

# MINERVA; or, ANTI-JACOBIN.

TWO & A HALF DOLS. PER  
ANN. Payable half Yearly.

PUBLISHED (WEEKLY) BY WILLIAM BOYLAN.

TWO DOLLARS PER ANN.  
Payable in Advance.

Vol. 8.]

RALEIGH, (N. C.) MONDAY, MAY 2, 1803.

[No. 369.]

THE existence of security and liberty in a representative government, depends entirely upon the virtue and information of the people; and it is perhaps unfortunate, that a larger portion of virtue is necessary in the representative system than in any other form of government, in which man has thought proper to place his hopes and his happiness. A slight corruption of manners, whether introduced by luxury, the spirit of faction, or the arts of intriguing demagogues, soon lays the foundation of the fabric of liberty—the temporary expedients used to prop the building, crush under the unequal weight, and the founders if they exist, with every thing that is valuable to the community, are buried under its ruins. Thus the simple virtues of republicanism, have in all ages, sooner or later, become a prey to the hypocrisy, knavery and address of intriguers; we cannot flatter ourselves with the hope of always avoiding the snares into which every nation, at some period or other, has fallen. It is a duty, however, which we owe to ourselves, our posterity, and our country, to preserve the blessings of freedom and constitutional security as long as possible; and the only means of effecting this all important object, is by a frequent recurrence to the principles of our constitution, and a regular and constant diffusion of correct information. Virtue alone is not sufficient, virtue must be enlightened, and that is the sacred duty of the press.

To effect this interesting object, the editor has determined to enlarge his paper, so as to enable him, not only to give the current news, but also to embrace the most important objects of domestic nature. Debates upon interesting subjects lose their effect when spread through different numbers of a newspaper; and details to be satisfactory, should always be as complete as possible. The doings of our administration, "come home to the bosoms and business" of every man, are infinitely more important to the American citizen, than the indemnities of Germany, or the shows and spectacles of London or Paris.

The principles of the MINERVA have been steady and uniform—We believe the existing Federal Constitution to be America's last and best hope—we feel a deep and fixed conviction that when that day shall arrive, when "this result of mutual defence and concession," shall be no more, our next will be the result of chance and not of choice—we shall therefore consider it a primary duty to maintain and defend "those safe, sound and moral principles of government," which form the basis of this constitution; and we do not hesitate to avow, that the examination of the views and conduct of men in power will be a leading object of the MINERVA. The manner in which this paper has been hitherto conducted, is a pledge to the public that this examination will be fair, candid and dispassionate, "addressed to the good sense and virtue of the nation, and not a factious, profligate and unprincipled opposition" to the administration of the government.

Public measures will only be connected with private character, when the secret springs of action must be traced to the moral or physical character of the men. The characteristics, whether moral or political, of parties, connect themselves incessantly with the origin of all measures, and every movement of administration. The attention of the nation should therefore be constantly turned to this interesting object; a thorough knowledge of the elements of which a party is composed, their activity and direc-

tion, forms the rational ground of public confidence, or the measure of public contempt and detestation.

The late display in some of the states of democratic hostility to the press, will not deter the editor from a faithful discharge of his duty; he is aware that the spirit of Jacobinism, which now pervades a large part of the United States, is managed by a conclave, whose sittings are permanent, and whose engines are in perpetual activity; he is also aware that this spirit acknowledges no moral restraint, brooks no control, and calculates its enjoyments by the number of its victims; but the editor of a paper, in a free country, has an high and solemn duty to perform, and stands pledged at least for his firmness—he may want the talents of an "able editor," but in assuming the office, he has avowed that he possesses the fortitude of a sentinel, and will not desert his post in the hour of alarm or danger.

## Terms.

The price of the "Minerva; or, Anti-Jacobin," is two dollars per annum, paid in advance; or two and a half do. paid half-yearly.

The present Subscribers to the Minerva, by paying their arrears and two dollars in advance, will receive the paper one year.

