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MESSAGE No. II.

From His Excellency the Governor, delivered to the Legislature of South-Carolina, on the 11th May, 1804.

To the Honorable the President, and Members of the Senate.

HONORABLE GENTLEMEN,
At the request of the Hon. Pierce Butler, Esq. one of the Senators from this State in the Congress of the United States, I have the honor to lay before you two letters which I have received from him. I think it my duty to comply with his request thus early, as they contain sentiments respecting the resolution of Congress upon the proposed Amendment of the Constitution of the United States, which I have just caused to be laid before you.

I have the honor to be,
With high respect,
Your most obedient,
JAMES B. RICHARDSON.
Columbia, May 11, 1804.

Federal City, December 6, 1803.

SIR,

A resolution passed Senate on Friday last, which will be sent to the several States for their approbation; the object of it is, to authorise the Electors to designate in voting for a President and Vice-President; to this resolution I have been opposed; it becomes my duty to state to the Legislature of my own State why I am opposed to it. First, I like the Constitution as it stands, much better than the proposed alteration. The Convention in fixing on two names to be indiscriminately voted for, felt an anxiety to guard against the evils attending an elective chief magistracy as have been felt in Poland. While two distinguished citizens are indiscriminately voted for, party heat will not be so great as by having single opposite champions, running in direct opposition to each other; the attachment to an individual gives birth to heat and turbulent passions, which are in a degree checked by an indiscriminate vote for two persons, each party having this consoling hope, that if their candidate does not succeed to the chief magistracy, he will, by being Vice-President, be in the road to it. If the alteration is agreed to, the small States, in which number South-Carolina is ranked, never will give either a President or Vice-President to the Union. Large States can then combine secretly, and give a President and Vice-President for ever. Four States send seventy-four members to the House of Representatives; the whole number of Representatives is one hundred and forty-three. In the mode pointed out by the Constitution, there can be no combination as to a Vice-President, for in that case, the choice of the smaller States might step in and give a President. The ostensible reason assigned by the advocates of the proposed alteration, is to prevent a repetition of the disgraceful scene, so degrading to republican government, that took place at the last election; there is no honest man whose pulse does not beat high on that occasion, but the probability of three ever again being two names equal on the highest number, is so remote as not to justify an alteration so materially affecting the sovereignty of States; so remote is it that if Doctor Price, who was said to be better read in the doctrine of chances than any other man in Europe, could rise from his grave, he would probably tell us that it is the nearest to impossibility its ever taking place again. We all recollect the course of this extraordinary circumstance too well to need my detailing it: it is much to be apprehended, that in a paroxysm of discontent or resentment, some of the States may be hurried into an approbation of a measure, without allowing time to view it in all its bearings, which, in the end, they may have cause to regret.

I have another reason which had an influence on me in opposing the contemplated alteration, and which my duty obliges me, however unpleasant, to make known to the legislature, the more so, as the guardianship in senate, of the sovereign rights of South-Carolina, is solely in my hands: I had not long been in senate, since my last election, before I perceived a combination among certain large states, unfair in itself, and dangerous in its consequences, to the rights of other states; they hold evening meetings to decide what shall take place or prevail in senate. Into this combination they have drawn two or three of the small states, and by this combination nothing is suffered to come fairly before senate, that is not either brought forward by one of the party, or has not their previous sanction—

to such a state of things I could not—I cannot—I will not submit—without expressing both my concern and disapprobation—concern, because I expected a very different conduct from gentlemen with whom I hoped to have been in unison—disappointment at finding these men, who, before a revolution in the public mind took place, possessed a jealous regard for equal rights; now in power, the first to subvert the principles which they wished to be thought the advocates of.

I request, sir, you will lay this letter and a copy of it, before the two houses. I will indulge a hope that the legislature may not, by any present impressions, be hurried into a measure which places the state on an unequal footing in the confederacy.

I have the honor to be,
with consideration and regard,
Your Excellency's most obed't,
P. BUTLER.

His Excellency Governor Richardson.

PHILADELPHIA April 3, 1806.

Dear Sir,

Looking over a copy of my letter to you of December 6, which letter I requested you to lay before the legislature, I observe one departure from grammar, which I will thank you to amend before the letter is sent to the legislature. I will quote the sentence to save you the trouble of looking over the whole letter:

"The attachment to an individual, gives birth to heat and turbulent passions, which is in a degree checked by an indiscriminate vote for two persons."

