

# THE MINERVA.

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[No. 488.]

The following letters were published by the Aurora to prove that Mr. Elliot had joined "the union of honest men;" if they do not prove that, we think they will at least prove that he has quitted his "union with dishonest men."

Copies of Letters from James Elliot.

[No. 1.]

Washington, Jan. 23, 1804.

SIR, Your letter is received. As I am always willing to receive good advice, your observations on my style of speaking are not unacceptable; but in my political conduct I must be dictated by my conscience alone.

I have no idea that my constituents wish to be represented by a humble slave of the proud, passionate and aristocratic Mr. Randolph, or a fellow labourer of those whose labours tend to disorganize the constitution, and place the small states at the feet of the large ones, and both large and small at the feet of Virginia. On this subject I believe there is great union of sentiment among the Vermont delegation, both senators and representatives; at any rate, I believe I know the sentiments and feelings of all but Judge Olin. I wish this communicated to those who accuse me of "straining at a gnat and swallowing a camel." If there be any base enough to accuse me of a "direction of principle, and a temporising policy for the sake of popularity," I ought in justice to myself to offer them nothing but the homage of my high contempt. But I have the "vanity" to add the remark, that every action of my life contradicts the unmanly insinuation. Besides let me enquire what popularity I had in view, it was supposed, in opposing a measure almost universally popular. But I cannot think any respectable man has accused me of political dishonesty. Your correspondence will at all times be agreeable, and believe,

Sir, very respectfully,

Your most obedient servant,  
JAMES ELLIOT.

Mr. —

[No. 2.]

Washington, Feb. 13, 1804.

DEAR SIR, Your's of the 3d instant is received.—On the subject of the American "chancellor of the exchequer," the peculiar favourite of the president and heads of department, and ostensible leader of the republicans in congress, you shall have ample satisfaction.

It is now almost the unanimous voice of the northern republicans that Virginia & Mr. Randolph are attempting to rule the house of representatives and the nation by violence. On the subject of the extinguishment of the state balances, every member from New-England, Judge Olin excepted, unite in opposition to the measure. On most questions, the northern representatives, republicans and federalists, vote together. Judge Olin with us frequently, in opposition to the false bill for instance. The consequence of this schism among republicans is, that measures are frequently carried against the prime minister by small majorities, on all which occasions and many others, he abuses the speaker and the house in a most infamous manner. In many of his speeches he tells the house that their proceedings are disorderly. The other day he told the house they were under the influence of Mr. R. Griswold, & used much indecent language with respect to a coalition between Mr. Griswold and Mr. Lyon, whom he represented as the leader of the party opposed to himself. A personal encounter of a most ferocious nature has taken place between Mr. R. and Mr. Alton, which will probably end in a duel; there must also be a duel between him & Mr. Hampton, whom he abused in debate. Mr. R. is famous in that way, and it is said performed deeds of fatal prowess before he came to congress. Anonymous letters replete with invective and threats are delivered to some of the republican members. I have received one, in the style of an assassin, and it is evidently by the hand writing of Mr. R. very awkwardly disguised. I every day publicly declare it to be his production, and have demanded of him an explanation, which if he does not give, I shall make a statement of the business to the house, and perhaps make his expiation. I am in fear of—I dare not say what—you will hear more soon.

Virginia is undoubtedly purely republican. My God! What republicanism!

Nearly one half of the people in a state of menial, and four-fifths of the remainder in civil slavery! One man in four or five an elector. My blood chills—I tremble for my country! I know—yes—know that deep laid plans exist against the constitution of the Union.

I care not how extensively this information is diffused, it is kept out of the newspapers. We have sixty or seventy orders of the day, and scarcely a question is taken without several day's debate. If the session be not made permanent, it will not be that business is wanting.

Your sincere friend,

JAMES ELLIOT.

Mr. —

[No. 3.]

Washington, Feb. 15.

DEAR SIR, Messrs. Randolph and Alton have been arrested, and bound to keep the peace within this district. The injury which Mr. Alton received, was, however, of so atrocious a nature, that there must be a duel. Mr. Hampton, averse to disturbing the councils of the nation, will, it is said, suspend his challenge till the end of the session. The difficulty between Mr. Randolph and myself has been accommodated by the intervention of Messrs. Bryan and Nicholson, Mr. R. having denied any knowledge of the letter in question.

Yours, JAMES ELLIOT.

[No. 4.]

Washington, Feb. 27, 1804.

SIR, I enclose you a set of revolutionary resolutions, by Mr. R. the great inquisitor and censor, and not only of the judicial department but of the state governments. In the opinion of many republicans, they tend to the destruction of state sovereignties.

