

# MINERVA; or, ANTI-JACOBIN.

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From the Charleston Courier.

A member of the Massachusetts State Legislature, who from what follows will be known by every reader to be a democrat, has lately made a motion in the House of Representatives of that state, which will serve to display in additional lustre, the modesty and veracity of the antifederal gen-try. It was to this effect:

"We cannot omit on the present occasion, to express to your excellency the high satisfaction, we feel, in casting a retrospect-ive view over the measures of the present administration of the general government.

When we contemplate, that by an economical arrangement of the public expenditure, they have been enabled from the existing revenues to effect an important diminution in the public debt, by an appropriation of seven millions of dollars annually to that object, and that without the aid of direct taxes and burthensome excises—that they have reduced the standing army, that scourge of all free countries in time of peace, to an establishment sufficient for the defence and preservation of our frontier posts—that by a prompt and judicious disposition of our naval force, they have dictated terms of peace to some of the Barbary Powers, and rendered harmless the hostility of others, made our flag a terror of its enemies and covered our officers and seamen with honor and glory. That by the wisdom of their diplomatic policy they have acquired in the United States, from one of the most powerful nations of Europe, a country embracing the whole extent of our western frontier—an acquisition that gives to the United States incalculable wealth, which secures to our western brethren the undisturbed use and navigation of one of the first and most important rivers in the world; opens a new source of wealth to the carrying trade of the east, & insures to the whole, peace and security against foreign encroachment.—That in their intercourse with the belligerent nations of Europe, a desire to remain in peace with all, and a firmness to vindicate the rights of our citizens, against the aggressions of any, have been so successfully displayed, that we find our commerce less interrupted, and justice and indemnity to our merchants more promptly afforded all—in fine, that their objects and pursuits have been one continued effort to promote the faith, justice, and honor of our nation, and the peace, security and happiness of all its citizens.—We cannot hesitate to say, that on a review of these measures of our national administration, the people of Massachusetts would regret, that their representatives should be the last to bestow their approbation; and we feel assured, that they will anticipate with pleasure the promise of happiness, which the continuance of such an administration affords."

[The object of the mover was that the foregoing should be inserted as part of the address of the House of Representatives, in answer to the Governor's speech. It is almost needless to add that the motion was rejected.]

If this motion is considered, piece by piece, it will be allowed that a more daring attempt never was made to deceive any deliberative assembly into a declaration of falsehood, and to make them give the sanction of their votes to a gross act of imposition upon a too credulous people. What must be the opinion of such a man of the understanding of the people? or what his opinion of the moral character and intellect of the body upon whom he attempted to fasten such an imposition, when he called upon them to thank the present administration for their arrangements to pay the public debt without taxes and burthensome excises, while they must have fresh in their recollection the message from the president, and the proceedings of congress on the late capture of our frigate by the Tripolitans; and while the ink is scarcely dry which wrote the act of congress for imposing new and heavy duties on imported goods, to an amount that will produce a yearly revenue equal to the taxes which the party abolished merely as a popularity trap. The badness of the conduct of the administration in first repealing the taxes in one form, and then re-imposing them in another, is only to be equalled by the impudence, the folly, and the barefaced imposition of those, whether legislative assemblies or individuals, who would thank them for it. Does any man of common sense imagine that the people are less taxed by changing the subject matter of taxation, or that he loses more by the support of the state who pays a dol-

lar of taxes for the brown sugar he uses, than he does who pays a dollar for the whiskey he drinks? Those who think so are worse than gulls.

Such, readers, are the mighty things, be assured such are the sum total of the mighty things, which your present administration do for you. They shut one door against just, fair, and politic taxes, to throw open another and a wider (wide as Hell's adamantine gates) to imposition. They repeal taxes on whiskey and carriages: Why? Is it because whiskey is a necessary of life, conducive to health, and productive of peaceable and virtuous conduct? No: Whiskey is not an absolute necessary, nor even an article of nutriment. Whiskey, like all ardent spirits, is pernicious to health, impairs those fine faculties which distinguish man from the brute creation, and inflames the temper, to deeds of wickedness, to turbulence, to insurrection, and to battle. Do carriages come under the head of necessities? If they were, how should so many be able to do without them? Or, how should it happen that they exclusively belong to the opulent, or to the unjust prodigal, who will indulge himself, let who will pay for it? By opulent, we mean, the possessing so much as enables a man to purchase more than the necessities, and indulge in any of the luxuries, and conveniences of life. Why then did the administration take off the taxes from those articles? Did they first relieve the people from the pressure of taxes upon all the nutritious articles of life which domestic comfort and long custom have made necessities? No: for they have left a heavy tax upon salt and brown sugar. They will say, perhaps, that neither salt nor brown sugar are necessities of life. Meat they will say can be eat without salt, what though half of it be lost for want of saving; and water will wash down hommony or hoe-cake as well as sweetened tea or coffee. Then why did they take the tax off of lump sugar, which may be called an extravagant luxury, if brown be not a necessary?

