

MINERVA; or, ANTI-JACOBIN.

TWO & A HALF DOLLARS PER ANNUM. Payable half Yearly.

PUBLISHED (WEEKLY) BY WILLIAM BOYLAN.

TWO DOLLARS PER ANNUM. Payable in Advance.

Vol. 9.]

RALEIGH, (N. C.) MONDAY, OCTOBER 29, 1804.

[No. 446.]

The letter of the Spanish Minister, to the Secretary of State, has brought forth the following answer from Major Jackson.

From the Register.

The Editor of the Register has been too much flattered by the patronage of his fellow-citizens to doubt their favorable construction of the stand which he has found it necessary to make against an atrocious & most unwarrantable charge brought forward by the Marquis De Casa Yrujo. He will not therefore apologize for the space, which is occupied in this days paper, by the details of that affair.

Although the victim of a bitter political "intolerance," he has, until this day, disdained to shew that he had met unjustifiable oppression from the very hand, which had attested his worth as a man, and his merits as a member of the community. But he will not regret that oppression, nor the change it has produced in his pursuits, while he continues to possess the esteem and the patronage of his fellow-citizens.

The tenor of his past life, which he has been thus reluctantly compelled to place before the public, is pledged for the correctness of his future conduct—and he repeats the assurance that, in his present capacity he will never cease, at every hazard to consult and to assert the honor and the interests of his country.

TO THE MARQUIS DE CASSA YRUJO.

SIR,
To your acknowledged attempt to corrupt my fidelity as a citizen, by engaging my services to support the reasonings of a foreign minister, you have dared to add the atrocity of impeaching the truth of my declaration, which had been made under the sacred obligations of an oath.

In the nature of your employment, and the paucity of your means, you might have found an excuse, as well as a motive for the former part of your conduct, in the mortification of your failure only, can even the shadow of a cause be traced for this last departure from all that is honorable, just and true.

The guarantee of the nation will protect your person; but as that guarantee cannot, in this country, be extended, by any construction, to invest a foreign minister with the privilege of falsely charging a citizen of the United States with perjury, and of promulgating that charge through the medium of a news-paper, neither your office, nor all the sanctions of diplomacy shall restrain my refutation of the deliberate falsehood; nor prevent the refutation being made through the same channel.

In your belief that "political intolerance" had prepared me to receive with "less reluctance" the communication of your proposals, you may have exhibited a correct view of your own mind, however grossly you were deceived in the analogy which it suggested.

The circumstances of that communication were faithfully and correctly detailed in my deposition, and, on a careful review of that statement, I solemnly assert that every part of the deposition is true.—I shall therefore leave you to enjoy the honor and the benefit of the evasions and contradictions which you have attempted. By those contradictions you have endeavored to invalidate the disinterested oath of a man, who, in the relations of private character, would deem himself degraded by a comparison with the Marquis de Casa Yrujo.—A man, Sir, who holds testimonials of personal worth, and public service, from different chief magistrates of his nation, which will obtain equal consideration with your boasted nobility, for they are certainly quite as honorable, and even of more ancient date than the title you bear.

You doubtless presumed that you had openly contradicted "the Editor of a news-paper, whose sheets" (notwithstanding you had selected them to diffuse your elucidations!) "are scarcely to be seen across the waters of the Schuylkill and the Delaware, who is without a place in the government and without personal influence," effectually to dissipate all that he had stated under the obligations of his oath. In this presumption, however, you have only betrayed "a wicked heart and a miserable head." Where we are both known, it is not, I hope, an undue assumption to suppose that I should obtain equal credence with Mr. Yrujo, abstracted from the sanctions of my oath.

On the present occasion your malignity has forced me to a course of proceeding, in the vindication of my truth, of which, under the "political intolerance" you have

mentioned, I had heretofore scorned to avail myself. By the nature of your infamous imputation, I am compelled, for the information of those to whom I may be unknown, to exhibit such documents as, in any connection with the facts I have stated, may establish my claim to belief against the contradictions, with which you have unblushingly dared to attack me.

When my fellow-citizens of the United States, and the people of other countries, shall have examined these vouchers of character, the publication of which has been thus extorted from me; when they have reflected that on the part of Major Jackson there could not have existed a single motive for misstatement or departure from truth in framing his deposition; when they shall likewise have reflected that on the part of the Marquis de Casa Yrujo, every motive arising out of mortification, every wish to avert the consequences of his unsuccessful attempt, were combined in the most forcible degree, to prompt his perversion of the truth; when these results are dispassionately considered, there will remain but one opinion on the subject.

