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The doctrines advanced in support of the prosecution of Mr. Crowell, go so completely to destroy that right of free investigation—so completely to shield the President from all the accountability to the people, nay even to place him beyond their reach, that no man ought to be indifferent to the issue. If the principle is once established, that we have no right to make known the misdeeds of men in office, elections will be mere insulting parade. The people are to be kept in ignorance both as it respects the characters and conduct of the public servants, and thus when they vote it must be blindfolded. This is an argument which is pressed in a variety of shapes—it is one of the choicest fruits of that Bohan Opus which the democrats call the tree of liberty. Be silent and be ignorant is the privilege of the day. Let nothing concerning our rulers, unless it be the tumultuous roar of applauding sycophants, escape the lips of any man! And let him who shall dare to intrude this law of a flagitious faction, meet his reward, among thieves, robbers and murderers, in the gloomy walls of a prison—let his fate be embittered by the complaints of children crying for bread—let his misery be completed by the sighs and tears of a forlorn and helpless wife, seeking the companion of her despair. This is a picture, and a too faithful picture of that democratic liberty, which now threatens our security and repose. It suits the slave, the tool of the party to day—but, mark me, apostate! tomorrow it may be your own. Nay, there is not one of the people, who can be safe, unless he puts a bridle upon his tongue, and cringing before the meanest minion of power, like a dastard yields at once the right to think and the privilege of giving publicity to his thoughts.

Such is the system prepared for us—such is the yoke under which we are to pass, unless the spirit of the nation should be roused & the people assert their rights. Let it not, however, be imagined, that the chain of slavery, which rapidly approaches us, is presented rough, uncouth and clanging—that those who have forged it come upon us in that terrible deformity which would so naturally be expected from the atrocity of the design. Not so. Though the hissing of the serpent is heard, the cloven foot is concealed. We are to be approached by the invaders of our rights in all the plainness of republican honesty—our fears are to be soothed by a fascinating cant, while the chains are riveting—and when we wake into a knowledge of our situation, it will be like the people of France, contemplating the despotism of a Bonaparte.

If the voice of complaint can be silenced—if the truth cannot be spoken—where is your security? If, like the kings of Israel, our presidents, governors and legislators are to be considered "the Lords anointed," the interest of the people may be sacrificed—their most precious rights destroyed, who shall dare to murmur?—And if any shall dare, the desperate patriot, who raises the warning voice, will be stripped of his property by a fine, and left to ponder upon the rights of a free citizen in a dungeon—and when this cruelty is announced and deplored by any one his portion will be the same.

And why are we to submit to this degradation—to this abasement—to this complete despotism? Because, says a settled enemy to republican liberty, in the Plebeian, because the President is subject to impeachment, and if he does wrong Congress may remove him. And are not the people as fit judges whether he does wrong as the Congress? Is the power to be taken from the people entirely? Is your canting hypocrisy come to this at last?

Surely this is a base article to mislead—it has not even the semblance of argument. When under Mr. Adams the sedition law was passed, which permitted the truth to be given in evidence, the federalists tho' accused, and accused *most falsely*, or wishing to screen their President from examination, never used an argument like this. It was reserved for the friends of the people to declare you have no interest in the conduct of your President—let Congress decide—you must submit. If this is not the practical amount of the doctrine in the Plebeian, language has lost its force.

But the spirit of the constitution is not so—The safety of the people is the grand object of the federal compact, and accordingly the president is dependent upon them. At any time during the four years for which he is elected, he may indeed be impeached and removed by your representatives. But does this provision exclude the people from the investigation of his conduct and character, or is it for their greater security between the periods of election? Nay if the pretence has any foundation at all; if the people are not to be informed; if the truth is not to be published concerning our rulers; if in fine we are sufficiently secure, because the president may be impeached and removed, why the solemn mockery of an election? why not place him in the chair for life?—Or is this to be the next point, when the ground now taken is secured? If we are not permitted to discuss his merits, how are we to vote? In the name of God let us not be mocked with shadows—If we are permitted to vote, let us at least be allowed to know *why* we vote—and *whom* we vote.