The truth is, that in the abolition of those taxes, they were guided not by sound policy, not by public good, not by reason, not by truth, not by any worthy motive, no, no such thing; but by the subtle craft of the muddling, underworking politician—by the demagogues' policy. They wished to retain by any means the power they had by bad means obtained: Popularity was one of the means; that popularity was only to be had through the medium of cajolery and imposition, to which cajolery and imposition the productive taxes, and a fine, well ordered revenue were sacrificed. They promised to relieve the people from those taxes, and to pay off the national debt without any further aid. Have they done so? No, by no means. On the contrary they come to Congress, and get new taxes imposed, finding that the revenue was insufficient to the defence of the Union. How came it deficient? Why, by their abolishing the taxes. True, but they might have done so in error, from want of consideration: Even that, if it were true, would be guilt, for error in great state concerns is criminal; But it was not so; for the federalists in Congress warned them of the bad consequences of repealing the taxes; warned them of what has actually happened; warned them that they would be obliged to come back again to Congress for new taxes. Yet, "for these and such like courtesies," a modest and veracious member of a State Legislature proposes to give the present administration the thanks of that body.

Gracious God! that the government and law-making of a glorious country like this should be in such hands as we see every time we look into a House of Assembly, a Congress, a Senate, or a Cabinet—those nests of democratic madness, where the question how best to govern and legislate, is put to silence with clamour, and who shall rule, is the only question that will be heard. There the political Alebraists state every question in such a manner, putting their false and fictitious quantities on this or on that side of the equation, as to produce the cheating result that answers their purpose. Never, no, by Heavens, never was there a nation so cheated as America. Others are cheated of their freedom, and they know it, and resign themselves to their fate. America is cheated, while at the same time her understanding is so imposed upon, as to be made to believe that she is dealt with fairly.

How often shall that mean, detestable imposition about "the standing army" be mentioned with impudent triumph by the

democrats! How often will the Ostrich multitude swallow that indigestible, brazen imposition? How often shall we be obliged to tell "the round, unvarnished tale" that refutes it?—To what miserable shifts and pretexts are they driven, who repeat it?—To what vexatious repetitions are we driven, who are again and again obliged to repeat it?

"They (meaning the present administration) have reduced the standing army." These are the words of the motion. For such a palpable falsehood would a member of a legislative assembly, if he could, prevail upon that body to pledge themselves to the world, and commit their veracity, their probity, and their honour. What sort of legislatures must he have supposed them to be, when he made the motion? Certainly he must have thought them deficient either in knowledge of what they ought to know, or in the integrity which they ought to possess. What legislator, nay, what carman, in the country could have forgotten that "the standing army was raised, and the immortal WASHINGTON appointed to, and accepted, the command of it, at a time when open hostility was not only threatened, but practised against us on the high seas, by the privateers and ships of war of the French Revolutionists, and when their invasion of every country within the reach of their power, rendered it probable, if not certain, that if they perceived us listless and unguarded, and could calculate on a tolerable likelihood of success in attacking us by land, they would have done it, as well as attacked us on the high seas. The merit, however, of reducing that army, does not attach to the present party. Accommodation having taken place between France and this country (to be sure, not till we had drunk, even at that day, deeply of the cup of humiliation), the army was reduced, previous to the federal administration's going out of office.