Yes, Sir, I even persuade myself that your own nation, thus informed, will pronounce that you have prostrated the dignity of your office, and violated moral obligation.

Your idle threat of "demanding the punishment of said Jackson from the government" I laugh to scorn, and consign to its merited contempt.

It is not in this country that a citizen can be punished for obeying the laws by disclosing the designs of a foreign minister.—Nor is it in the controul of any government to prevent a citizen of the United States from repelling such a charge as you have brought against me—nor of giving his refutation of the calumny through the same medium, with that you have chosen for its promulgation, a public newspaper; could any other doctrine prevail, our citizens would indeed become the miserable vassals of those "distinguished slaves," about whom you have prated. W. JACKSON.

Philadelphia, Oct. 9, 1804.

From the letters with which I was honored by Gen. Washington, I have selected the two, which are subjoined, on account of their dates, & the subjects to which they relate.

The first was received on the expiration of my military service, which, at the age of twenty-four, had embraced the period of the American War.

The second was received when I was leaving the family of Gen. Washington, (then President of the United States) to enter on the practice of the law.

It was my pride and my happiness to preserve the friendship of that exalted man to the close of his illustrious life.

Princeton Nov. 1, 1783.

Dear Sir,
Your letter reached me yesterday, and informed me of your intention to embark next week for Europe.

Wishing, from the esteem which I entertain for your character, to render you every service in my power, I could not avoid troubling you with the two inclosed letters—tho' your acquaintance in France made it almost unnecessary.

With great esteem, I am, Dear Sir,
Your most obedient servant,
GEO. WASHINGTON.

Major Jackson.

Philadelphia, Dec. 26, 1791.

Dear Sir,
At the same time that I acknowledge the receipt of your letter, notifying me of your intention to enter upon your professional pursuit—and, during the ensuing term propose yourself for admittance as a practitioner of law in the Supreme court of the State of Pennsylvania, I beg you to be persuaded that my best wishes will accompany you in that or in any other walk into which your interest or inclination may lead you.

That your determination is the result of the best view you have of your circumstances and expectations, I take for granted, & therefore shall say nothing, which might embarrass the decision; but with pleasure equal to the justice of it shall declare to you, that your deportment has been regulated by principles of integrity and honor, and that the duties of your station have been executed with ability; and I embrace the occasion your address has afforded me, to thank you for all your attentions, and for the services which you have rendered me

since you have been a member of my family.

Let your departure from it be made perfectly convenient to yourself—and believe me to be with sincere esteem and regard,
Dear Sir,

Your affectionate and obliged servant,
GEO. WASHINGTON.
Major Jackson.

The following letter was addressed to me by Gen. Lincoln, when I resigned the office of Assistant Secretary at War—And it is my boast, as it has been my happiness, to have enjoyed for twenty six years, the constant esteem and affection of this gallant Soldier, this most amiable, and most respectable man.

Princeton, Oct. 30, 1783.

I was this morning honored, my dear friend, with the receipt of your letter of this date, purporting your wish to resign the office of Assistant Secretary of War.

While my own ease and convenience, in a tone loud and explicit, caution me against complying with your request, the more silent but persuasive voice of friendship and justice prevail, and tell me, that I must sacrifice the former, to your interest and happiness, and that I must however reluctantly, as your future prospects in life are involved in the measure, accept your resignation.

Permit me, my dear sir, before I take leave of you to return you my warmest thanks for your meritorious services in the field, as my aid-de-camp, as my assistant in the war office. These services, I have the pleasure to assure you, have been seen, also, acknowledged and approved by your country—besides I have enjoyed real satisfaction in your private friendship; your faithfulness and integrity, have hourly increased my affection and esteem for you. Adieu my dear friend, that the best of Heaven's blessings may encircle you, that your path in life may be smooth and prosperous, your course through it easy and happy, and that you may finally smile, in unceasing bliss, is the prayer of your affectionate friend.
B. LINCOLN.

Major Jackson.

The following is one of several letters which was written by Mr. Jefferson to introduce me to the American Ministers in Europe—Not having visited Spain this letter was not delivered to its address.—It was transmitted to Mr. Jefferson, and returned by him to me, since he has been President of the U. S.

Philadelphia, June 1, 1793.

Dear Sir,
The bearer hereof is Major Jackson, formerly of the army, and afterwards of the President's family. Supposing it possible he may see you at Madrid, I with pleasure make him known to you, as a gentleman of information talents and worth. He merits well any attentions you can shew him, and I also will be thankful for them, should he, from the circumstances of the times, need your official interferences I am sure that, as one among our best citizens, he will have the benefit of them. I am with sincere and constant attachment, Dear Sir,
Your affectionate friend,
TH: JEFFERSON.