The great principles involved in these resolutions, has already been decided against Mr. R. by 62 votes to 56. But he is too good a republican to submit to a majority. Only one member from New-England votes with him on this question.

Yours, JAMES ELLIOT.

P. S. These resolutions involve also an open violation of the pledged faith of the nation; by the convention between the United States and Georgia—by which we became possessed of the Mississippi Territory, the United States are pledged to appropriate five millions of acres to satisfy the very claims which Mr. R. says we must resolve not to satisfy.

[No. 5.]

Washington, March 9, 1804.

SIR, The bill for fastening the Georgia Claims has passed in committee of the whole by a majority of eleven, and the substance of this revolutionary resolution, was rejected in the same committee, by the same majority. The resolutions are still before the house, but I shall this day move their postponement or total rejection. Mr. R. is more furious than ever, and has poured the full vial of his wrath upon Col. Lyon and myself—he has called us "the Bear of the arctic, and the Lion of the torrid zone." He threatens to resign the dictatorship. Several alterations, which to my knowledge have been projected in the constitution, calculated to destroy the remaining weight of the small states, will now be kept back for a season.

From present appearances, I shall not vote for the impeachment of Judge Chase—but we have not all the testimony. I am a friend to the independence of the Judges, but a greater friend to the rights of the people.

Yours, JAMES ELLIOT.

Mr. —

[No. 6.]

Washington, March 12, 1804.

SIR, The revolutionary resolutions have been postponed to the next session, except the two first and second, which were abstract propositions. Col. Lyon created much admiration, by a very able speech against the resolutions.

Yours, JAMES ELLIOT.

Mr. —

[No. 7.]

Washington, March 14, 1805.

SIR, I imagined that the republicans in your quarter will not find much fault with my speech in favour of the impeachment of Judge Chase. I shall be obliged, however to vote in the negative ultimately, as the question will be taken upon several articles, to all of which but one, I am opposed.

If I have sometimes "failed in arrangements," it may be imputed to this, that

contrary to the practice of all other speakers, I always trust for manner as well as matter, to my extemporaneous powers; I have never used a single note, or committed to paper a single word of my speeches before delivery.

Yours, JAMES ELLIOT.

Mr. —

[No. 8.]

Washington, March 17, 1804.

DEAR SIR, Of Col. Lyon's "plans" I know nothing—I will tell you the truth, but not the whole truth, about certain "designs against the constitution." Perhaps it is wrong to call them designs; most of these who entertain those views are honest; they believe we have reached the age of political perfectibility.

1. To carry the election of president to the people. How will this affect the small states? Take Vermont and Pennsylvania; Vermont gives six electoral votes; Pennsylvania 20. Carry the election to the people, and the weight of Vermont relatively to Pennsylvania is but a fraction more than as 4 to 18.—2 Reduce the period for which senators are elected to two years. How will this affect the small states? It will render the senators less independent, and in time the mere tools of the large states. Something of this kind is already discoverable. A republican of distinction has been heard to say that Virginia might as well send four senators and Rhode-Island none, as for each to send two.—3 Limit the office of a Judge to 5 years. This needs no comment.

I shall always be devoted to the cause of liberty; but I am decidedly of opinion that the union of the vast territory and heterogeneous population of our country cannot be preserved under a system less energetic than the present constitution. The moment when we have added a world to our empire is a very improper one to seize for the purpose of rendering our government almost a perfect democracy. Yet such views are entertained by our fourth and Pennsylvania brethren.

The nomination of gov. Clinton was made in secret conclave by four or five members a great while ago. It is a part of the well known Virginia plan always to give us a president from that state.

Col. Burr, has many respectable friends in both houses, but it was necessary to set him aside for the present. Virginia commanded and it was done.

I am Sir, very respectfully,

Your friend and humble servant,  
JAMES ELLIOT.

Mr. —

P. S. Both Judge Olin and myself have experienced much difficulty in voting for the impeachment of Judge Chase.—We shall probably be obliged to vote against the articles, as they will charge him with ten times too much.

J. E.

SIR, Washington, March 19, 1804. In my last I intimated that the Rhode-Island senators were considered as devoted to the views of Virginia. I meant no imputation on the character of those gentlemen, they are upright; and their coincidence with Virginia perhaps merely accidental.

It is certain, however, that there are many modes of republican influence and intrigue, of which none but those, who have like us "a view of the whole ground" can make an adequate idea.

Yours, JAMES ELLIOT.

[No. 10.]