But it is said if the truth is allowed as a justification, the president must attend every trial. Is this so? By the sedition law the truth might be given in evidence. The most hardened democrat dare not contradict us here. Men were indicted, tried and convicted under the sedition law. Did Mr. Adams ever attend any trials? No—not one. The libels upon him were outrageously false—it was never necessary. But perhaps our democrats are afraid that when anything is alleged against their Jefferson, it will be so satisfactorily proved that it may require his oath to counteract it. But after all, every argument on this score (allowing the silly position, that Mr. Jefferson's attendance is necessary) is drawn from *inconvenience*—while the privilege of producing one's witness—of justifying one's self by giving the truth in evidence is a *right*, an inherent, an unalienable *right*. And whatever *inconvenience* may in certain cases be felt by the president, that can never be a reason why a single individual should be deprived of his *right*—But the times are sadly changed—Yesterday we heard from our office hunting hypocrites, nothing but declamations concerning the *rights of the people*. To day they are to be sacrificed to the *convenience of the president*! And these men dare to pollute the holy name of republicanism.

But Frothingham was indicted at the instance of Gen. Hamilton. Did the defendant, did his counsel even *pretend* that he had published the truth? Was it not expressly proved that it was false? Answer apostate. And yet this case is cited to justify the prosecution of Crowell! But allowing (for argument sake) that every thing done by Gen. Hamilton then was wrong, does that make a repetition of the enormity right now. Allow, if you please, that the federalists had prosecuted men in abundance: does that justify the prosecutions of the present day. Prove first, that the mere object in controversy was whether the federalists or democrats should be the prosecutors and your arguments may have some weight. Then by your own confession, you did not contend for justice, for liberty, for the rights of citizens—you contend merely for the right to oppress—it is *selfe*—why justify your abominations, by a comparison with federal deeds which you then misrepresented to excite public odium? Even were they wrong, you cannot be right—and your arguments prove that you are already so self debased, that you arrogate no longer pre-eminence in justice—in regard for freedom—your declarations are "we possess power and it shall be *right*." Yes, this is your patriotism—this is your republicanism—"false and hollow as the heart of hypocrisy itself."

But in regard to libels the federalists have been always *inconsistent*. By the sedition act, libellers were permitted to justify themselves by giving the truth in evidence—this we gave—this is all we demand. But truth is no protection to federalists—& yet this violation of all right is pretended to be justified by *precedent*.—We have already shewn, that precedent cannot justify iniquity. But to place the merits of this controversy beyond the reach of sophistry we have also shewn, that our president was never terrified by a law, which silenced the voice of truth.

We have ever been consistent—we say *now* as we laid *then*—LET NO FREE CITIZEN BE PUNISHED FOR PUBLISHING THE TRUTH.

FOR THE MINERVA.

## ECONOMICAL ESSAYS, No. V.

### ON ICE HOUSES.

THE four numbers which preceded this essay appeared under the title of the "ECONOMICAL FARMER." As the series will be extended to embrace subjects not strictly agricultural a more comprehensive title becomes necessary.

In this climate the use of ice in summer would be a great luxury, would be beneficial to health and might be made subservient to purposes of profit. As the mode of constructing ice-houses and the method of preserving ice are little known in this country. I believe I shall render an acceptable service to the public by laying before them some correct information on that subject.

(1.) When such a portion of heat (antiferous) is abstracted from water as will reduce the mercury in Fahrenheit's thermometer to 32 degrees, the freezing point commences and it becomes ice.

(2.) The coolest situations which can be constructed in this climate in summer, will possess a temperature of 55 degrees, which is that of wells or of the earth a few feet below the surface. (3.) Ice possesses the singular property of retaining other bodies in contact with it at the same temperature at which its fluidity commenced. (4.) The power of air to conduct heat is greatly increased by moisture. (5.) Some substances transmit heat freely, as metals and are called conductors of heat; others with difficulty, as wool, fur, straw, &c. and are called non-conductors. These principles are to be remembered and applied in the construction of ice-houses.

