

# MINERVA; or, ANTI-JACOBIN.

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We lately took an opportunity to give some remarks on Mr. Jefferson's Message, from the London Courier. This we did for the purpose of showing, that though sycophants may write his eulogium here, and procure its original insertion in an English paper, so that it may be re-exported and dealt out in his own prints as the sentiments of foreigners—yet that real Englishmen hold a very different language. Presuming he has by this time digested the piece from the LONDON COURIER, we now present him with a choice morsel from the LONDON ORACLE. [N. Y. E. Post.]

## AMERICA.

IN our paper some days ago, we presented to our readers the Message sent by President Jefferson to the Representatives of America, at the opening of the Congress.—Official communications of this nature from any government are always most interesting, because they develop the principles and system of policy upon which that Government means to act. It would be interesting for us to know the precise system which any state (not now engaged in war) has chosen to adopt, how infinitely more interesting is it to know the system of that nation which takes more of our manufactures than the whole Continent of Europe, and whose rapid increase, both in population and wealth, requires every year, that we are at peace with them, considerable increased importation of British goods. In a commercial point of view, America is of more consequence to us than Europe, and the increasing consumption and demand for our manufactures in that part of the world, promise to compensate amply for every injury that the power of France can possibly do to British commerce on the continent of Europe. As it is therefore of the utmost consequence to us to preserve peace and friendship with America, it is therefore highly important that we know and perfectly understand the temper and disposition of its present Government. When Mr. Jefferson was elected President, his election was universally considered as a triumph obtained by the French party in America over the friends of England. His presidency, however, will soon expire, and the new election will show whether the general opinion is not correct, that the French party has considerably lost ground in America since he was chosen the President. Indeed the debates in Congress of the present session will show in a great degree the temper of the Americans, and we trust that that temper will be found to be in our favour of that glorious cause, for which England is now contending single-handed against France. At present, we have only to offer some observations upon Mr. Jefferson's speech which, upon a consideration as attentive as the importance of the subject demands, appears plainly to us to evince that partiality for France which he was always supposed to entertain. In order that our readers may judge whether we have not drawn a fair conclusion, we shall select some of the most important passages of this speech. In the course of the summer the President had concluded two treaties respecting boundaries; one was the treaty by which France sold Louisiana for 15 millions of dollars, when it was most evident that she could not have kept it for six months; the other was a treaty by which the boundaries between the Northern part of the U. States and the British territories were settled.

In announcing the line of policy that he conceives America should follow, he uses these expressions, "to exact from every nation the observance to our vessels and citizens of those principles and practices acknowledged by all civilized nations: to merit the character of a just nation, and maintain that of an independent one, and prevent every consequence to insult or habitual wrong." We cannot find any fault with these sentiments, but we do not construe favourably to England that last phrase, "habitual wrong." As to sudden violence, such as was done upon the vessels and citizens of America at New-Orleans; that appeared to the President no ground of quarrel, it could be better settled by the payment of 15 millions of dollars! or when again, the enlightened French government had conceived the enlightened and pious project of exterminating in St. Domingo the negro population which had defended it during the war; there, when under the immediate orders of our brother-in-law, Leclerc, and his successor Rochambeau, the ships of America have been subject to the most arbitrary confiscations and embargoes; and sometimes forced to carry to their own country, or to crown those blacks which the French

Generals wanted to get rid of; this was no ground of quarrel against the enlightened Government of France, and probably did not come under the President's idea of "habitual wrong."

The manner that the President informs the Congress of these treaties is this: in speaking of the sale of Louisiana, he announced it thus: "The enlightened Government of France saw with just discernment the importance to both nations of such liberal arrangements as might best and permanently promote the peace, friendship and interests of both." For our parts we cannot see wherein the French Government had deserved of America this compliment of being called the enlightened Government of France; but of this we are very sure, that if this enlightened Government of France had not been on the point of a rupture with England, and had not felt that it could not defend Louisiana against the enthusiasm of the Militia of the Western States or against a British expedition, they would never have sold their country for 15 millions of dollars, nor have given Mr. JEFFERSON, an opportunity of boasting to the Quakers of Pennsylvania that he took with 15 millions of dollars a country that the Kentucky Volunteers were going to take by the arm of flesh, and the sword of war; or which, if they had not taken, G. Britain certainly would, and would probably have made them a present of. In announcing the boundary treaty concluded with Great-Britain there is no mention made of our enlightened Government, or of any permanent friendship and reciprocal interests wished for; he announces that treaty in the following manner:—"A further knowledge of the ground in the North East or North West angles of the United

