

# MINERVA; or, ANTI-JACOBIN.

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From the Charleston Courier.

Then NEBUCHADNEZZAR the King sent to gather together the princes, the governors and the captains, the judges, the treasurers, the counsellors, the sheriffs, and all the rulers of the provinces, to come to the dedication of the image which NEBUCHADNEZZAR the King had set up.

Then the princes, the governors and the captains, the judges, the treasurers, the counsellors, the sheriffs, and all the rulers of the provinces, were gathered together unto the dedication of the image which NEBUCHADNEZZAR the King had set up.

DANIEL. 3d chap. 2d and 3d vers.

Your strenuous exertions in the cause of true republicanism, entitle you to the respect and gratitude of the people of America in general, and particularly of the citizens of this state. To be zealous in a good cause is creditable; but to be animated with unabating zeal in a cause after it has become unpopular, is virtuous; and to struggle manfully against the tide of faction and popular folly as you do, even though you should not be able to stem it, cannot fail to recommend you to all the good and wise men of this day, of every party, and hereafter to the whole union, when the cloud of delusion which darkens our political hemisphere shall have been dissipated by the efforts of men of your description, by time and reflection, or, what is more probable, by the outrageous and enormous conduct of our present band of demagogues; when on some future day blinded with success, dizzy with unexpected elevation, and rendered fearless by impunity, they shall (as they will) throw off the mask, and aim the last blow which successful demagogues always strike at the liberties of the country whose political and private morals they have perverted to licentiousness.

But though your exertions do credit to you, they will not, they can not, I fear, yet do any material service to the country.—That source of salutary public measures, the public judgment, is poisoned—the majority of the people are taught to view every thing with perverted optics, the public mind is deranged, and until this calenture of the people's brain shall have subsided, you may as well reason with a madman, as hope to effect any happy change in the opinion of the multitude. You may make a diurnal record of your laudable feelings, but you can not, yet awhile, do more. If any man denies this, you may offer a thousand proofs of it. Can that people be less than madly infatuated, and destitute of a ray of reason, who can yield themselves up so far to blind credulity, as to believe or to tolerate the gross imposition of those who call themselves republicans, while they exercise a degree of intolerance and despotism over opinion, not inferior to that which the Popish church exercised over the first reformers, or the vile Protestant ascendancy of Ireland have for centuries exercised over the unhappy Roman Catholics of that country. Does a man speak or write against the practices of the existing administration, he is held up by the agents of the party to public odium; denounced as a foe to the country, and but that fortunately the law does not yet allow it, would in all probability be assassinated, or committed to the care of such another popular tribunal as that which has tried and condemned the Duke De Eghien, in France. It may come to that yet. The people will then know what they owe to such exertions as yours.

The sagacious Mr. Curran, in one of his admirable speeches in the King's Bench Court of Ireland, advised those who wished to bring home to the heart a proper sense of a general extended system of oppression, to select a particular instance of it: "Select a single instance," said he. To bring the truth of my averments home to the heart and understanding, I will select an instance.

A letter is written to the governor of this state, to be laid before the legislature. The governor, as in duty bound, presents it. It is read. A member moves to have it thrown under the table. I beg your attention, Mr. Editor, while I canvass this point, and submit to you for the public a few observations upon this curious transaction: Who & what the writer is; what the letter, and its nature, and what the motives and pretensions of the mover; and then leave it to be judged by any one having as much feeling as an oyster, and as much intellect as a horse or an ass, whether any intolerance of the darkest times could surpass that which is exercised in this country, or the worst blindness of the most superstitious ages

could be better than that of a majority of the people of America at this day.

First, who wrote the letter? Not a man of inferior consequence in the union, not a man of straw, not a simple undistinguished citizen, not even a member of an inferior state legislature—but a man raised by his patriotic conduct to an elevated rank in the union, a man for many years honored with the good opinions and gratitude of the commonwealth for his services, a man who nobly abandoned rank and honors at home, in the service of his own king and country, to join us, and manfully fighting with us in our most glorious and virtuous cause; severing himself from his brethren, his countrymen, and his fellow soldiers, because he viewed them as oppressors, to unite with us the oppressed. A man for that and the services of many years, raised by the people of this country to the high rank of a member of its highest national council, enjoying the confidence of the people, and its fruits, a seat in congress.