Mr. Short, Minister Resident of the U. S. of America at the Hague and one of their Commissioners Plenipotentiaries now at Madrid.

Were it necessary to multiply these proofs they could be drawn from my correspondence with the most respectable men of our country, among whom I may here be permitted to introduce the name of General Pinckney, under whose command, and in whose regiment I served as a Subaltern and Captain in the first years of the revolution. It was then my pride to emulate the noble example, as it has been my happiness, for almost thirty years, to preserve the esteem and affection of this distinguished Statesman and Soldier.

No impartial, no honest man can for a moment believe that a character thus acquired and maintained, could have been departed from by the smallest misstatement of a most contemptible communication in which the Person making the representation had not even the shadow of an interest for perverting the truth.

Enough I trust has now been stated to repel the scandalous aspersion.

More would be unnecessary, and thus much was required to vindicate the integrity of an honest fame.

W. JACKSON.

From the Charleston Courier.

I sometime ago read a series of essays printed under your Charleston head, upon the subject of God and a future state. The pleasure I received from them was proportioned to the importance of the subject; and I have every day since looked over the Courier with eager impatience to find a continuation of them, and have been so mortified at my disappointment that I can no longer refrain from addressing you a few lines, with the hope of drawing forth some more of your thoughts upon that delightful, awful subject, or, as Mr. Addison calls it "that pleasing, dreadful thought." You will not I hope consider me as blaming you: I do not: I am rather surprised how you do so much, than that you do not do more. I speak only my own feelings; no reproach to you.

There is one point of view in which I am rather surprised that you have not considered, or at least one principle upon which I wonder you have not discussed that great point. Perhaps I but anticipate what you may have intended to do in the routine of your writing, but postponed in compliance with other demands upon your time; or else felt your mind unfit for it, as there are times when the most flexible intellects reject particular subjects, and incline to the contemplation of others.

I think it is CICERO, who, speaking of his firm belief in a future state & the existence of a God, says, "Si erro, erro subenter." "If I am in error, I rejoice at my error." meaning thereby, that supposing there were in reality no future state and no God, the belief that there are such things afforded him so much comfort and delight, that he would not part with it. Now sir, let us suppose, if it be not in some degree criminal even to suppose it, that there were no other world but this, and no being superior to man; and that all that has from the beginning of the world been believed by almost all mankind, were error; and then let us calculate what any individual could gain, and what lose by being relieved from that error, and deprived of his faith. From the enthusiastic zeal, or rather flaming fanaticism, with which infidels press their abominable notions on the world, and endeavor to make mankind disbelieve all things sacred, one would suppose that they thought some immense benefit would accrue to mankind from the discovery of what they call the error of belief. Let us consider it. First, with respect to the belief or disbelief of these important points, as they relate to our possible state hereafter, it is a demonstrable, indeed a self-evident, logical truth, that even if there were no God or future state, no danger, or harm, could possibly ensue from believing there are. It cannot be a sin, since in that case there would be no power to offend: It could not be punished, because there would be no entity, no state of existence, no place even for punishment. It is therefore perfectly compatible with security to believe, and we may fairly tell the most ingenious of those human devils who preach atheism, that there neither is, nor can be, harm in such faith: and it may ironically be added, that it is rather better to believe a little, for fear of accidents hereafter. For if it shall so happen that the good creatures will be found to be out in their conjectures, and that when the life has slipped out of their carcasses, they find themselves in another place, it would be rather a disagreeable affair to them—what the French call *malaprops*—and the Dublin wits "a bite upon them." If I were arguing with one of those well-meaning gentlemen, who wish to ease us of the burden of our faith in God, I would say, "Well, my good friend, I am obliged to you for the anxiety you express for my good; I am only sorry that according to your own account, I have no part (soul) that can benefit by your beneficent advice." It is not your fault, to be sure, but my obstinate luck, that I cannot shake off those old prejudices, even upon authority so respectable as yours. It is some comfort to me, however, that at the worst no harm can ensue from my faith.

I will therefore return your advice with a word of instruction. You have, no doubt, often heard the saying, that "it is a wise man who puts on his great coat on a fair day: my fool will put it on when it rains." So I say to you. Fair and flattering as the prospect of annihilation and the non existence of a God, is to your fancy, you had better prepare by cloathing yourself with a covering of faith, be it ever so scanty or light, for fear that you should be mistaken, and that a storm should arise after your departure, when you will be too far from home to accommodate yourself with shelter.