

TO  
THE PEOPLE  
OF  
NORTH-CAROLINA.

NO IX.

In addition to the evils already enumerated, I shall mention another, viz. that arising from the fomentation of neighborhood disputes. When the mind is oppressed with difficulties, it is usual and satisfactory to unburthen itself to those possessed of superior information, in the hope that relief may be obtained. From this principle, we may account for the numerous applications to these Sir Solomons, who constitute so large a proportion of our magistrates.

As Judges of the county courts, the law, and it seems the people too, suppose that ignorance is incompatible with this important station; and consequently none it is presumed can be so competent to give advice, as those who are invested with the power to decide a controversy. Can we then feel surprised at the absurdity of decisions when reduced to a legal form, when we remember the probability that private opinions and possibly private interests have previously settled the point.

Vanity, the child of pride, most frequently prevents the retraction of an opinion, however ridiculous, and a dereliction of justice would follow sooner than the acknowledgment of an error. The obvious result of the premises will be found to be this: When a poor man imagines an invasion of his rights to have been effected, he naturally applies to a neighboring squire for the method of procedure. From this enlightened source, he receives that information which he has much reason too often to repent. Encouraged by him "who ought to know," he proceeds, and not unfrequently involves himself and an innocent family in all the horrors of poverty; whereas had he not received pernicious, though gratuitous counsel, he might have still enjoyed the comforts of domestic tranquility, whilst the bond of amity now forever broken between him and his successful opponent might have remained without a blemish. The consequences do not terminate here; family quarrels extend far indeed, and hosts of relations are placed by a series of concurring causes, in hostile array against each other. The object of government should be to reconcile as much as possible the contrariant dispositions of the governed. For this purpose all measures tending so manifestly to disunion, should be sedulously avoided.

One great cause of that ignorance so visible among our justices, is a neglect of literature in almost all its branches. Most of them I am convinced, do not even comprehend the meaning of the word "education" or as they most commonly pronounce it *edication*. As a further specimen of the classical pronunciation of these gentlemen, be it remembered that "guardeen," is substituted for guardian, "olphin" for orphan, "jurers" for jurors, *cum multis aliis*. Can men who cannot pronounce the most common words in the English language be fit for the important offices of judges?

It is, I am afraid, a received opinion, that an education consists in the acquisition of the ability to read with tolerable fluency, and sufficient knowledge of arithmetic to calculate the interest of a note. He who is thus happily and abundantly qualified, looks forward with confidence to the support of his fellow-citizens, and amply competent to sit in the state legislature, in congress or on the bench. In this dearth of information, since the most important offices in the government, should be entrusted to those who are best able to discharge the duties annexed to them, and the number capable of answering the expectations of the public being few, the choice inevitably falls very often on those who are in a great measure incompetent to the task imposed.— Hence the imbecility of our legislative and other public bodies. Hence the inferior station held by the state of North-Carolina, compared with other parts of the confederation. It will be readily admitted that evil examples are more generally followed than good. The carelessness of too many of our citizens on the subject of education, has a pernicious tendency, not barely temporary. When talents and literary information are not the criterion of public favor, though accompanied with patriotism and worth, there exists no inducement to improve the mind at much expence; and if those who can afford it think the advantages of literature not worth the seeking, we may rest assured that those in a less affluent situation, will feel little desire for their possession. We should not however, forget, that in proportion to the quantum of general information and virtue, the prosperity of a country must be advanced and retarded, and that the blaze of learning is far preferable to the mist of ignorance.

SENTINEL.

FOR THE MINERVA.

Who should we blame, the Governor and Council for not convening the State Legislature to grant a mere momentary relief and perhaps make bad worse, or the Congress of the United States for imposing upon the people the measures that have produced these extreme hardships under which we now groan?

In vain may we expect to alleviate or rescue ourselves from the ravaging hand of desolation, whilst we level our blows against the tyranny and not against the tyrant. In this state of oppression it is not presumable we shall virtually effect a restoration of our liber-

ties; an attempt to remove the evil by application to the former, invigorates and strengthens the latter, it weakens and distracts the sounder parts and greatly facilitates the machinations of designing men: Strike not at the effect but at the cause; when the cause or moving principle ceases to exist or to operate, the effect of itself disappears.