States has proved that the boundaries established between the British territories and those of the United States, at the treaty of Paris, were too imperfectly described to be susceptible of execution: it has therefore been thought worthy of attention for preserving and cherishing the harmony and useful intercourse between the two nations, to remove by friendly arrangements what unfavourable incidents might render a ground of future misunderstanding." Harmony and useful intercourse are certainly weaker terms than permanent peace, friendship, and mutual interest, which were applied to the French treaty. If Mr. Jefferson really think the term "enlightened" is applicable to, and merited by, the present Government of France, all the world must agree, that he is partial to the French interest: if he do not think that the French Government deserves that title, and yet chooses to bestow it merely as a compliment he might have bestowed his compliments equally on our Government, whatever was his private opinion.

If, after this conduct, France deserves to be complimented by America, we cannot conceive that any thing she may do in future will be considered by Mr. Jefferson as "habitual wrong." After expressing the determination for America, that she will prefer any consequences to insult or habitual wrong, he seems to show a compassion mixed with contempt for European nations that conceive themselves bound to act in the same manner. After acknowledging with proper gratitude the goodness of Providence to his country, in keeping it out of the war, he expresses "great pity for the ravages of the war; and, while he regrets the miseries of other nations, he considers it the duty of every American citizen to look on the bloody arena that is spread before us, with commiseration indeed, but with no other wish than to see it closed." Now, as we happen most totally to disagree and dissent from every word of the sentiments expressed by the President in the latter part of his speech, we must give our reasons for so dissenting. In the first place, although the American people have in common with all other nations cause to express their acknowledgments for the blessings of Providence, they are wrong if they suppose they have an exclusive right to express such gratitude; this country too, has been as highly favoured by Providence as any other nation on the globe. As to the pity of Mr. Jefferson, we really do not conceive ourselves to be objects of pity. We think the situation of England rather a proud one, contending single-handed for the liberty of the world, against an ambitious Usurper, who knows no law but conquest. If Mr. Jefferson's pity is for the number of lives lost in the contest, he must be under misapprehension; he may reserve his

pity for his own nation, for it is a certain fact, that the favoured country of America has lost in the course of the year ten times as many of her citizens by the yellow fever as Great-Britain by the war. We do not know where this bloody arena he speaks of exists; the war appears hitherto to have been almost a bloodless war. This bloody arena that he speaks of does not exist either in the West-Indies or America when we have taken St. Pierre, Miquelon, Demary, Essequibo, Berbice and Tobago, without the loss of a single life on either side; when the only blood which has been spilt was at St. Lucia, where the obstinacy of the French General gave an opportunity to our troops of showing their courage, and setting an example to the world of British generosity, in sparing every man of the garrison of a fort taken by storm.

The enlightened government of France, as he calls it, is also on the point of losing St. Domingo, and that great event too is likely to take place without the loss of a life on either the French or English side; but on the contrary, in a manner likely to preserve the lives of many thousands of Frenchmen, as well as the negroes of the Island. Humanity has not been wounded by our conquests in that petty affair at St. Lucia: the noble example of generosity shewn to a conquered enemy, thro' such a bright veil of glory over the exploit, as fully compensated Great-Britain for the loss of 100 men. All the other conquests of England have been almost bloodless. Mr. Jefferson seems to consider the present contest between England and the enlightened government of France, as merely a common quarrel, which he only wishes to be soon put an end to. We also wish for peace, but not a moment before France shall be convinced of its inability to conquer this country, and shall consent to give up that domineering tone with which she has so long insulted the weaker powers. When the government of France shall really be so enlightened as to abandon those ambitious projects of universal conquest that she has so long entertained, and content herself with cultivating the natural fertility of her soil, and those peaceful arts of commerce which bind nations together by their reciprocal wants and reciprocal good offices, that, and not a moment sooner, we wish to see the bloody arena of war ever closed, while all the nations of the world, free and independent, know no other rivalry but that of who shall contribute most, by their industry or their genius, to advance the interests and happiness of the human race.

