

THE MINERVA.

PUBLISHED (WEEKLY) BY WILLIAM BOYLAN.

Vol. 11.]

RALEIGH, (N. C.) MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 22, 1806.

[No. 545.]

From the AURORA.

COME TO THE POINT.

A free press must not be hampered by considerations whether this or that class of men are to be pleased or displeased; nor the public left to guess at the causes or events in which they are deeply interested; for the minions of all parties conceal the errors and mistakes of those to which they are respectively devoted—and by which they are either hired or supported; he who wishes to serve the public, instead of a faction, or of any interested class of individual, must speak the truth, reckless alike of partial praise or partial censure. It is very probable that in the discussion which we have engaged for two or three days, we shall displease both sections of the republican party; may it is not at all improbable that the federal party, whose practical maxims of government and policy, we consider as different from their professions, and which we therefore irreconcilably abhor, and will while we have life and capacity oppose it is very probable that they will chuckle at the circumstance of the Aurora acknowledging and pointing out certain errors in party policy, which have excited discontents that are already notorious among the republicans: we have no doubt that this will be the case; may we venture to say that we shall excite the resentment and dissatisfaction of the two sections of the republican party, because we shall dare to shew that there are errors on both sides; instead of saying that one or the other is immaculate or infallible.

We repeat it, that there have been errors on both sides—the passion of men the most habitually ledate, have been excited to a degree that is to be lamented, and the conduct of men habitually virtuous, has been beyond all former bounds intemperate. In this conflict of passions, men too cold in spirit and too little acquainted with human nature or the springs of human action, have been drawn to one or the other side, as the peculiar merits of their faculties to receive the impressions that were directed against them, or as the influence of reason or intrigue found a passage to their minds.

We undertake to say, that the discontents and divisions which were so palpable in the last session of congress, were produced and carried to their extreme, through the artificial excitement and prearrangements, of a few desperate and indefatigable intriguers; that the scheme embraced views and designs of various kinds; that the intriguers about a president in 1803 and the discontents of last session had a common origin; and that the election of a president in 1805, has been thus early anticipate; and bro't to produce combinations and influences in favor of that stupendous fraud, the Yazoo speculation.

In other words, there has been a tacit compromise of various interests of time-serving republicans with federalists—to produce certain acts of reciprocal favor—appointments to high stations and offices—and that even the acquittal of great criminals and the consequent dishonor and disgrace of the nation and its justice, have been brought about by this iniquitous co-operation.

We have before us an affidavit, the length of which, will preclude any detailed animadversion, which contains in itself a revelation of intrigue, iniquity, prostration of official duty, and disreputable insult and dishonor to congress, that diminish, by comparison, the atrocious corruptions of the English parliament.

It may be recollected that at the last session of congress, a motion for enquiry was made into the conduct of the president general.—A notion was circulated at that period that the enquiry was founded on matters exclusively relating to the editor of this paper—we do not think proper to notice the mistake, because although there was some matter of enquiry made in an official way by a committee of congress, no which the editor could afford no evidence that could be received in a court of law, there was some that would be convincing in a court of conscience.

The subject having been dismissed at the close of the session, in a manner that merits no present notice, the present occasion may be a proper one to develop the comprehensive schemes of intrigue which have been carried on, the effects of which are the discontents complained of by the public, and with the continuance and dangers of more numerous explosions from the same source the union is menaced.

The following affidavit is copied from the original, which the editor law in the hands of a member of congress, a member of the committee of enquiry—and being an authentic act delivered upon oath, will be appreciated accordingly:—

(COPY.)

