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*From the Freeman's Journal.*  
MEETING.—Yesterday, January 31, was a proud, a glorious day, for the people of *American Union, Commerce and Industry*. On that day they proved to this world, that though they were peaceably disposed, yet they were also determined to maintain their constitutional rights at every hazard. The information of those at a distance of the proper to state, that on the 23d of January, the Democrats held a meeting in this city, to approve of the embargo. It did not consist of more than 1500 persons, of whom one third were boys (allured by the music and fife with which these gentry are accompanied) and peaceable spectators. No molestation was offered them by the Federalists; they were suffered to hold their meeting in peace. When the democratic meeting was over, the Federalists issued a notice to those opposed to the Embargo, to meet on the 31st of January. Nothing could be more explicit than this. It was so clear and defined, that they could possibly mistake it. The Federalists had made it purposely explicit, in order to avoid any collision of party. They were glad that the Democrats should enjoy their own sentiments, and they wished also to enjoy theirs. But at the institution of a foreign incendiary printer, the Democrats, to their everlasting infamy and disgrace, were urged on by interested and separate leaders, suddenly called ward leaders, where they passed the most inflammatory resolutions intended to excite the people from expressing their opinions, declaring vengeance against every man opposed to the embargo, and resolving to march through the city with martial music. One hour before the time appointed to take possession of the ground, and thus prevent the Americans from meeting. It may not be amiss to remark, that with a very few exceptions, the chairman and secretaries of these meetings, were FOREIGNERS!!! This conduct was so unprecedented, so excessively perverse, impudent & outrageous, violating every sense of propriety and decorum, that the *American Spirit* was aroused to the utmost pitch of indignation. Many who had not intended to go to the meeting, now determined to attend. In consequence of the outrageous conduct of the Democrats, who seemed determined to hazard the peace and safety of the city, several preparatory meetings of those citizens opposed to the Embargo were held, where it was mutually agreed, and they pledged themselves to each other that though they were friends of peace and order, and would much for the sake of harmony, yet the peaceably assembling to express their opinions on public measures was a right reserved for them by the blood and treasure of their fathers—a right which they never relinquish but with their lives—that such a democratic reign of terror was not to be tolerated, they would not let it in the bud—and as they had a constitutional right to meet they would hold their meeting on the 31st, though they should have to risk their all in the attempt.  
The citizens opposed to the Embargo, among whom were about 1000 brave Americans, accordingly assembled in the state yard yesterday morning, to the amount of three to four thousand. They placed the gallant Commodore Truxton in the chair, whose name George Clymer, Esq. their secretary. This was a few minutes before eleven o'clock. After waiting some little time, a cry from the people of "proceed to business," induced the chairman to open the meeting. At this moment, the democratic mob, consisting of about 1000 men, entered the yard with drums and fife, and finding the business stood, they made one or two pushes to get possession of the stage, but they were as quickly driven back, & kept until the proceedings were unanimously adopted; we say unanimously for the Democrats having held their meeting before, not considered as a part of this, but as an outrageous decency itself: for during the meeting they kept up a hideous yell backed with the noise of the drums and fife. The Tars, exasperated at such proceedings, exclaimed "this is pretty Liberty in this a pretty specimen of democracy;" and were with great difficulty kept back from going out of the yard, which they had accomplished in a few minutes if had not been restrained; for it was the will of the Federalists to keep as much order as possible. After going through their business, the citizens, with their Chairman and Secretary, a number of revolutionary characters, were on the stage, retired amid the cheering huzzas of thousands determined to live and die free.  
Soon as the chairman retired from the stage, several of the tars pulled it to pieces, and were unanimously observing, that "the Democrats might now hold a meeting if they

would, but that their chairman should sit a peg lower than Truxton!"

Com. Truxton was then carried through the streets in triumph, by the gallant tars, amid the acclamations of thousands of our citizens, to the Merchants Coffee House, where after an appropriate address from the Commodore, the people quietly dispersed to their respective homes.

When the citizens had retired from the demolished stage, the democrats renewed it as well as the time would permit, and placed Capt. Win. Jones in the chair, when a sailor who had remained behind, halloed to him, "you're a pretty lubber of a commander, to take possession of a dismantled hulk!" Mr. Dallas then addressed the democrats thus:

"Gentlemen of the Jury!!!—[a loud laugh] I come here in my official as well as in my individual capacity, to assure you that there is not an eminent lawyer in the United States but will say, that the last embargo law is strictly constitutional!" Mr. Dallas then gave them a long story about nothing, and several resolutions were proposed but by some means or other the *noes* were quite as numerous as the *ayes*. Several gentlemen who remained, have vouched that this was the case. Mortified, enraged and disappointed, they left the state house yard after squabbling together for near an hour, and marched down second street past the merchants coffee house, where they revenged themselves, mob like, by throwing mud and snow at the merchants and others assembled in the piazza to see them pass. Their conduct was so scandalous, that some of their own partisans at length cried out that the scene was disgraceful. And so ended the history of the democratic defeat.