What was his letter? Having, in obedience to the dictates of his conscience, taken a particular line of conduct on a great question in congress, he conceives it to be his duty to explain to his constituents or electors, the legislature of this state, his motives for doing so. As member of congress for South-Carolina, he was bound by every tie, moral, religious and political, to guard her separate state interests. And his morals, his religion, and his politics, not setting so lose upon him as upon those who have sacrificed their country to a faction, to a name, to a Nebuchadnezzar's idol, he so far abandons a party which he had before supported, and votes against a measure which he thinks fraught with mischief; and not only to account for his taking that decided part, but to induce the state of which he, as member in congress, is the political guardian, he writes a letter to his constituents, giving them his sentiments upon the subject.

Now if the person who wrote the letter were only the humblest citizen in the state, (if it be indeed a republic) he would have a right to give his opinion. As one of the men whose labor and blood procured us independence, his advice, were he even in private retired life, ought to be heard, and respected. But being (as Mr. Butler is) the representative of the state in congress, nothing can be conceived more clear or well founded than his right to be heard—respectfully, attentively heard. But how has he been treated? A member, a young man not known in the revolution, gets up and moves to have the letter thrown under the table. Good God! the letter of Pierce Butler, member in congress for South-Carolina, to be thrown contemptuously under the table upon the motion of a young member!!! Is Mr. Taylor a monarchist? he will say not. Is he an aristocrat? he will say not. What is he then? why who can tell?—For assuredly let him call himself what he will, he cannot be a republican, who would shut the ears of the legislature against the voice of a common citizen, much less against the voice of their chosen senator. This is intolerant persecution. For contempt and insult in such cases are persecution, and the result of an intolerant spirit. He who would treat the letter of Mr. Butler in that manner, would put him in fetters for it if he could. He who would stop the mouth of a single citizen for opposing his opinion, would play the despot over a whole people if he could—would lay fetters on the mind—would make slaves of a nation, if he could. Such a man is not, cannot be a republican. He may be a democrat indeed. He may be any thing, but he is not, Mr. Editor, he cannot be a true republican. Yet of this despotic description, of this intolerant spirit, are those who abuse the sacred name of Republicans, by usurping it to themselves. For my part, Mr. Editor, I am for free discussion, and freedom of speech, free press, and free declaration of opinion, because I am

A TRUE REPUBLICAN.

P. S. You shall hear from me again.

From the New-York Evening Post.

MASSACHUSETTS No. II.

The unfortunate situation of our navy is such as to excite the just apprehensions of all who are concerned for its safety. The peace, the security and the honor of this country, so materially depend on the prompt and vigorous management of our maritime affairs, that there is scarcely any one so weak as to deny the necessity of

some naval establishment. With a commerce to protect and defend, almost as extensive as the globe, and obliged to preserve the strictest neutrality towards the contending nations of Europe, the propriety of a force large enough to place us above the fear of their laws, is obvious and unquestionable. These considerations were happily seconded by the maritime spirit of this country, and there is not perhaps so singular an instance of the early rise and complete maturity of any navy as of our own. The present administration found us possessed of a young and manly force, able and willing to defend us; of seamen brave and intrepid, as those of any country; of officers yielding the palm of courage and skill to none; but by a series of errors and of follies, the detail of which would be as tedious as disgraceful, they have left us alas! only its shadow. It is indeed the lot even of the best men occasionally to deviate into impropriety: their errors are entitled to forgiveness and to pity, but when by a uniform plan of ignorance or neglect, the nation has been disgraced; candor itself must disallow their pretensions to compassion or respect. Such has been our condition since the present rulers have obtained the ascendancy; our navy has been gradually on the decline: its substance and vigor have been every day wasting until it is at length an object of derision abroad, and of sorrow at home.

In searching for the causes of this melancholy degeneracy we find among the most prominent, the hatred or the affected contempt in which the commerce of this country is held by our government. The administration came into power if not with an avowed hostility to, at least with a secret jealousy of, the commercial interest, and determined to enfeeble or to destroy its efficacy. Disregarding the situation of the world which obliges us to be a commercial, if we would be a respectable nation, and overlooking the obvious advantages of our position which invites us to share and almost to monopolize the commerce of Europe, there are many who would advise us to relinquish our trade and to become an agricultural nation. These whims, the favorites of the first magistrate, would, if realized in practice, be as dangerous as they are hypothetical. Let us not be told of the hazards of an extensive commerce, and of the destructive luxury which it engenders. To surrender our trade would be to yield up the fairest portion of our sovereignty; it would be to go back for centuries in the scale of civilization, and would reduce us to a level with the savage natives of the land we inhabit. It would be to destroy that very agriculture which they seem so highly to prize. Wise politicians have always considered their interests as reciprocal and inseparable; but it was reserved for the sagacity of our present rulers to discover that the trade which gives a vent to the productions of the earth, and brings in return the conveniences and the elegancies of life, was injurious to that industry which it stimulates. Inconsistent as is this policy it seems to be the ruling principle of the administration. Their uniform object has been to depress the maritime spirit of the nation, and not merely to raise the agricultural interest but to do so on the ruin of the commercial. The mercantile part of the community whose exertions feed our revenues, and relieve the husbandman from the labor of supporting government, is left without protection, and its injuries from foreign nations are unredressed and disregarded. Thus disposed towards our commerce, we could not expect more charity for the navy which defended it. Hence those unceasing efforts to disparage and undervalue every spirit of maritime enterprise, and to fetter all the attempts of naval talents.