Washington, Nov. 15, 1804.

SIR, Your notice of the election of electors was very acceptable. Mr. Noyes is indebted to my activity and influence in Gilbert, for his elevation to public life, and he knows it very well. Mr. Shepston is similarly circumstanced. These gentlemen are among my bitterest persecutors. "Father forgive them, forgive them, for they know not what they do." They are poor and want offices. I am poor also, but I will never sacrifice either principle or friends for "the loves and fishes." I shall live and die an undeviating friend to the rights of mankind.—Ingratitude may affect my sensibility, but it cannot make me a villain.

Your friend and humble servant,  
JAMES ELLIOT.

[No. 11.]

Washington, Feb. 3, 1805.

DEAR SIR, Again is the union of honest men triumphant.—The acquittal of the supreme court in Pennsylvania, is the sure harbinger of the downfall of Duane, and Jacobinism in that state. Had the judges been condemned, articles of impeachment against governor M'Kean himself were already cut and dried for immediate use.

After the most strong and disgraceful congressional debate, ever known, of four days duration on the Georgia claims, the friends of correct principles have prevailed by a small majority, in the fullest house we have had this season—yes 63—noes 58.—Mr. Randolph has delivered several philippics, more violent than those of Robespierre, in the bloody times of France. In return he has been called by republican speakers, an ape, a monkey, a slanderer, a calumniator, a madman, an ambitious popular leader, a despotic demagogue, a popular tyrant, &c. &c. He has accused the post master general of crimes and misdemeanors, and that officer has demanded an enquiry into his conduct, I shall move to confine the enquiry to the charges exhibited to Mr. Randolph, for I have ascertained that if it should go to his whole official conduct, federalists will unite with the violent republicans, upon the question, and he will most assuredly be condemned. My speech, which will soon be published, exhibits a clearer view of the Georgia business than has before appeared. Col. Lyon observed in his speech, that he was "grateful to his God, for having given him the face of a man, and not that of an ape or a monkey." (Mr. Randolph had called him a jackall) and that "the head of the gentleman from Virginia was fuller of political projects than Don Quixote's was of windmills, callies dulceness and all the pomp of knight errantry." General Staunton, of Rhode-Island, said his vote would not be influenced by the "whedding of lycophants or the frown of tyrants."

The northern members are treated by the junto with the most superlative degree of contempt and insult, both in and out of doors.

I am, Sir, with respect and esteem,

Your most obedient servant,  
JAMES ELLIOT.

[No. 12.]

Washington, Feb. 28, 1805.

DEAR SIR, We have this moment killed Duane.—We have taken his exclusive right as printer and stationer to the government, and decreed it to the lowest bidder, whatever may be his politics. Every New-England member voted for the resolutions.

A new daily moderate republican paper is soon to commence at Baltimore. There are already between 6 & 700 subscribers, the two first of whom are Thomas Jefferson and Robert Smith.

Ever yours, JAMES ELLIOT.

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Valuable Property for Sale.

ON Wednesday, the 28th of August next, will be exposed to public sale, on a credit of twelve months, 517 acres of land, lying on both sides of Middle Creek, within 5 1/2 miles of Smithfield, on which is about 150,000 corn hills, now in cultivation, suitable for corn or wheat, and but little of which overflows in the highest freshes. Another tract, containing 450 acres, lying on the main road leading from Smithfield to Fayetteville, within 5 1/2 miles of Smithfield. Another tract, containing 200 acres, near on the road that leads from Smithfield to Acraaborough, within about 10 miles of Smithfield. On the same day will be sold, on a credit of six months, a half-acre lot, on market street, No. 93, on which is a large and convenient house (now occupied as a tavern,) kitchen and smoke house;—on the same lot is a house that would answer very well for a small family or a store house. Also, lots No. 94, 95, 96, 113, 114, 115, & 116, will also be offered for sale on the same day. Will be sold, a quantity of household furniture, which would suit the person very well that purchases the house and lot, if he intend to live in a public line.

Cash will be required for purchases under ten pounds, and for all sums over, bond with approved security will be required. Any of the aforesaid property will be disposed of before the day of sale if applied for, as I wish to retire into the country.

Nm: DAVIS.

Smithfield, July 5, 1805.

Taken up,

ON the 30th of June and committed to jail, a Negro boy by the name of Simon, and two others on the 7th July, Isaac and Jacob, who say they belong to John Lloyd of South Carolina. The owner is requested to come forward and make necessary arrangements to receive their property.

NEAL LOVE, jailor.  
Fayetteville, July 8th, 1805.