Advertisements of not more than a square, inserted three weeks for one dollar, and for each insertion after, a quarter of a dollar.

The editor expects a font of new Types in the course of a few weeks, when it will be in his power to make the "Minerva; or, Anti-Jacobin," not only the cheapest, but as useful and as handsomely printed as any paper in the southern states.

From the Alexandria Advertiser.

MR. SNOWDEN.

In your paper of the 22d February, a writer under the signature of "A Farmer," has addressed to Richard Brent, Esq. and myself, as candidates at the ensuing election for a member to represent this district in the congress of the United States, several questions, to which he requests candid answers. As I have no wish to conceal from the district or from the world, any opinions which I may have formed either of public men, or measures, I shall not hesitate in complying with the wishes of the Farmer. You will therefore, please to republish the questions, in the order in which they have been offered, with my answers to each.

Question 1.—Do you approve of Mr. Jefferson's ordering the marshal of Virginia, to repay to James Thompson Callender the fine of two hundred dollars which he had received from Callender, in consequence of a verdict of a jury finding him guilty of a most malicious, wanton and scandalous libel on the president of the United States and General Washington; and of the judgment of the court fixing the fine? If you do, state your reason.

Answer.—The marshal having actually received the fine of James Thompson Callender, the money was then the property of the United States, & of course, beyond the constitutional control of the president, and any interference on his part was certainly improper.

2. Do you approve of Mr. Jefferson's paying Callender 250 dollars to enable him to write and print his book, called *The prospect before us*, in which it contained the libel for which he was fined—therein he calls General Washington a traitor to his country, and Mr. Adams a murderer and an hoary headed incendiary? If you do, give your reasons for such approbation.

Ans. I do not.

3. Do you approve of Mr. Jefferson's inviting Thomas Paine, the writer of a most abusive letter to General Washington, and the author of the *Age of*

Reason, in which he denies the existence of Jesus Christ, and reviles our holy religion—to come to this country in one of our national ships: And do you not believe Mr. Jefferson and Mr. Paine are intimate friends and affectionately attached to each other?

Ans. Whatever might have been Mr. Jefferson's attachment to Thomas Paine or his enmity to General Washington, a decent respect for the opinions of the American people, ought to have deterred the president of the United States from inviting to this country, the man whose favorite theme is the abuse of that great and good man; who is revered by his countrymen, and whose services will never be forgotten by those who are real Americans. I know nothing of Mr. Jefferson's attachment to Mr. Paine. His letter of invitation to Paine is couched in very affectionate terms.

4. Do you think that the law of the last session of congress, depriving the judges of the circuit courts of their commissions, without being convicted before the proper tribunal of misbehaviour in office, is constitutional?

Ans. I have no hesitation in believing the law unconstitutional.

5. Do you think Mr. Jefferson could constitutionally withhold from certain persons in the district of Columbia, commissions appointing them justices of the peace in that district for five years—which appointment had been approved of by the senate and commissions, signed by the late president, and left in the office of the secretary of state, to be recorded before they were delivered to the persons thus appointed, especially, when the act of the 27th February, 1801 concerning the district of Columbia, declares that the justices appointed by virtue of it shall hold their offices for five years? Ans. I do not.

6. Do you think it was expedient or just in congress, at their last session, to take the taxes off pleasure carriages, whiskey and white sugar, and to continue them on hollen tea, and brown sugar, coffee and salt?

Ans. Whenever the situation of our country will warrant the reduction of taxes, it ought to be the object of the representatives of the people to unburden those articles, which are absolutely necessary to all classes of our citizens, and to retain the taxes on the luxuries only. I, therefore, think the law unjust, as the interests of the poor are sacrificed to the convenience of the rich.

7. Do you approve of Mr. Jefferson's removing men from office, for no other reason than that of their not agreeing with him in his political opinions, and putting in their places only such as do think with him in politics; and particularly do you approve of his removing old officers and soldiers of our revolutionary war, against whom there was no complaint as to their conduct in office: such as colonel William Heath, of Petersburg, who was a valiant officer in our army, and while collector of the customs of Petersburg, acted most faithfully towards the public, and against whom Mr. Jefferson could not alledge a single fault, except that of not thinking with him in politics?