I do not know your sentiments on the proposed alteration of the constitution. Your station as governor—your having advocated personal rights since you entered into public life, must give great weight to any opinion you may give on this very interesting question. Intrigue itself cannot have the impudence, if truth is at all regarded, to call it a party question. It is truly a question of state rights; or rather an improper attempt by a few states, under the spacious garb of republicanism, to rob other states of their rights and rank in the confederation. The honour of saving these states from degradation, is reserved for South-Carolina—she will thus become the Thebes of America. If South-Carolina gives her sanction to the proposed alteration, she ratifies forever her own degradation, as well as that of other states. If the alteration succeeds, the Vice-Presidency will forever become an article for sale, barter, or exchange, by a combination of a few states. "Throw your votes into our scale for a President, and you may name the Vice President." Thus the Vice-President, instead of being the second most estimable character in the Union, as is contemplated by the constitution, as it now stands, will be the creature, the offspring of intrigue. In the event of the death of a President, how dreadful would the situation of the country become under the government of such a Vice-President as this intriguing innovation will, nineteen times in twenty, give to the Union.

South-Carolina has, and justly, the reputation of embracing as many enlightened, well educated citizens as any state in the Union—can there be a reflecting mind in the state, who does not foresee the effect of the proposed alteration? There cannot. In a few years, when party heat subsides, if it ever will subside, I would venture to risk my reputation and life on it, that several of the states, who have allowed themselves to be hurried by the spirit of party, into an approbation of the measure, would devoutly thank South Carolina for saving them from the snare laid for them—from the degradation into which they are hurrying themselves. I yesterday was assured by very good authority, that governor Fenner of Rhode-Island, did all in his power to prevent the adoption of the alteration by Rhode Island; but in consequence of some federalists being active in opposing it, the republicans said it must be a good thing.—Such is the hurry into which party heats sometimes hurry men. South-Carolina has a favorable opportunity to distinguish herself for possessing true patriotism, and calm, clear judgment. God Almighty grant that she may embrace the opportunity.

I regret exceedingly that the state of my health does not permit of my return to Carolina. If my worthy colleague and myself were called before the legislature to give a statement of public measures, public relations, and private combinations, I am well satisfied that we should not differ in our statements—but alas! my health permits

not of my being in the way of discharging this duty. I have the honor to be,
With great consideration & esteem,
Dear Sir, your most obedient,

P. BUTLER.
I received the letter you favored me with, covering your communication to the legislature, for which I return you my best thanks.

Perusing this letter over, I see nothing in it that I can wish to be secret; you are therefore at liberty to make what use you think proper of it.

From the American Daily Advertiser.

Mr. POULSON,

The following excellent original paper on various important agricultural subjects, has already been published in various forms in the United States, and in Europe, & has deservedly excited very general attention.—As however some may not have yet seen it, and as the great truths it sets forth, are intimately connected with the farming interest, I request you will again give it insertion. The philosophical speculator into the theory of vegetation, cannot fail of being gratified by the development of principles, which have unfortunately been too little attended to in this country, but the practical farmer will apply the important doctrines, to the preservation of the quality of his grain, and no longer give into the absurd notions, which have too generally prevailed among our agricultural citizens, respecting the inevitable deterioration of seed sown on the same ground, and the necessity of frequently renewing our seed from remote places.

Copper's Point, 17th April, 1799.

RESPECTED FRIEND,

Kind providence having placed me in a station of life which obliged me to procure a living by industry, and that principally in the agricultural line, it has caused me to be a strict observer of the works of nature, with respect to such parts of the vegetable creation as have come under my particular notice, and have been greatly embarrassed at the opinion very generally entertained by farmers and gardeners, that changing seeds, roots and plants to distant places, or different soils or climates, is beneficial to agriculture, not agreeing with my observations on practice. This induced me to make many experiments on that head, all of which, in more than 40 years practice, have operated to prove to my satisfaction, that the above opinion is not well founded, and if so, must be extremely prejudicial to agriculture, as it turns the attention of the husbandman from what appears to me one great object, viz. that of selecting seeds & roots for planting or sowing, from such vegetables as come to the greatest perfection in the soil which he cultivates.