To this jealousy of the navy another spirit equally hostile has been united. The miserable economy which actuates our rulers easily discovered a superfluity where it wished to see nothing, and the administration rejoiced at the opportunity of concealing their designs under the veil of this equivocal virtue. In the career of reformation, they overlooked their own emoluments, to curtail establishments necessary for our honor or defence. The profits of an abandoned partizan, who found his way to office by scurrility and corruption, were too sacred to be touched by the unhallowed hand of parsimony, but the navy, behind which our commerce was sheltered, which had protected us from insult, and had become the pride and ornament of this country, was an object too hateful to escape the pry-

ing vigilance of democracy. The work of destruction began. That navy which had grown up under the eye of Washington, which had been cherished by the wishes of every honest American was stripped of its brightest ornament; part of it was sold to supply the wants of a greedy treasury, which the prudence of their predecessors had enriched; part was laid up to rot in silence and disgrace at Washington; and the contemptible remainder sent forth for our defence. Here, however, this parsimony defeated itself: those ships which were sold it was necessary to replace at an additional expence; those which the putrifying influence of economy had rendered useless, required sums almost equal to the maintenance of a crew to repair them; and above all, the spirit of the American navy, that spirit which should have been fostered as our most stable security, and which it was worth millions to preserve, was broken almost for ever. All these things, however, disgraceful as they are, might have been patiently borne, if what remained of our mutilated force had been managed with caution or prudence. But in this respect the navy has not been less fortunate than in the malignant spirit which guides our councils; and in the catalogue of events injurious to its interests, not a little is to be attributed to the incapacity of the Secretary.

NO. III.

THE character of the extraordinary personage who is now Secretary of the Navy, is so little known as to demand a more attentive consideration. Among the strange contradictions of this wayward administration, it is not the least singular that the marine of a great nation, should be committed to a man whose notorious ignorance of naval affairs, even if other objections were wanting, totally disqualifies him for his station. Originally a little Attorney at Baltimore, neither his manners, nor his talents entitled him to distinction. Unknown at the bar, the world might have lost the benefit of his abilities, had not his benevolence discovered easier modes of doing good. Although he could not defend his fellow-citizens by his eloquence, yet in the humbler character of discounting, or as they softly term it shaving notes for the necessitous at thirty days after the moderate rate of 5 per cent, the goodness of no man was more exuberant. And if the contrivance of dating a check some days forward, for the purpose of shaving a note, and when refused at the bank, being re-shaved by a near lame relation, to accommodate a relation who was not lame, did excite some remark at the time in Baltimore, at the oddity of the transaction, yet his kindness when thus excited by the hopes of usurious recompence, was never questioned. The acute penetration of the Philosopher General has discovered talents in this man, which nature surely had not intended, nor his acquaintance ever suspected. His mind was suddenly illuminated by a ray from the fountain head of philosophy, and his countrymen gazed at the sudden metamorphose of the shaver of notes, into a naval Secretary. But so perverse are the materials of this world, that though the President could invest him with power, he could not supply him with understanding. From his humble obscurity he brought with him the little arts without the abilities of his profession; and his conduct has been distinguished rather by the timid incapacity of a boy than the honour and the candour of a gentleman. Yet his friends will tell us that he is possessed of great skill, that whilst in Baltimore he very often saw a ship, and they verily believe, if he had time to consult with the Attorney-General, he could accurately distinguish between a bow-sprit and fore-mast. If indeed he has these vast talents he must be somewhat more than a prodigy. The skill of ordinary men is the result of patient labour, of profound research, or of long experience, but the knowledge of this man must be intuitive or derived by inspiration. Perfectly ignorant of a navy, he is at once able to direct its minutest operations. It is really fortunate that he was not born in an age of more superstition, or the flames might have awaited so wonderful a wizard.

Others, however, less credulous will think the dignity of such a station too high to be thus trifled with. They will lament the weakness of a man unacquainted with the first principles of naval tactics, and incompetent to plan the simplest arrangement of maritime conduct. They will compare the great man who wields the tri-