Ans. I have always been opposed to political intolerance or proscription. Whenever good men are to be driven from office, or excluded from an equal participation in our government, liberty is gone, it is but a name. I have been taught to believe that merit alone, in a republican government, was the grand pivot on which executive favour ought to turn.

8. Do you approve of the conduct of the house of representatives, refusing to request the president to give them such information as he may have received respecting the cession of Louisiana, by Spain to France, if in his opinion, it would be proper to give the information; and do you believe the president has been as attentive to this subject as he ought to have been? do you think he has ever yet officially called on the French or Spaniards, to say whether the cession has been made or not?

Ans. I think the house of representatives was entitled to every information, which it was in the power of the president to give; especially on a subject of so much importance to the interests of

this country, and one on which it was absolutely necessary for them to act. A refusal on the part of the majority to request of the president the necessary information was certainly improper. It is impossible for me to say, whether the president has ever officially called on the French or Spaniards, or what steps he may have taken in this business, being without any information on this subject.

9. Do you approve of the expence and delay of sending Mr. Munroe to Spain and France, when in each country we have ministers who have but lately left America, and who must be as competent as Mr. Munroe to negotiate on this subject.

Ans. I have always supposed the executive the best judges, in all affairs of a foreign nature.

10. Do you not think that if it is proper to send a special envoy to France or Spain, that he ought to have been sent six or nine months ago; and that the delay which the president has been guilty of in this important business, proves him to have been very inattentive to the interest of our western citizens?

Ans. I have no information on this subject; therefore, can give no opinion.

11. Do you not believe that Mr. Jefferson wrote the letter to Mazzei, in which the executive who was General Washington, is charged with endeavouring to introduce the principles of the British government into our own & with being at the head of an anglo-monarchic and aristocratic party; & do you believe the charges are true?

Ans. I believe that Mr. Jefferson did write the letter to Mazzei; and I also believe that the charges contained in it are untrue.

12. Do you not believe that Mr. Jefferson is a Deist, and if so, is he a proper person to be at the head of a people who profess themselves to be believers in Christianity?

Ans. Never having been honoured with the confidence of Mr. Jefferson, I know nothing of his religious tenets. He has been frequently and publicly charged with deistical principles, and never having deigned to contradict those charges it is fair to presume they are true. Whether he is a proper or improper person, to be at the head of a Christian people, must be answered by the people themselves, who have the same information on this subject, that I have. I think a deist an improper person to be at the head of those professing Christianity.

13. Do you not think that the democratic party in Congress, in directing monuments to be erected to the memory of certain officers who were killed during the war, after they had refused to have one erected to the memory of General Washington, shew the reason of that refusal, to wit: the expence was not the real one, but that it proceeded from a hatred to him and a wish to bury as soon as possible in oblivion, his services as a president of the United States; so that the influence which a recollection of the services might have, in opposing their views, might be soon destroyed.

Ans. I have never been in favour of the erection of monuments to the memory of any man; but certainly, if one was denied to the memory of General Washington, none ought to be granted to any other person or persons whatever; the conduct of Congress, therefore, at their last session, on this subject, meets my disapprobation.

I have thus answered concisely and candidly the questions that have been propounded to me, and I shall be pleased if they are satisfactory.

JOSEPH LEWIS, jun.

## RAN-AWAY

About the 20th of January last,

FROM the Subscriber, living in Wake, 7 miles east of the Falls of Nouse, a MULATTO MAN named

ISHAM;

19 years of age, very well grown; whose parents live with Philip Alston of Warren, where it is likely he is lurking.—A generous Reward will be given for said Mulatto Man, if delivered to me or secured in jail so that I get him again.

THOMAS ALSTON.

Wake, April 1, 1803.