Our state laws that enforce the payment of just dues are, not, I hope, considered in themselves oppressive; if however they have become so, the evil is not in the laws, but in our situation produced by men in authority, whose measures in the general government has so clogged the wheels of the body politic, as have rendered the situation of individuals incompetent to a compliance with their private contracts—and in a national point of view, I fear almost beyond a constitutional remedy.

True it is, the people stand in need of some friendly assistance: Their situation in every direction is truly distressing; the sensibility even of the most tranquil is roused to know their future destiny; indeed, the people in general begin now to discover that they have pursued the one party far enough; that they have been misled is a matter incontestably true; that non-importation acts and embargo laws were passed more to favor party purposes than to benefit the nation, are facts incontrovertible; that the real cause of their distresses are bursting through the sable mantle of party subtleties amidst the multitude of metaphysical refinements, in which party views have been enveloped, is now within the perception of a private citizen—and that the people may have cause, we long to rejoice, in seeing that the inexplicable mysticism which characterise the two last years of the present administration, is insufficient to repel the sternly inquisitive glance of enlightened investigation, is a momentous period devoutly wished for.

In this state of strange confusion have the people been so blindly led astray by these new tangled politicians, *embargo sages* and *secret keepers* "whose services in the field and labors in the cabinet" have appeared so eminently beautiful on paper that, by them, correct principles seemed evidently destined to the fangs of persecution.

But, fellow-citizens, the corrective is in you; wherefore then should you not direct your enquiries with equal candour and perseverance into the conduct of men whom we aided in placing at the head of affairs, as we would in the conduct of those to whom we were opposed? Are they not all men? And do we not feel in an equal degree the good and bad effects of their conduct? Why then should names, and names only, destroy the salutary effects of enquiry? Let it be shown, before we surrender the privilege of investigating even *our own party*, in what age ambition ceased to be the attribute of men in power. Be not therefore instrumental in pulling down the great fabric of civil institutions: add not to the imbecility of the present measures by the degrading alternative, the last a free people could adopt in a government like this, that is a suspension of your laws in time of peace: let not this be your first, but last corrective: exercise your corrective powers in the good old constitutional way—a change of men that will work a change of measures for the better. The cause will then be removed and the evil no longer felt. Your laws will then glide on in their straight and usual way, and without oppression. Open your ports to all friendly nations that chuse to come hither and buy. Your surplus produce would then bring something like its real value; money would become more plenty, and the circulating medium of the country no longer confined to the coffers of the speculator.

But to those who oppose both the "raising of the embargo and the suspension of the execution laws." What no relief! Ye that have been the followers of such men, what think you of such doctrine? Should you not be upon your guard when you hear republicans avow sentiments of this kind? These gang way leaders, high sounding pretenders, care as little for the national welfare, as the Pope of Rome does for the soul of a man for which he is paid for pretending to pull out of purgatory. Fellow-citizens, look about you; divest yourselves of party prejudices; "think and judge for yourselves;" do not confine your political sentiments to those who study to mislead; examine both sides of the question before you yield to the one or the other; you have been led long enough by the fiction of democratic editors, who generally publish six months before hand the course our rulers are to pursue, by which they foreclose the public opinion, whereby you lose sight of facts. These editors too are well versed in party tricks, and possess a happy knack in converting treachery into republicanism. But it may be enquired who these editors are: Are they natives? No. Are they respectable and well meaning foreigners? No. But they are men that have come hither because they were not permitted to reside in their native country, but in America they are the apologists of our rulers, and the calumniators of our best patriots. Witness their abuse on the Boston and Newburyport petitioners "praying the President to suspend the embargo laws as relates to Spain and Portugal." Says Billy Duane, "before the British orders of council are revoked, and the Milan decrees recalled, the voters of these petitions require the Executive to do what he has not the power to do." Is this the language of truth? Or does the Colonel wish to impress upon the minds of the people, that the President has not

\* William Duane is the very man who congratulated the people of the United States upon General Washington's retirement from public life. This Irishman has lately been appointed to the command of an American regiment.

the same power in recommending the suspension of measures, as he has in recommending their adoption. What has the British orders of council or the Milan decree to do with the President's constituted powers? But the fact is, these unfortunate petitioners are making exertions to throw off the galling yoke of the French despot, and their new arrangements are likely to open a door through which commercial advantages may pass to the U. States, and the embargo as we have always predicted, terminate in its own destruction and to the irreparable injury of the nation.