The United States Gazette introduced the proceedings, of the meetings by the following paragraph:

*From the United States Gazette.*

*Spirit of '76*—Among the numerous distinguished revolutionary characters who appeared at the town meeting this morning to express their disapprobation of the late arbitrary measures of the government, particularly of the forcing law, who took their stations upon the stage by the side of the gallant Truxton, we were pleased to observe George Clymer, Esq. who signed the Declaration of Independence, in 1776; Capt. G. G. G., who was First Lieutenant to Paul Jones, in times that tried men's souls; Col. James Read, and General Francis Gurney well known to Americans, for their Revolutionary services; Capt. John Dunlap, and Samuel Wheeler, Esq. members of the old city troop, which distinguished itself at the capture of the Hessians at Trenton; Thomas Fitzsimons, Esq. who commanded a company of militia in 1776, a member of the old Congress, of the convention which formed the constitution of the United States, and of the first Congress, under that constitution; Moses Levy, Esq. & Joshua Humphreys, Esq. well known and active whigs in the gloomy periods of '76 & '77.

At the close of the town meeting this morning, about a thousand grateful tars crowded about their adored Truxton, took the chair from the stage, placed the Commodore in it, and carried him to the coffee house, where he addressed them in a short speech, upon which they made the air resound with acclamations, and marched off in good order and in high spirits.

## PUBLIC MEETING.

OF THE CITY AND COUNTY, Jan. 31, 1809.  
A numerous body of the citizens of the city and county of Philadelphia, assembled in the State House yard, in consequence of the call upon them to express their disapprobation of the embargo and of the "enforcing act."

Commodore THOMAS TRUXTON, was unanimously called to the Chair, and GEORGE CLYMER, Esq. appointed Secretary.

The following resolutions were proposed to the meeting and adopted.

Whereas it is the constitutional right of the people, peaceably to assemble together for the common good, and freely and unequivocally to offer their advice, and express their opinion with regard to the measures of government, and whereas, in the opinion of this meeting, the United States are now placed in a most critical and calamitous condition in which national independence is endangered from abroad, and union and liberty are menaced at home; in which commerce is suspended; many of the usual pursuits of industry impeded; and the people thrown from high prosperity, into great distress and privation:

In order, therefore, to make known our sentiments to our rulers and our country, Resolved, that the union of these states, formed by the wisdom which planned, and consecrated by the sacrifices of those who achieved our independence, is endeared to us by every affection and remembrance which is gratifying to us as men, and by every interest and duty, which we hold sacred as citizens. And that, viewing it as the main pillar of national

glory, individual happiness, and the public security, we will steadily support it against all attacks, whatever may be the errors of the administration, and however severe the pressure which those errors may have occasioned.

Resolved, That we view with deep and unaffected concern, the artifices, and publications, which are daily used and resorted to, in order to disseminate unfounded suspicions and alarms and to encourage the belief that there exists among those opposed to any of the measures of the present administration a spirit of disaffection to the union and independence of these states. In the opinion of this meeting, all such publications and artifices, particularly when sanctioned by men of high standing & authority, have a direct and necessary tendency to increase the reliance of foreign nations on our internal divisions, and to embitter the animosities of party, and, by spreading the influence of terror and hatred, to disable the citizen from making a just and constitutional opposition to the unwise destructive measures of government.

Resolved, That we deem a longer continuance of the laws imposing the embargo as unjust, oppressive and impolitic. In our opinion experience fully demonstrates that the embargo as a means of coercion is weak, inefficient and useless; and while a great and profitable trade may be carried on notwithstanding the orders and decrees of the belligerent powers of Europe, it is dishonourable to abandon rights to the ocean which form an essential part of our national character and independence.

Resolved, that we consider the late act of Congress commonly called "the enforcing law" to be a direct invasion of the established principles of civil liberty, and of the express provisions of the constitution; as arbitrary and severe to a degree unnecessary, even to accomplish the objects for which the law is professed to have been enacted, as creating an enormous and dangerous augmentation of executive influence and power; and as unnecessarily exposing the citizen to the miseries of civil discord, and military execution. That the ninth section of the act, which authorises a ministerial officer, without process of law, to seize goods at his discretion under a pretence that there is reason to believe, they are intended for exportation, or apparently on the way to the territories of a foreign power, is in our opinion a breach of the fourth article of the amendments to the constitution, which provides, "that the right of the people to be secure in their persons, houses, papers, and effects against unreasonable searches and seizures shall not be violated, and of the 5th article of the amendments which declares, that no man shall be deprived of life, liberty, or property" but by due process of law." That the tenth section is contrary to the spirit of the constitution, inasmuch as it vests in the president a legislative authority by giving to his instructions in certain cases the force of law; and that the eleventh section of the act violates a political and civil right more sacred than any constitution, in authorizing the military to fire upon the people, without the sanction or interposition of the civil authority. The principle contained in this section, if much further extended, might with competent force, convert our government into an absolute despotism.