I, Luther Loomis, of Suffield, Hartford county, and here of Connecticut, of lawful age, do testify and say, that some time in August, A. D. 1804, at Suffield aforesaid in company with the honorable Gen. Granger, postmaster general of the United States, he remarked that he wished to satisfy his republican friends, who as he understood were not altogether satisfied with his public conduct; and in the justification of his conduct he went into a lengthy detailed account of various public transactions at the seat of government and other places, which took up the time of several hours. He said, that for a long time after he went to reside at Washington, all was tranquil with him—that he was treated with every respect and attention he could desire, both by the president, the heads of departments, and by the republican members of congress, until some difference arose between him and the honorable John Randolph, a member of congress, respecting a bill before congress relative to counter-acting duties. He said it was true that the heads of departments generally, favored the principle of that bill—that he, Gen. Randolph was highly in favor of it, from being conversant with him on that subject, and that he himself had always been united with him in favor of the bill—and that he, Gen. Randolph, continued in favor of the principles of that bill, until some time after his return to the seat of government, the then preceding year or the year before—and until receiving an address from the chamber of commerce of the city of New York which was during the pendency of that bill before congress. That after receiving their address and entreaties desiring him to intercede for them at the seat of government, to make influence against the bill being carried into a law, and being honored with their address, together with their arguments against the bill, and being acquainted with some very respectable members of that body, he set about the work; first, by making overtures to the heads of departments, one after another, with favorable prospects of success, and then to Madison. And after communicating to him the agreement of the chamber of commerce, and making use of his own argument on that subject, Mr. Madison could not see sufficient grounds to alter his opinion: but if others were generally of opinion, that it was best to postpone the consideration of the bill, in that case although he was in favor of the bill, yet he should not advise to press it against the general opinion. The next place he went to the president, who made him an intubance, the same reply (as Mr. Madison) adding that he hoped the bill could not eventually fail of success.—That he next approached Mr. Randolph, whom he knew to be one of its warmest advocates, with the papers containing the arguments of the chamber of commerce in his hand—and, after introducing the subject, he stated to Mr. Randolph the substance of the arguments, and told him that many of the members of that board were firm friends to our government—that if the bill was to be carried into a law, he feared it would tend to excite a ferment in the minds of many of the friends of the government; that the merchant's experience and judgment ought to have weight in the decision, and urged many other reasons for the postponement of its consideration—but all this without drawing from him (Randolph) any reply, other than "ah! ah!" or some words expressive of his contempt for the arguments urged by the said Granger against the bill. At length,

said Granger said he took his hat, and in a manner apparently expressive of his contempt for the aid Mr. Randolph, left the room. That he set about the business in good earnest to make influence with the members of congress to defeat the bill, and had the good success to quiet the minds of many of them, particularly the western members, with whom he was in great friendship, and who had been much in favor of the bill; and others who had been advocates for the bill agreed to a passive, or manage it in a way that would lead to its postponement or defeat; and said he finally succeeded in getting the bill postponed, which finally must put an end to it.

Thus, said Mr. Granger, I succeeded against the overbearing influence of said Randolph, in spite of all his influence; and from that time to the present he has been my bitter enemy. He further said the active part he took in favor of the Yazoo claimants had heightened his bitterness against him; and drawn from him a variety of abuse. He further stated, that he had been accused of exciting his influence in favor of Burr's election in New York, yet after all the abuse, he said he had it in his power to prove himself clear; that under circumstances in which he was placed, no man could have done less than he did. And furthermore said, notwithstanding all that was done and said about him respecting his influence in the Burr party election in the state of New York to far from true, that he was the man that caused its defeat; which he effected by sending a confidential friend with communication to De Witt Clinton of New York, to give notice to him of Burr's plans and operations, which was the cause of its defeat; and that through his means he had the second time saved his country from a calamity, which otherwise would have been dreadful.