Again we are told by these editors, "that the President has not received any official accounts of the revolutions in Spain and Portugal, from his accredited agents in those countries." "It would be ridiculous," say these commentators of executive matters, "for the chief magistrate of this nation, to have exercised his power on the faith of Collingwood's dispatches or the public prints of Trinidad." Why not then tell us with equal candour, from whom did the President and Congress obtain their official accounts of the British orders of council being enforced when the embargo law passed. Did the President receive them officially from his accredited agents at London, or was it on the faith of Chamfagny's dispatches or the public prints of London? The same sort of accounts now offer for the suspension of the embargo, in part, as induced the President to recommend its adoption, and yet these editors now turn about and say the President "has not the power." It is a well known fact that the embargo law passed before it was officially known to either the Executive or Congress, that the British orders of council were enforced.

Thus fellow-citizens, we see, that they require greater reasons to relieve your distresses than is required to impose them; and the only reason to be assigned for it by an impartial mind is, that we have indulged party spirit to such a degree that our rulers have lost sight of public interest.

I have been necessarily led to take notice of those remarks published by the democratic editors, to show that they advocate the embargo upon very different principles than is held out to the people; that they would sooner drive us into dangerous innovations than relinquish a favorite party measure, is too obvious to admit of a single doubt. And will you, fellow-citizens, continue to be the sport of such men?

A CITIZEN OF EDGEcombe.

From the *Huntingdon Gazette*.

TO THE PUBLIC.

Having a short time since, received the most indecent and ungentlemanly treatment from Mr. Patrick Gwin, in the public market place of this borough, in consequence of my having noticed certain expressions he should have made use of when electioneering with the people of Woodcock Valley; I am, obliged, in justification of my own character, to make this public declaration, that I am in possession of certificates from my informants, men of the most unblemished characters, which go to prove that he the said Patrick Gwin did declare to them, "that we ought to support Bonaparte in opposition to England; that England must fall in the course of two or three years; and that Bonaparte never came into any country without making better laws for the poor people than they had before;" and further, "that he believed we would live better under the government of Bonaparte than under our own, and that it would be better for us to join him than England, because that all the countries that were conquered by Bonaparte have better laws now than they had before."

Now I challenge Mr. Gwin to meet a legal investigation on the subject of these charges, the result of which will prove, that the epithet of "LIAR" which he so liberally bestows on others, will be more applicable to himself, and that his denial of the fact will not answer his party purpose. The melancholy circumstance of there being a French party in this country, has become too notorious for any of its partizans to get clear of the infamy which await them.

JONAS RUDISILL.

Huntingdon, Aug. 16, 1808.

STATE OF TENNESSEE,  
Mero District.

May Term, 1808.

Hugh Gwinn and Sally his wife  
and others, complainants,  
vs.  
William Rice & others, d/fts.

THIS day appeared the complainants by their counsel; and it appearing to the satisfaction of the court, that Williamson Rice, Nathan Rice, Jeremiah Rice and John Rice, William Clifton and Sally his wife, Elizabeth Rice and William H. Rice, are citizens of Caswell county in the state of North Carolina; and Edward Rice and Henrietta his wife, are citizens of Rockingham county, in the said state aforesaid; and Pustle, of the state of North-Carolina—whereby the ordinary process of this court cannot be served on them: Therefore on the motion of the complainant it is ordered by the court, that publication be forthwith made in the *Minerva*, published in the city of Raleigh, three times, commanding the aforesaid defendants to appear, here on the second Monday in November next; then and there to answer the bill of the complainants, otherwise the same shall be taken for confessed as against them.