## From the GAZETTE of the U. STATES.

THE letter of Judge Brackenridge, in this day's Gazette, and the proceedings of our House of Representatives upon it, deserve and will doubtless receive much attention. It should be stated for the information of our readers out of the state, that Judge Brackenridge is a democrat, who, before his appointment to the bench, had signalized himself by many flagrant acts of hostility to the Washington system of politics, and had therefore rendered himself very dear to those who are now in power. The other three Judges of the Supreme Court have always been federalists. Judge Brackenridge was present in court at the time that Passmore was attached and committed, and fully concurred with the other Judges in the sentence. This fact was well known to the committee who reported in favour of impeaching the other Judges, as well as to the public: yet no notice was taken of him in their report, nor in any other proceedings upon the subject.—The others are federalists.—He is a democrat.—Yet, like some other democrats, he appears to have a presentiment, that all men distinguished from the rabble by talents or learning or wealth, will soon be proscribed and destroyed; that though federal Judges are to be first demolished, all Judges must ultimately follow, or else render themselves subservient to the worst of passions and the worst of men. Under these impressions he seems ambitious of falling in the company of honourable men. His prayer, like that of the refractory and democratic Balaam, is, "Let me die the death of the righteous, and let my last end be like his." In this, however, it seems he is not to be indulged. The committee, to the enormity of their proceeding, assert that "his acknowledgment of concurring in the judg-

ment pronounced against Thomas Passmore, is too equivocal and ambiguous upon which to predicate an accusation of a high misdemeanour in office."

Let us examine this assertion. The Judge declares that he was present, and adds—"I gave the case all the consideration I could at the time, and three-fourths of the court, who had heard all, declaring themselves fully satisfied, I saw no reason to warrant a dissent, BUT CONCURRED."—Is this equivocal?—Is this ambiguous?—No; but the Judge is a democrat and must not be impeached. Impeachments are for your Addisons, your Chases, your Shippens, Yateses and Smiths, who are all federalists. Brackenridge, however, has now offended and must be removed though not impeached. He has detected the gross and flagrant partiality which seems to have dictated the measures of the committee of grievances and of the house, and has severely reproached them with it. "I think it absolutely necessary," says he, "for the credit of the republican administration, that I should not be distinguished."—The committee knew that this declaration, coming from a democrat of Judge Brackenridge's standing would have great weight in the minds of all honest men of that party, and would convince the world that the object of their persecuting fury is men, not measures.—This is the head and front of his offending.—*Hinc ille lachryma.*

LANCASTER, 24th March, 1804.

The following is a copy of Judge Brackenridge's letter, read in the House of Representatives yesterday, and which no doubt will much excite the public attention."

PHILADELPHIA, March 22d, 1804.

To the Honourable the Speaker of the House of Representatives of Pennsylvania.

SIR,

"I have seen a report of the honourable the House of Representatives, on the complaint of Thomas Passmore against all the Judges of the Supreme Court of this state, myself, excepted, for a judgment on an attachment against the said Passmore on an illegal contempt of the administration of justice, and which report your honourable house has adopted, and proceeded to act upon it. I was not upon the bench when the motion was made for a rule to shew cause in this case why an attachment should not issue, the motion having been made on the last day of Sept. term, 1802, when I had left the city on account of yellow fever which had begun to prevail, and the motion having been heard before the Judges residing in the city or near it, and who met on that day for the purpose of hearing motions only, nor was I on the bench when the arguments on the facts of the law, took place, and the rule for the attachment was made absolute, having returned from a special court at the county of Northumberland by the way of Carlisle, the place of my residence, and but a few days intervening, so that I did not take my place on the bench until some days after the beginning of the term, but I was present on the third and last hearing of the case when some additional evidence was given and observations made, the presumption may have been that I did not take a part, and doubtless I might reasonably have excused myself; but I cannot say that I did not take a part, I gave the case all the consideration I could at the time, and three-fourths of the court who had heard all, declaring themselves fully satisfied, I saw no reason to warrant a dissent, but concurred: I cannot therefore distinguish my case in law from that of the other Judges, and in honour I would not; I am far from avoiding or courting a prosecution, but am unwilling to incur the imputation of screening myself when in strictness equally liable; but I think it absolutely necessary for the credit of the republican administration that I should not be distinguished; as there can be no stronger evidence than a man's own acknowledgment,—the house will find no difficulty in a resolution to add my name to the list of impeached officers.

"With the highest respect for the honourable house, and your speaker.

"I am, Sir,  
Your most obedient  
Humble servant,

(Signed) "H. H. BRACKENRIDGE."