What induced me to make experiments on that head, was observing that all kinds of vegetables were continually varying in their growth, quality, production and time of maturity. This led me to believe that the great Author of nature, has so constructed that wonderful machine, if I may be allowed the expression, as to incline every kind of soil and climate to naturalize all kinds of vegetables, that it will produce at any rate, the better to suit them, if the agriculturists will do their part in selecting the most proper seed.

In support of which I will take the liberty of subjoining a few facts and experiments out of an inconceivable number which have all combined to prove the above to my satisfaction.

In or about the year 1746, my father procured the seeds of the long warty squash, which have been kept on the farm ever since without changing, and are now far preferable to what they were at first. Our early pease were procured from London the spring before Braddock's defeat, and have been planted successively every season since on the place. They have not been changed and are now preferable to what they were when first obtained. The seed of our asparagus was procured from New-York, in the year 1752, since which time I have not planted a seed but what grew on my beds, and by selecting the seed, from the largest stalks I have improved it greatly.

A complaint is very general, that potatoes of every kind degenerate, at which I am not surprised, when the most proper means to produce that effect is constantly practised; to wit, using or selling the best, and planting the refuse; by which means

almost the whole of those planted are the produce of plants the most degenerated. The consideration of which induced me to try an opposite method. Having often observed that some plants or vines produced potatoes larger, better shaped, and in greater abundance than others, without any apparent reason except the operation of nature, it induced me to save a quantity from such only for planting the ensuing season, and I was highly gratified in finding their production exceed that of others of the same kind, planted at the same time, and with every equal advantage, beyond my expectation. In size, shap and quantity; this induced me to continue the practice; and I am satisfied that I have been fully compensated for all the additional trouble.

A circumstance happened respecting potatoes, which may be worth relating: a woman whom I met in market requested me to bring half a bushel of sweet potatoes for seed the next market day, which I promised to do, but going through the market on that day, previous to her son's coming for the potatoes, I observed the woman selling such as I had brought for her; when the boy came, I asked him the reason they wanted potatoes for seed, while they were selling their own; his answer was, that his father said that if they did not get seed from me once in three or four years, their potatoes would be good for nothing.—Query, if he had used the same means in selecting his potatoes for planting as I did, whether he would have profited by changing with one who used the other method.

In discoursing with a friend who lived at a great distance from me on the above subject, he introduced two instances in favour of changing seed, one was asparagus, the radish seed, he had from me, the production of both he said was preferable to any thing of the kind ever seen in that neighbourhood which was near 100 miles distant, to which he ascribed the benefit; but in two or three years the radishes degenerated so as to be no better than what he had before; I asked his method of saving seed, he said he had no other radishes in his garden, and when he had pulled what was fit for use let the other go to seed. I then told him my method, viz.—As soon as radishes are fit for use, I dig up ten or twelve of those which please me best, as to colour, shape, &c. and plant them at least 100 yards from where any others bloom at the time they do—this, I informed him, was the best method I knew of to improve any kind of vegetables, varying the process agreeable to their nature; and as he had, in my opinion, taken the most proper method to degenerate his, I asked if he thought I should be benefitted by exchanging with him? his answer was, he believed I was the best gardener.

In or about the year 1772, a friend sent me a few grains of a small kind of Indian corn, the grains of which were no larger than a goose shot, which he informed me by a note in which they were inclosed were originally from Guinea, produced from 8 to 10 ears on a stalk. Those grains I planted, and found the production to answer the description, but the ears were small, and few of them ripened before I saved some of the largest and earliest, and planted them between rows of larger and earlier kinds of corn, which produced a mixture to advantage; then I sowed seed from stalks that produced the greatest number of the largest ears, and first ripe, which I planted the ensuing season, and was not little gratified to find its production preferable, both in quantity and quality, to that of any corn I had ever planted. This kind of corn I have continued to plant ever since, selecting that designed for seed in the manner I would wish others to try, viz.—When the first ears are ripe enough for seed, gather a sufficient quantity for early corn, or for replanting, and at the time you wish your corn to ripen generally, gather a sufficient quantity for planting the next year, having particular care to take it from stalks that are large at bottom, of a regular taper, not over tall, the ears set low containing the greatest number of good sizeable ears of the best quality; let it dry speedily, and from the corn gathered as last described, plant your main crop, and if any hills should miss, replant from that first gathered, which will cause the crop to ripen more regularly than is common; this is a great benefit.

The above method I have practised many years, and am satisfied it has increased the quantity, and improved the quality of my crops beyond the expectation of any person who has not tried the experiment.