The best situation for an Ice-house is the north side of a hill near the top. It can be shaded and at the same time open to the free admission of air, it is to be preferred, but the benefit of shade will not make amends for the ill effects of confined air. Dig a pit twelve feet square at top, ten at bottom, and nine feet deep. The earth thrown out may be laid round the mouth of the pit to make a part of this depth. The bottom of the pit must be on a small declivity to one corner where there must be a drain. From this a small spout must proceed to carry off the water. This spout should descend considerably from the pit, except near its outward extremity, where it should ascend a little, and form a curve that would exceed by something the diameter of the pipe, so that the depressed part or bottom of the curve will always stand full of water, which will prevent the admission of external air. Dig holes in the bottom of the pit and set therein four perpendicular corner posts, and an intermediate one on each side. These posts will form a square of eight feet in the middle of the pit; but it must be noticed that they do not come in contact with the sides of the pit. Let three or four sleepers supported at the ends be laid across the square included by the posts, their upper edges about a foot from the bottom, but declining so that the floor may have a descent of a few inches towards the drain. The plank for the floor, should be narrow and two inches thick, should be jointed and made if possible water tight. The floor must extend a little without the inner sides of the posts, so that the water dripping from the mats of ice laid on it may fall on the floor. Then fix a plank or spout at the lower end of the floor to convey the water to the drain. The floor being completed begin at the bottom and plank up on the insides of the posts with thin plank, lapping the lower edge of each on the one below so that the water may be kept on the inside. This done to the top of the posts (which should be even with the top of the pit) the inside will be complete except that a layer of loose plank or straw will be proper on the floor previous to putting in the ice. A roof may now be put over it in any manner that will defend the contents of the pit from rain and from the direct rays of

the sun, and at the same time admit a free circulation of air; or a house 15 feet square may be erected over the pit, the walls of which may be 3 or 4 feet high, & rooted in the usual manner; there should be lattice windows in the roof and gable ends; and the eaves should be left open, or a thatched roof raised 2 or 3 feet on posts would answer nearly as well, and the expence would be trifling. The door should always be on the north side.

Early in the winter the interstices between the ice chamber and the bank should be filled with sound, dry, clean straw, closely pressed; this should be done early to prevent the bank from freezing. If it should be certain that the floor is water tight, the space under the floor should be filled with straw, or what would be better a quantity of straw should be supported against the floor, leaving a space between that and the bottom of the pit. If the bottom of the pit is a moist soil, it should be covered a few inches deep with sand.

Charcoal is known to chemists to be one of the weakest conductors of heat. It would no doubt be preferable to straw to surround the ice chamber, but the experiment we believe has never been tried.

The ice should be collected in the coldest weather, and be exposed one night to the air after taken from the water, which will reduce its temperature several degrees. It should then be beaten small, and while putting into the house, should be occasionally sprinkled with water and then beaten together to make it compact. When the chamber is filled cover the whole very thick with straw.

Such a house as is here described will contain ten tons. It may be built at an expence not exceeding 20 or 25 dollars. Those who are not particular with regard to expence may plank up the sides of the pit, and cover it with a roof suited to their fancy.

At Mrs. Marshall's tavern, on Gloucester point, near Philadelphia, an ice house is built within a few steps of the dwelling-house in an open situation, on low ground and near the margin of an extensive drained meadow. The pit was dug 5 feet deep, then filled 2 feet with logs and straw upon them. The body of the house was lined and the roof covered with slabs. The body of ice was 9 feet high (6 feet above the ground) & was surrounded with straw in contact with it; the ice was of the size of apples. In the year 1797, sixty cart-loads (of a one horse cart) filled it; and in the following 27 such loads supplied the tavern until the last of August. In 1798 and 1799, this house contained so much ice that it kept during the whole summer and until the Delaware was frozen over in the following winter.

In Sicily Count S. oburg and Mr. Brydone, say, that snow is laid up instead of ice and is preferred to it. The snow must be hard packed.

For further information respecting ice houses, the reader is referred to a valuable pamphlet on that subject lately published by Mr. Thomas Moore, of Maryland, from which much of the preceding was extracted.

The uses to which ices may be applied in summer, are various. The ice creams are perhaps the greatest delicacies, but ice punch will find many admirers. Brydone says one of the greatest cordials to the spirits in the hot season in Sicily is ice or iced water, and asserts that it has cured the consumption. Both Brydone and Stolburg say that it is much prescribed in fevers by the Italian physicians. The Ice Magazine will be useful in preserving Butchers meat, creams, milk, liquors, &c. A Salmon weighing 60 pounds was in the hottest weather in July kept 8 days entire in an ice house, and when dressed appeared as if just caught; it was laid on the bed of ice with a thin scattering of straw interposed and was turned every day.

Mr. Moore has invented a Portable Refrigeratory for carrying butter to market. This consists of a cedar vessel, and another of tin to be placed in it, but so as to leave room between the two vessels to introduce ice, a rim of wood was made to extend to the edges of both vessels, a lid was fitted at the top, and the whole was then covered with a case made