"That by the wisdom of THEIR policy, they have acquired the U. States," &c.—Gracious Heaven! that the tongue of the mover should not have cleaved to the roof of his mouth when uttering a sentence which he must have known at the time, so foreign from truth. The wisdom of THEIR policy, indeed! One would have thought that the most hardened democrat (unless in a public assembly, when the object often is only to have a speech printed, in order to gull the ignorant and uninformed,) could hardly have dared to maintain that the acquisition of Louisiana is owing to the wisdom and policy of the Jeffersonian cabinet. How often shall we repeat, that if the war had not taken place between England and France, Messrs. Livingston and Monroe might have negotiated to the end of their lives without success. The French prefect was already at Louisiana; the ships were chartered, and the troops embarked for the voyage, to take possession of the province; a British fleet blockaded the Texel, and prevented their departure. It was not till after this period that our Minister in France was even treated with civility by the consular government.—But the latter finding it impossible to secure the territory to themselves, out of sheer necessity listened to Mr. Livingston, and at length made the best bargain with him they could, for a territory which it was certain would be of no service to France, or rather would fall into the hands of England. Had not this war taken place, and had the administration adopted the resolutions of Mr. Ross, and taken possession of the territory, then indeed might they have claimed praise for their wisdom, their vigor, and their policy. An adventitious circumstance intervened, and we became possessed of the territory, without resorting to force. Had it not been for this circumstance (the war,) where is the democrat, however brazen his front, that dare deny, that the adoption of the resolutions offered by Mr. Ross, and the measures supported by the other federalists in Congress at the time, would have been true wisdom, and sound policy? But a lucky event as respects the acquisition of the territory, in which the administration had no agency whatever, having thrown Louisiana into our hands, the shameless partizan of democracy pour torrents of abuse upon Mr. Ross and the federalists for proposing measures which would have enabled us to maintain our dignity and our rights; nay, more, claim praise for an administration whose conduct, but for the operations of accident, would certainly have been ridiculed, scouted, and condemned, from one end of the continent to the other. No one will be disposed to detract from

the merit of our naval commanders; and if the Barbary states are humbled, and made to respect our flag, the administration shall have for this all the credit to which they can with propriety lay claim. But while measures are taking for maintaining our rights in the Mediterranean, why are our harbours left unprotected, and our commerce in the West-Indies suffered to become the pray of lawless pirates? Let our administration look to this—and if they will, though late, apply a remedy to those heavy and alarming grievances; if they will prevent in future our coasts from being insulted, and preserve for the time to come the property of our citizens from the grasp of lawless free booters—for this too they shall receive as much applause as the importance and justice of such measures demand. But let not their adherents and panegyrists claim praise for them in advance—let them not attribute to them merit for legislative measures which have never been adopted, and demand our acknowledgements for benefits which have been received thro' other mediums than those dictated either by their wisdom or their policy. Let them render tribute to whom tribute is justly due; and if they cannot find wherewithal in the conduct & measures of the present administration to call forth our gratitude and our praise, let them not adorn its members with borrowed feathers, by plucking, for this purpose, the plumes from the heads of better men.

MOREAU.—A late London paper contains an article styled Moreau & Bonaparte compared, which is written in an extremely prejudiced and uncandid style with respect to the latter; but contains the following character of Moreau.

"The writer of this has been Moreau's prisoner and guest; has associated with him in guard, at Paris and Grosbois; has been at his military parade, when attended by all generals, aides-de-camp, & officers; and at his table, when surrounded by elegance, beauty, and fashion; he has seen him in his camps on the Rhine and the Danube, at his balls and routs at Strasburg & Paris; and he has always found him the same amiable, agreeable, modest, and unassuming man; although, at all times, in all places, and in all companies, a military enthusiast, whether in the society of ladies, or in a circle of officers, at the head of his table, or at the head of his army, leading his soldiers to battle, or handing a lady to dance; but so lively, amusing, and intermixed with anecdotes is his conversation, that even French coquettes have listened to it in preference to the flattery of their gallants.

"It is impossible for any person of education to be in Moreau's company half an hour without considering him a great military character, whose thoughts and words are those of an officer of eminent talents, and much experience, and whose only passion is military glory.

"To an open and pleasing countenance, he unites soft and insinuating manners; & to the frankness of the soldier, he joins the becoming ease of the courtier, without the licentiousness of the one, or the vices of the other. Frenchmen allow him the liberal good-nature of a Turénne, to whom he is compared for his able tactics; and the vigour and patriotism of Henry IV, whom he resembles as a skilful warrior. They say that in his attacks he is a Gustavus Adolphus and a Conde, and in his retreats a Xenophon and a Belleisle.

"All the reproach made against Moreau even by his enemies, is, that he continued to serve the assassin of a father whom he dearly loved, and his ingratitude towards his friend Pichegru, whom he could not but greatly esteem; but it may be said, without fear of contradiction, or charge of partiality, that, with the single exception of Pichegru, Moreau is the first, the ablest, of all the French republican generals, and one to whom France is the most indebted, because Melas lost the battle of Marengo, whereas Moreau gained the battle of Hohenlinden.

"Before Bonaparte left the city of Paris, on his journey to Brabant, he exiled every general not in employment at Paris: as Moreau's estate is only twelve miles from that city, he comes there several times in the week, either to visit his friends, or to frequent the theatres; the Corsican dared not, however, insult Moreau with such a proceeding; he therefore invited him to an interview at Berthier's house.—Bonaparte began the conversation by mentioning some complaints, although he at the same