Mr. Granger acknowledged that he had been strongly pressed by certain gentlemen at Washington, the friends of Mr. Burr, to make use of his influence, which they laid was great, in many parts of the state, to favor the Burr party election; and said he totally declined it, and told them he should take neutral ground—but at length he was hard pressed by certain gentlemen, to whom he was under great obligations, till he had at length permitted one of them to make use of his name for that purpose (to favor Mr. Burr's election) under certain limitations, which he expressed in writing, and a copy of it retained by him. All this he said was done lest he might exceed the bounds proceeded to; that he was cautious to reduce it to writing, but did not express to me any part of its contents. He furthermore said, it was true he had written several letters on the subject of that election, to citizens of that state, but had been cautious not to implicate himself; and in particular, he mentioned one he had wrote to Eliza Granger of the Genessee county of that state, in which he stated that he had not altered his opinion respecting Aaron Burr, but many others here had altered theirs, and that he should not take an active part in that election; but still remarked that he was the man that prevented Burr's election. He furthermore said, that notwithstanding all the calumny and abuse, with which he had been treated, that he had saved his country from a third calamity by quieting the members of congress who had their minds blown up into a flame, in consequence of a joint manoeuvre in gaining a vote nominating Mr. Clinton for vice president. He further stated that there was among part of the members, another joint plan in operation at the same time, to nominate a candidate much younger (supposed to be Mr. Breckenridge) to fill that office, that would do for a president at a future election—but Clinton was too old a man: upon which he (Granger) made the following remarks: That the seeds were sown, which after a long sleep, would spring up before the second presidential election from this time; there would a fire break out in the northern states, another in the southern states, and another in the western states; that there would be great commotions in the state of Pennsylvania. Duane had been misled in regard to some publications against him; that on his return from the seat of government to this place he had called on Duane, and said for the future he would go right.

That he had also called on gov. M'Kean and had a long interview with him, he would also go right. That all things were working well. The republican members

to the north and to stand about understanding that they had been neglected in the nomination of the late vice president. Elliot and other members had found bills lying on their table, threatening death if they did not vote right on certain questions. And furthermore that all was working right at the second election 1808) it's scene will be unparallel. The interests of the northern and western members would not be sacrificed, and then he said, "By God I shall tread triumph over the heads of these damned rascals." That he had succeeded in getting Nicholson, who was an able and influential member of congress, appointed to an office which would draw him from congress; his weight would be out of the way—some others would soon be provided for: that they did not see the objection contemplated to be employed by it—and that Randolph would certainly be run down, if he did not quit his seat, and that he would not be again appointed on the committee of ways and means.

(Signed) LUTHER LOOMIS.

From the Repository.

REFLECTIONS ON THE PRESENT STATE OF AFFAIRS.

Few persons will deny that the subjugation of Great Britain by France would expose the United States to the exertions of not to the arbitrary dominion of the conqueror—but they will not believe that there is any reason to fear that Great Britain will be obliged to yield to Bonaparte; or that we Americans would yield to him, though the English should.

At this distance, we see much of the display of the British power, and very little of their difficulties. Their wealth appears to us inexhaustible, their people seem to us to tax us, and the government seems, by a regular paradox, to possess the energies of both liberty and despotism. We cannot therefore conceive that the British treasury can want means.

When we look at France and her dependencies, we see myriads of soldiers, few manufacturers, and not one merchant ship. We also know that a real poverty has sufficiently lessened her consumption of colonial produce, so that when the Americans are suffered to carry it in their ships, there is little vent for it in the French ports. As the French have ceased to be ship owners, many agriculturists, seamen, and even consumers of colonial luxuries, we are ready to ask how is it even possible, that the progress of war should give to France a naval superiority. The French might conquer the whole sea coast of the continent of Europe, yet if by conquest they banish its ships, seamen and trade, they would not advance a step towards the empire of the sea.

We may be right in the premises. We may safely say that the British empire in point of wealth exceeds Sidon and Tyre, Athens, Syracuse, Carthage and Rhodes. Probably her resources are more ample than all those ancient states, put together; and there is no immediate prospect that her naval supremacy will be lost, for want of pecuniary means.—Hence we infer, that she may securely deride the power of France, however it may be augmented. We take it for granted, that her subjects have sense to see their danger, if the national efforts should be in the least relaxed, and patriotism enough to submit to all the unparalleled toils, privations and sacrifices, that those efforts indispensably require.

An invasion is far from impossible, & against a veteran French army, volunteers are no defence. Great Britain, no doubt, will train a large body of militia, to reinforce the army. But the men to fight and beat the invading French, must be regular soldiers. It would be folly, it would be madness for a nation to commit the fate of its liberty and independence to the event of a battle, between its militia and a veteran enemy. We may choose to say, and in our cups and at our elections, we may try to believe, that a disciplined force is both useless and dangerous; but the presence of a hostile army would instantly dissipate that delusion. It is already dissipated in England, and they know that it they would beat the enemy's army, they must have one of their own. Military as France is,