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From the Staunton Censor.

TO THE CITIZENS OF AUGUSTA COUNTY.

At a meeting of a number of the respectable Freeholders of the county of Augusta, in the town of Staunton, Virginia on the 17th of September, 1808, for the purpose of taking into consideration the present crisis of public affairs.

General ROBERT PORTERFIELD, appointed Chairman, and SAMUEL CLARKE, Secretary.

The chairman having informed the meeting, that the objects thereof were to take into consideration the present situation of the country, as it respects the operation of the Embargo Law, to express their opinions on the policy which dictated it, and the expediency of its continuance, and also to adopt such measures as might be deemed necessary to support the Election of a Federal President and Vice-President, and a Federal Representative for this Congressional district.—On motion, Alexander Nelson, Carter Beverly, James Bell, Andrew Anderson, William Robertson, Alexander Robertson and Alexander St. Clair, were appointed a Committee to draft suitable Resolutions to be proposed to the meeting. The committee then retired and prepared the following:

TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES.

Sir, WE, the Freeholders of Augusta county, at the Court House, in the town of Staunton, duly assembled according to public notice given in the news papers, hereby beg leave to approach the Executive branch of government, with such expressions of the political sentiments of the county aforesaid, as seemeth unto us meet and proper. The fundamental principle of our Constitution has always been considered to mean, that the power of each branch of the government being derived from the people, they of necessity have the right to control the operations of it, and for that purpose it has been generally acknowledged that the legitimacy of the government is alone the sovereignty of the people. Viewing it therefore a right we possess, co equal with the formation of the compact, that whenever public exigencies shall require the expression of the individual opinion, it should be freely and fully declared, we have thus assembled to take into consideration the present unhappy situation of our country, and after the most mature and deliberate reflection, we deem it our duty to lay before you the following expression of our feeling:

The prosperity of the United States has invariably depended upon commerce, maintained and supported by a just regard to our national honour, and we view it therefore of deep regret to the nation that after nine months experience of the Embargo Law, we are left in ruins and dreadful as the consequences are to deplore a continuation of it without any serious prospect whatever, of its being repealed. As long as it was thought right to indulge our rulers in a trial of the experiment, we have in common with the great mass of the good people of the United States, silently submitted to the authority of the government, but as we can no longer perceive the least probability of the great belligerent nations swerving from the political stand they have taken, and as the United States without commerce must infallibly become a crippled and finally a bankrupt people, we deem it absolutely essential to our political existence, to declare a continuance of the Embargo Law ruinous and impolitic: we evidently discover, (tested as our ideas are by experience) that unless the avenues of commerce are again opened and the commercial people of America suffered to hazard their lives upon the ocean in pursuit of their lawful gain, free and unmolested by any domestic shackles, we are seriously apprehensive there will soon prevail a general sentiment completely derelictive of our former acquiescence to the will of Congress; unpleasant as this declaration is, echoed and sent forth by the populous and patriotic County of Augusta, we consider it nevertheless as a truth that can no longer be disguised; and when we declare to you that we have long since considered our government partial and timorous in its operations towards one of the great belligerent powers of Europe, and unnecessarily clamorous towards another; you will do us the justice to believe that we are neither actuated ourselves by a hatred towards the one, or a love towards the other country; but that we measure our public sentiments by that political rule which is the unerring concomitant of wisdom & justice, viz. We consider it as honorable to deal unto all nations that equal share of national dignity & interchange that neither espouses ingloriously the actions of the one, to the annihilation of the other; & we deem it as the most unpardonable circumstance that the Delegates of a free people should ever have formed themselves into a combination, to subvert the true interest of their government by shrouding themselves under Executive recommendations to legislate for one foreign governmental preference of another, and we can no longer possibly forbear to say, that the continual series of secret deliberations in the two last sessions of

Congress, afford no omens to us of national integrity. Within the secret Hall we believe the most dishonorable transactions have arisen, and that the people have been absolutely prevented from seeing those circumstances most intimately connected with their political safety and preservation: For, although we do not deny the propriety of the circumstance of government being sometimes disposed of with secrecy, yet we cannot possibly contemplate that there ever has been, or ever will be cause for the councils of a free people to be so entirely enveloped in mystery as the affairs of America have been. It was not a principle of the Washington administration to incircle us in such darkness as this; for upon one occasion only can we remember, that the doors of Congress were ever shut more than for an hour or two; we well recollect that even that circumstance was deemed unwholesome to the liberties of the people. Under these impressions, actuated as we most solemnly declare ourselves to be, by no consideration of party measures, and personal dislike of you, but governed as we are by that zeal for the prosperity of our country so incumbent upon its guardians to maintain and preserve, we are emboldened to expect from you, sir, as the supreme magistrate of our country, that decision in your governmental sphere that shall prompt you to retrieve to the country its wonted, free and unrestrained commerce; and shall restore to us that prosperity in our agricultural operations that is so necessary to the political health of the great mass of the nation. We, in fine, sir, declare to you, that though we reverence the constitution of our country, and will forever maintain the dignity and support of it—we cannot consent that legislators, emanated from it, ever shall take upon themselves so entirely the majesty of the people; we view it as although transcending the rights they were delegated to preserve, and as we consider their guardianship no longer guided by the fostering hand that should govern their conduct, we believe that the people now have a right to direct them.—We therefore, with the decency becoming a nation of freemen, have presumed to make known to you our grievances; hoping that at the meeting of our legislature, if it should be convoked earlier than it is already by law established, you will in the distribution of your magisterial duty, cause to be laid upon the table of Congress the following resolutions:

Resolved, That we consider the people of the United States paramount to all authority delegated to their representatives, and that they have a right in their individual capacity peaceably to assemble and express their approbation or disapprobation of the measures emanating from their constituted authorities.

Resolved, That we view the whole passage of the embargo law impolitic, and in its operation partial, ruinous and entirely fatal to the peace and welfare of our country.

Resolved, That we consider the decree of France in November, 1806, as the principal cause of the country being orders of England in November, 1807, and that therefore we deem the conduct of our government indecisive as related to the one country, tending to relinquish to her our rights, and as to the other filled with an over measure of complaint, not warranted by our previous submission.

Resolved, That we view with extreme concern an apparent degree of foreign influence pervading our councils, unworthy of a magnanimous and independent people.

Resolved, That we view the decisions of the late majority of Congress as guided too much by executive direction, and as having been (in a few instances only excepted) uniformly directed thereby.

Resolved, That we believe that the raising of an additional army establishment of 6,000 quite unnecessary, unless it was intended as a permanent one, inasmuch as that we consider that the necessity of an army—at any time must alone be danger from without; and if there was, or is that danger, we do not consider six thousand men as forming one tenth part even of the military strength necessary for defence.

Resolved, That we view such a repetition & frequency of secret communications from the President to both houses of Congress as dangerous and improper, and that such frequent deliberations of that body in secret conclave, are incompatible with the spirit of our constitution, and the liberties of the people; and that therefore they ought to be discouraged & never resorted to but upon the most unavoidable occasions.

Resolved, That we view with utter abhorrence the extensive and unbounded operations of France against the powers of Europe: We think our government should be scrupulously careful not to countenance directly or indirectly any of her overwhelming measures, and we consider the conduct of her emperor towards us as insulting and oppressive.

Resolved, That we feel a lively interest in the struggles of Spain to retrieve her lost power and consequence as a nation; and that we consider it absolutely proper, that our government should meet any propositions

from her; viewing her as we do, not a rebellious, but loyal people, desirous to maintain and preserve their honor and consequence among nations, and fighting for the actual liberties of their country against an usurper and foreign tyrant.

Resolved, That without an open commerce for the merchants of the United States, we seriously contemplate the entire downfall of the community, and that bankruptcy and civil war will arise; we view therefore it to be the bounden duty of Congress to repeal the embargo act, and so to revert to the accustomed channels of commercial regulations (with such of the powers of Europe as will treat with us honourably) as shall ensure to us that great blessing.

Resolved, That we will support the true honor and dignity of the country whenever called on.

On motion being made to have the foregoing address and resolutions published for the information of the Freeholders of Augusta county before they should be acted upon, the question being put and carried in the affirmative: It is resolved that the printers in the town of Staunton publish the same in their respective papers.

Resolved, That the freeholders of said county be notified to meet at the court-house in Staunton, on Thursday the 29th day of the present month, prepared to act upon the said address and resolutions.

ROBERT PORTERFIELD, Chairman.
A Copy from the original.

At the above mentioned meeting the following Resolutions were also agreed to:

Resolved, That we consider CHARLES CORFESWORTH PINCKNEY of South Carolina, and KUFUS KING of the state of New York, as proper men to be supported as President and Vice President of the U. S.—and that Robert Porterfield, William Boys, Carter Beverly, Alexander Nelson, Alexander St. Clair and Saml. Clarke, be appointed a committee of correspondence to carry into operation this resolution.

Resolved, That the aforesaid committee also be authorized to correspond with other committees of the several counties composing this congressional district for the purpose of supporting a suitable candidate for Congress at the next election.

The committee of correspondence for the county of Augusta, seeing the necessity of the greatest diligence being made by the federal republicans throughout the state of Virginia to restore the policy that guided the councils of Washington—and to give the object of this meeting as extensive and immediate circulation as possible, request that such federal editors as feel a disposition to cooperate with them, will give these resolutions with the note attached to them, an insertion in their respective papers: at the same time enjoining upon their federal friends in every county, the necessity of calling a meeting immediately to adopt similar resolutions expressive of their approbation of these measures, and to report to them a proper character for an elector in their respective districts to form the federal ticket.

