but also continued in force the English institutions that had been heretofore adopted, and the common law of England. These principles of public policy were adopted at the same time that we wisely rejected the name, and political character of a king; a hereditary senate or nobility; and a bench of bishops. The English government was, at that time, and had been for ages, the only one in Europe where in the people had a share, and in which was to be found the principle that we had actually adopted, to wit: the division of the powers of government into the one—an executive; the few—a senate; and the many, a house of delegates, chosen immediately by the people, with a negative on each. His work was particularly a defence of the principal outlines of the government of this state (Maryland) where we have a governor; a senate, elected for five years by electors; and a house of delegates, chosen by the people immediately.

"In the vindication of such a political form and of such imitations and adoptions from the English government and civil system, Mr. Adams under a necessity of indicating the English government, as far as it bore a comparison with any at that time in Europe. Wherever his comparison takes place between that and those constitutions which he was then defending, we always, in every instance, find that he is exultingly in favor of the free constitutions of America, and adjudges the palm of glory to them; not because they are called republics, a name given to some of the most tyrannical governments at this day in Europe; but because the people were actually sovereign and free; because they chose their own governors, senators, and representatives annually; and because there were no hereditary honors, titles, offices or distinctions; and the powers of government were carefully divided—Vid I vol. 95, 6. No where does he even insinuate, that we ought to adopt hereditary first magistrates, a king, or nobility. His whole book was written for the purpose of guarding against a state of things, which might give birth to such characters in our free states. He therefore enters into the history of governments and develops the constituent qualities of every civilized and wealthy society. He shows the danger of a free government becoming aristocratical, by pointing out this truth, that in every society, which is highly civilized like ours, there are, and always will be inequalities of condition—some rich, some indigent, some fa-

mous, others obscure; that some will pride themselves on birth, others on talents; that to check their natural tendencies to aristocracy, our governments are wisely furnished with checks and balances, by the action of which, no one man nor any of those who are rich, or descended from great men, as a body, nor the general mass of citizens, as a body, shall be able to trample on each other's rights, as they invariably have done in all republics and other governments, where those natural checks and balances of power did not exist. The English constitution, in theory, has certain checks, which in a monarchy, have certainly made it less free in Europe. But its checks and balances, viz. a king and hereditary nobles, Mr. Adams does not wish to see adopted here; for, in page 71, vol. I. he says, speaking of Americans, 'they have not made their first magistrates hereditary, nor the senators; here they differ from the English constitution, AND WITH GREAT PROPRIETY.' Can language be more explicit? He thinks any government without our checks a despotism, whether called monarchy, or aristocracy, or simple democracy. He is for compounding the better features of all and each of these three, to make one free republic.

"The feature and quality of monarchy he would popularize (if such a word may be used) in our first magistrate, like a president of the United States, with a veto; but observe, he would have him elective. And that he is a friend to frequent and popular elections, see page 96 and 369; to this magistrate he would give the executive power. Thus it is given in our unrivalled federal constitution. Again, he would check this first magistrate, the monarchy feature or quality, and the representatives, the democratic part, by the aristocratic quality of society, in a senate. Here he differs from the British enologist, because he would not have this feature a hereditary body.

"Again he would have the third branch of government a house of delegates, immediately chosen by the people, to check the natural aristocracy, and the executive. He depends the free government of his country in to doing, and proudly exults in the superiority of her forms over those of every country, including the constitution of England.

"This appears to my mind, the principal outline of his work. Those among my young countrymen, whose education defines them to learned reflection, and probably to public station, will find in this work a clue to guide both to political knowledge, and to the practice of virtuous sentiment. they will find, too, that this learned and able statesman, no where substitutes an audacious philosophy in the place of religion."

TREASURY DEPARTMENT,

APRIL 21 1800.

PUBLIC NOTICE is hereby given, in pursuance of the act of Congress, passed on the first day of March, one thousand eight hundred, intitled 'An act in addition to an act, intitled, an act regulating the grants of land appropriated for military services, and for the Society of the United Brethren for propagating the Gospel among the Heathen,' as follows: 1st. All the fractional parts of the quarter townships adjoining to the Indian boundary line of the tract of land referred to in said act, except the fractional quarter townships number four in township number seven of range number twenty; also, all the fractional parts of the quarter townships adjoining to the river Seneca, except the quarter townships number one and four, in township number one of range number nineteen; the quarter townships number two and three, of township number three, in range number nineteen; and the quarter townships number one and four in township number five, of range number twenty; together with the fifty quarter townships hereafter described, are referred to be located, for the original holders of warrants granted for military services, or their heirs, in lots of one hundred acres, pursuant to the act above recited.