Resolved, That we are coolly and inflexibly determined to support the rights and liberties which have been bequeathed to us by our ancestors, or by our own exertions; and that in maintaining this determination, we shall neither be shaken by the menaces of Power, nor be influenced by the authority of Faction. But it is our earnest advice to our fellow citizens every where to avoid and discourage violations of the embargo laws—While the elective franchise remains pure and unimpaired there must finally be a remedy for every grievance, and if before this remedy can be applied, military force should be resorted to, the laws and independent tribunals of our country afforded redress.

Resolved, That a committee be appointed to draft a memorial to congress in conformity with the foregoing resolutions, to obtain the signature of our fellow citizens thereto, and to transmit the same to congress.

The following gentlemen were appointed a committee to carry into effect the last resolution: THOMAS TRUXTON, Thomas Fitzsimons, George Clymer, Timothy Paxton, Joshua Humphreys, Robert Wain, Benjamin R. Morgan, James Milnor, and Charles W. Hare. (Signed)

THOMAS TRUXTON, Chairman  
GEORGE CLYMER, Secy.

## Congress.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,  
WEDNESDAY, Feb. 1.

Mr. Homes from the committee of Claims made a report on the memorial of Thomas Paine, recommending that the petitioner have

leave to withdraw his memorial. Laid on the table.

## REPEAL OF THE EMBARGO AND ISSUING LETTERS OF MARQUE AND REPRISAL.

The house again resolved itself into a committee of the whole, on Mr. Nicholas's resolution, Mr. MASON in the chair. The proposition for filling the blank in the resolution with the first day of June still under consideration, was debated till 4 o'clock, when the committee rose.

On the question that the committee have leave to sit again.

Mr. Dawson moved to postpone the further consideration of the subject indefinitely. The House adjourned without coming to a decision on the motion.

THURSDAY, Feb. 2.

## PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION.

Mr. Bacon called for the consideration of the resolution offered by him on Monday, for appointing a joint committee to examine the subject of the petition against the mode in which the late election of Electors of President and Vice-President of the United States, by the legislature of the state of Massachusetts, was conducted.

Mr. Randolph wished the resolution to lie on the table, that the members of the house might have an opportunity to take it into their most serious consideration.—He said it appeared to him that under colour of a redress of grievances, the resolution might go in a very alarming and dangerous manner to enlarge the sphere of action of the general government, at the expense of the dearest rights of the states. In what manner, asked he, is the general government constituted? We, as one of the branches of the Legislature, are unquestionably the judges of our own qualifications and returns. The Senate, the other branch of the Legislature, is in like manner the judge, without appeal, of the qualifications of its own members. But with respect to the appointment of president—on whom is that authority devolved in the first instance? On the electors who are to all intents and purposes, according to my apprehension, as much the judges of their own qualifications as we are of ours; and it appears to me as competent to the people of any part of this country, to prefer a petition to the electoral college to set aside the returns of any members of Congress as proper petitions to this house to set aside the qualifications of electors. True it is, sir, that for the convenience of the thing, and also for the prevention of cabals and intrigue—such, however, was the intention of this provision; how far it has answered that purpose is another question—the electors assemble in separate divisions in the respective states; but they are to be considered, to all intents and purposes, as a body of men equal in number to the Senate & House of Representatives, charged with the election of the President & Vice President of the United States, and judges in the last resort of their own qualifications and returns. If not, they are a mere nullity. Sir, when I rose I had no intention of saying thus much on the subject; I did not dream that it would be called upon, and, to be candid, I did not know that the resolution was on the table. The manner of doing business in the house is so strange and anomalous, that it is impossible for any person to know what will be the subject of debate on a particular day. But it is perfectly in my recollection, and, sir, it must be in yours, the extreme sensation which was produced in this house and throughout the union, by a bill introduced into the other house by a member from Pennsylvania (Mr. Ross) touching the election of President and Vice-President of the United States. This is a delicate subject, one which it is agreed on all hands there is no occasion to touch. The election is not only undisputed but indisputable. The constitution has said that each state is entitled to a number of electors equal to the number of its Senators and Representatives, who shall be appointed in such manner as the Legislatures shall prescribe; and if we attempt to put our hands on this power, we might as well in my apprehension, arrogate to ourselves the appointment of President and Vice-President. If we do away the decision of the Electoral Body, which is as independent of us as we are of them, the constitution is in my opinion verging to its dissolution.

Mr. Bacon said he should certainly consent that the resolution should lie on the table. He said he was himself by no means certain that this House or both Houses had the power of acting on the subject; but he thought it an attention due to the memorials to give them a reference to a select committee. He did not wish to commit himself or the House on the subject, for, he repeated he was by no means certain of the propriety of the proceeding.

The resolution was ordered to lie on the table.

## REPEAL OF THE EMBARGO &c.

The Speaker declared the motion pending (for indefinite postponement) when the house yesterday adjourned to be out of order.