Teste, B. SLARCY, C. M. C. E.

NORTH-CAROLINA, IREDELL COUNTY,  
August term, 1808.

John Watts

vs.  
Samuel Woodside.

Original Attachment—Levied on seventy-five acres of land, and mills, &c. now in the possession of David Hogshead.

IN this case it appearing that the defendant is out of the state; therefore ordered by the court, that in case the said Samuel Woodside, fails to appear within the three first days of the next quarter sessions, and reply to the said lands, &c. judgment by default will be taken against him, and that this order be published successively three weeks in the *Minerva*.

JOHN NESBET, c. c.

SALISBURY RACES,

Will commence on the 19th of October next, and continue four days.

FIRST day, for 3 year old colts, raised in the districts of Salisbury and Morgan. The following three days free for any horse, mare or gelding, carrying weights agreeable to rules of the turf.

F. MARSHALL, Treasr.

Sept. 6.

To the Citizens of the Electoral District, composed of the counties of Rowan, Randolph and Cabarrus.

GENTLEMEN,

FROM the solicitation of some of my fellow-citizens, accompanying a wish of rendering service to my country at a time like the present, when the voice of our nation calls for a redress of her grievances, induces me thus to address you; and hereby tender my service as a candidate for the appointment of an elector for President and Vice-President of the United States. As the important duty of an elector requires the greatest degree of caution and candor, it being not only his choice but of his constituents, I deem it necessary to inform you that my opinion for a series of time has been and still is in favor of Mr. James Munroe, and if elected I shall thus vote; that is to say, for Mr. James Munroe as President, unless a change should take place sufficient to convince me that a different vote would be more advantageous and satisfactory to my constituents. At present I feel disposed to reserve the choice of Vice-President, as I expect there will be a sufficient number of candidates from which there will be made a choice for the benefit of distressed fellow-citizens.

I remain, Gentlemen,

Your very humble servt,

JOHN B. MASTERS.

Cabarrus county, Aug. 17.

OFFICE OF DISCOUNT.

Salisbury, Aug. 23, 1808.

NOTICE is hereby given, that the Bank of Cape-Fear has opened an office of Discount at this place, for the accommodation of individuals, with loans of money on the terms authorized by the charter of incorporation; and that Tuesday of every week is the day fixed for receiving applications. Persons intending to apply at this office for such loans, are requested to draw their bonds in the form prescribed by the regulations of the Bank, and lodge them with the subscriber before 10 o'clock of the forenoon of said day. The discounts, if authorized by the Directors, will be declared by one o'clock, and payments made in the afternoon.

JOHN STEPLE, Agent  
for the Bank of Cape-Fear.

THE PUBLIC TAXES.

NORTH-CAROLINA.

Treasury-Office, August 20, 1808.

To the Sheriffs and other Revenue Officers of the State aforesaid who have already accounted for and paid up the Taxes and other public dues of the current year, this is not addressed:—To those officers of the above description who have this indispensable duty yet to perform, it is considered as being only necessary to say, that counting on their usual punctuality and faithfulness, the Public Treasurer flatters himself they will all settle and pay in full on or before the 1st day of October next, as required by law. Should it in any instance happen otherwise, judgments involving all the forfeitures and penalties prescribed by the acts of Assembly in such cases made and provided, will be taken against the officers so failing, in the Superior Court for the county of Wake, which will commence on the 3d day of the said month of October next.

JOHN HAYWOOD,  
Public Treasurer.

TEN DOLLARS REWARD.

STRAYED from the subscriber near Prince's bridge, on Newhope, a small bright bay MARE, about four feet nine inches high, five years old last spring; has no white on her of any kind, faces, trots and canters. The above reward will be paid with all reasonable expences, upon the delivery of the said mare to Mr. Oliver Prince, or securing her so that I get her again.

MITCHELL MAUGHON.

Chatham county, July 15.

MILITIA LAWS

OF

NORTH-CAROLINA.

Just published, and for sale at this office.