The committee view with abhorrence the Law establishing the mode of election by General Ticket, and are sensible of the great change that must, and that there will be effected to ensure success; if however the object should fail in this state, they will have the pleasing reflection of having made an honest effort.

ROBERT PORTERFIELD,
WILLIAM BOYS,
CARTER BEVERLEY,
ALEXANDER NELSON,
ALEXANDER ST. CLAIR,
SAMUEL CLARKE.

Important News.

BOSTON, Oct. 4.

FROM SPAIN.

Capt. HARDING, who left Cadiz Aug. 23, informs, that the French troops who capitulated under DUPONT, had arrived at Cadiz for embarkation and vessels were preparing for them. The British, it was understood, would suffer them to go home. It was ascertained that the French had entirely evacuated Madrid, carrying off with them almost every thing valuable, which was portable. The impression at the time he sailed was, that there was scarcely a Frenchman in arms in Spain. Several of the American captains, whose vessels were detained at Algeiras, were at Seville, and had assurances of immediate orders for the release of their vessels. Capt. H. brought dispatches from the American Envoy at Madrid.

It was reported at Cadiz, that the Italians had risen against the French.

Ad. COLLINGWOOD still commanded off Cadiz; but in consequence of the peace, and the success of the Patriots, he was preparing to go up the Mediterranean.

Gen. DUPONT was in close confinement, be-

cause, it was said, he was endeavoring to improve his situation to act the part of a spy. The French prisoners at Cadiz had attempted to rise; in consequence of which the citizen soldiers took their own arms home every night, instead of depositing them in the magazine.

Recovery of Lisbon.

On the 6th of Sept. near St. Michaels, Capt. HARDING, was boarded from the British frigate Eugene five days from Lisbon for Halifax, and informed, that the British TOOK POSSESSION of LISBON on the 29th or 30th of August, and the French Army of 17,000 men surrendered to the British, after a severe action of two days; that about 1000 of the British were killed, and 2 or 3000 of the French, and a great number wounded; and that the Russian Fleet had capitulated, and was to be sent to England. The Eugene, was from England, with a convoy to Lisbon, and was only off there one day.

Capt. HARDING obligingly favoured us with Seville Gazette to Aug. 19, from which the following translations have been made.

Evacuation of Madrid.

MADRID, Aug. 5.

The news of the surrender of DUPONT occasioned the greatest consternation in the French army, and an extraordinary movement was observed. They left the city in three divisions. The 1st on the 29th of July; on the 30th, the second left, with which went KING JOSEPH; and the third, on the 31st.—They sacked the Caisse d'Escompte and left only the walls of the palace.

In the Casa de la China, where there were batteries, they left 80 cannons spiked, as also those on the batteries del Retiro, where they left many howitzers, liquors and arms.

The entrance of Joseph, into this city, as into the towns on his way, was disgraceful. Nobody welcomed him, in defiance of the order which was given for this purpose; and it was necessary in order to adorn his procession that in the proclamation lines should be imposed, and many were even threatened with death.

Selling the picture of Ferdinand the 7th, was made a capital crime. Yesterday all Madrid was filled with them. The patriot General CASTANOS is immediately expected here.

SEVILLE, Aug. 9.

The evacuation of Madrid by the French on the 31st July is officially announced. They carried off with them the contents of the treasury, custom-house and Philippine Company's chests. They marched towards Segovia. We are in daily expectation of more circumstantial intelligence.

AUG. 16.

Yesterday sat out from this city for Madrid, their Excellencies Don Francis Xavier CASTANOS, our worthy General in Chief, and Don Andres Menayo las Casas, one of the members of our Supreme Council, who follow the Van Guard of our Army, & which (the Van Guard) we believe must have entered Madrid yesterday.

REUS, July 20.

A French division marching towards Granelles has been destroyed.

Barcelona is blockaded by 4 English ships of war. As soon as the corps of Miqueletes is organized, we expect to inform our readers of the surrender of the French army in that capital.

REUS, July 25.

A considerable number of Spanish troops have arrived from Minorca and Majorca; and have marched to re-inforce the Patriots at Saragossa.

The French Gen. Duhesme, has left Barcelona alone, and has not been heard of since. Several French soldiers have deserted from the fort of Montjuic; and, said others would desert if they could be sure of good treatment. In consequence of this the Patriot General issued a Proclamation promising them that they should be well received.

It is said that Lefevre has been taken prisoner by the Arragonese.

Our troops have set out for Barcelona, with the greatest precipitation. We expect the fate of that city is to be soon decided.

The French division which marched from Barcelona, against Gerona, had been alarmed, and retreated.

JULY 27.

At the setting off of the mail, it was reported that the General in Chief DUHESME, who had commanded fort Montjuic, (Barcelona,) was made prisoner and carried to the castle of Cardona; it was also reported as certain that the French army of about 5,000, which had gone from Barcelona, towards Hastatic, were very much pressed. The truth is, that on Monday morning there had not any French Soldiers returned to Barcelona, that DUHESME'S driver had returned very