2d. The following is a description of the fifty quarter townships referred to in the preceding articles and which were designated by lot in the presence of the Secretary of War, pursuant to the act above recited:

Table with 10 columns: Township, Range, Township, Range, Township, Range, Township, Range, Township, Range. It lists various township and range numbers for land distribution.

3d. All the lands in each of the above fifty quarter townships, and in the fractional parts of quarter townships before described, have been divided upon the respective plats thereof, as returned by the Survey-

or General, into as many lots of one hundred acres each, as the quantity such quarter township or fraction is stated to contain will admit, in the manner pointed out and required by the above recited act.

4th. The plats divided as aforesaid into lots of one hundred acres, are deposited in the office of the Register of the Treasury where the locations are to be made; and upon surrendering the warrants which shall be thus located, patents will be issued in the manner and upon the conditions presented by law.

Given under my hand at Philadelphia, the day and year above mentioned.

OLIVER WOLCOTT, Secretary of the Treasury.

SHERIFF'S SALE.

WILL be sold on the 20th day of August next, at Elizabeth town, Bladen county, for the taxes thereon:

31.931 acres of land, lying in Bladen county, the property of John Saunders, jun. of Jones county; it being part of twelve tracts that is not listed nor given in by the proprietor, or any other person for the year 1799—it was first patented by John Gray Blount and sold for the taxes, bought by Amos Johnston, and sold by Johnston to said Saunders. Bladen, June 6, 1800. E. MORSE, Shff.

NOTICE

IS hereby given, that a general meeting of the members composing the Deep and Hatteras navigation company, will take place at the house of Mr. Olive in Haywoodborough, on the first Monday of August next, at which time all persons having any demand against said company, will please make them known. A number of lots in said town will be offered for sale on that and the following days. The terms of sale will be made known in the premises.

J. HENDERSON President.

Chatham Court House, June 21 1800

NOTICE.

AGREABLE to an order of the last May court, there will be a Fair held twice a year, on the subscriber's land, situated on the road leading from Fayetteville to Hillsborough, near Sheppa J's ford, on the Upper Little River. The said Fair will commence on the last Monday in next October, and also on the last Monday in next April.

NEILL McLEOD.

Moore county, June 2, 1800

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To the Freemen of the District of Fayetteville.

THE subscriber respectfully informs them, that he offers his services as an Elector, assuring them, (if elected) that he will endeavour to be well informed; and having the interest of our common country at heart, will give his vote accordingly. J. E. POTT'S Fayetteville, June 10 1800

COURT OF NORTH CAROLINA

HILLSBOROUGH DISTRICT

Clerk and Master's Office, May 7, 1800.

Report having been made by the assessors or other, unknown to me, that the husband of a Mater in Epury for the said district cannot be lawfully done, and that my powers are suspended in that respect, which may prove very detrimental to the suitors of this Court, and productive of consequences pernicious to my own interest: I therefore think it my duty to inform all persons concerned, that the report is not true; and that they take notice, that my office is open, and proper attention given for the dispatch of all business relative to the same as usual.

16th. ROBERT BELL, Clk & M. E.

TEN DOLLARS REWARD.

RAN away from me in the month of Robert county, the 10th of March last, a negro wench named Winny; she is about 26 years of age, very stout, squints with one eye, was born and raised in Wayne county in this state—belonged once to Robert Bell of that place—had on when she went away, a striped honeysun wrapper and petticoat, and carried with her several other articles of cloathing and two pair Scotchblankets. I think it probable that she may have made towards Turtle River in Georgia, as her husband has been taken there. The above reward and all reasonable charges will be paid to any person that will deliver her to me or secure her in any goal so that I get her again. Robert county, May 5. JOHN McPHAIL.

NOTICE is hereby given, that on the 10th day of August 1797, I executed a bond to Thomas Churchwell, late of Raleigh, for six hundred pounds; but underneath my signature, on the same paper, was written a condition to the bond, to convey to the said Thomas Churchwell, a lot in the City of Raleigh, upon his paying me the consideration money.—The terms of the contract have not, on his part been complied with, and the bond is no longer binding on me—but as he has absconded and may possibly tear off the condition and endeavour to put the bond in circulation, I think it my duty to prevent any imposition, by declaring that I will not pay the bond nor any part thereof. WILLIAM JEFFERIES.

Wake county, June 16 1800

Bladen County, June 16 1800. The Office of the Magistrate.