

HALF DOLL PER ANNUM ADVANCE.

Vol. 14

From the Connecticut Herald. No. 1. THE CONTRAST.

English haters are incessantly harping on the cruelties made of our commerce by Bonaparte's cruizers, &c.—God knows we have suffered enough from the cruizers and plunders of all the belligerents—but pray let us compare facts and then decide.

It is a notorious fact that France has destroyed our commerce from the year 1793 to this hour, and that since Bonaparte's Milan decrees her cruizers have sunk or burnt, American ships where ever they were on the ocean.—And it is a fact that twenty millions of American are now detained in France, either as security for our good behavior, or as a punishment for our offenses. And it is a fact that our unoffending ships are stripped of their all driven into the interior, thrown naked and penniless into prisons, and then doomed to pine till a heavy mulct or ransom is paid for their liberty. Will the worst enemy of our country say that she has done worse than

Spain, which has fallen under the control of Bonaparte and could equip a paltry privateer to prey on the American commerce. It is a fact that Spain, (while subject to Bonaparte's influence,) Holland, and his tributaries, have uniformly adopted his decrees against us, and have insulted and robbed us whenever opportunity presented.

It is a fact that the Danes, the amiable and lamb like Danes, (who are the objects of infinite commiseration with democracy) so soon as their cause became identified with Bonaparte's, commenced their depredations on American commerce, and are now carrying our ships by scores.

It is a fact, notwithstanding these innumerable outrages, insults and robberies, committed on us by France and her satellites, that we have a Treaty of Amity and Commerce with her Tyrant, which solemnly guarantees all the immunities of free trade and shipping.

Behold the contrast. It is a fact that Portugal, for half a century in alliance with England, has never committed a single known act of wrong. It is a fact that Sweden, whilst in alliance with and defensive with the same power, committed an offence against us.

It is a fact that the moment the Spanish raised its spear against Bonaparte and his destiny, or (as our French Jacobins sold itself to Britain,) at the same time the Spaniards ceased to plunder our commerce, promptly released our numerous captives, and have ever since manifested the friendly disposition towards our country.

It is a fact that with England our treaty of commerce is about to expire, and Mr. Jefferson refusing to renew it on terms even disadvantageous, we have no other claims of friendship than what her own interests, sense of justice, or the (exploded) laws of nations provide.

THESE ARE FACTS.—Now let any writer of Bonaparte and hater of England recite coolly these facts, and persist in saying that Britain is more our enemy than France!

The following execrable paragraphs are from the Boston Chronicle the leading democratic paper at this eastward. Bonaparte instead of oppressing Hungary and giving her freedom and independence, instead of aiming at universal empire he is endeavouring to restore the freedom of the world.

One thing is certain, the United States discovered the most ardent desire to be reconciled to France on terms, while France has neglected.

The aggressions of France have been in retaliation of the English orders in council. Bonaparte has discovered a pacific disposition towards us. His conduct has been marked with magnanimity.

and terminates in treachery and ruin. The extracts we have copied from the Chronicle, furnish evidence, of what we have so often said, that the old Jacobins, the leaders of our clubs were, have been, and still are wholly devoted to France, to the bloody butchers of the revolution, and to the blasphemous, merciless instrument of her despotism. They have palliated her insults, they have and ever will defend her perfidy and her outrages.

To convict these traitors of their deep plots, and reiterated falsehoods, to show BONAPARTE'S baseness and enmity to America, we have only to call to mind his violations of our treaty, purchased at the price of millions; the seizure, burning, and destruction of our property; the seizure of our ships and cargoes, perfidiously entrapped in his ports; the long and cruel imprisonment of our citizens, with so few of the necessaries of life, that they would starve and perish for want, if not relieved by our own ministers; our exclusion from every part of Europe, and the course of the Embargo! Can the wretch, who has at one time repeated the blasphemy of DANTON, and at another the creed of the Musselman; the profligate BANDIT, who has poisoned the soldiers wounded in his defence; who violates neutral territory to immolate the last of the Conde race; and murdered the unhappy PALM, the subject of a foreign kingdom, for daring to expose his crimes—can he feel partially for a people, whose republic is a satire on his despotism, whose religious character is a libel on his practical atheism, and whose gospel describes him as the curse of God? The profane of this iron headed, iron hearted savage are drugged with death—Would to heaven his venom was buried with his carcass, and that his minions here were as palsied as they are detestable.

Fellow-Citizens, be awake, be vigilant. The writers in the Chronicle act here the part of those venal wretches who spread the proclamations of Bonaparte in Switzerland. The brave rugged tenants of the rocks and mountains, fought and struggled in vain, after they were divided by traitors. They wear now the livery of the Tyrant. Spanish independence has also been put in jeopardy by the same class of miscreants. When our hour of trial comes, as it will come, if England is crippled or overwhelmed, we have every thing to fear from such slaves of the tyrant. Mark them now, and determine, that if we have to fight for our country, those who have strove to unman us before the contest, shall not survive the liberties, which they have studied and toiled to betray.

PUTNAM.

GENERAL WILKINSON.

Daniel Clark, late representative in Congress from the district of Orleans, has within a few weeks past, published a pamphlet concerning Gen. Wilkinson, which certainly deserves the notice of the people and of the government.

He undertakes to prove two propositions: first, that Wilkinson has been a pensioner of Spain—2nd, that he was associated with Burr in his treasonable schemes.

Mr. Clark pledges himself to establish these propositions by weighty documents which he has annexed to his pamphlet, and which are more voluminous than the pamphlet itself.—From his own evidence laid before congress in the session of 1807—8 he draws no inference.

How far Mr. Clark has succeeded in the task, which he has undertaken to perform, the public will decide. For our own part we acknowledge, that we have already decided. Mr. Clark has placed the guilt of Wilkinson, both as to corruption and treachery beyond the reach of doubt. No impartial man can read Clark's book and doubt as to the consummate guilt of Wilkinson.

Shall this man still be continued as commander in chief of the armies of the United States? Spirit of '76.

GENERAL WILKINSON.

Daniel Clark, late Delegate in Congress, from the New Orleans Territory, has published in an octavo volume, which may be purchased at any of our book stores, a very able and satisfactory exposition of Wilkinson's connection with Burr in the early stages of the conspiracy, and of his infamous correspondence with the Spanish government to dismember the United States, and to annex a portion of them to the dominions of Spain. This work ought to be in the hands of every man who feels an interest in the honor and safety of the union. How Mr. Jefferson can account to the nation for appointing to the command of the army a man so entirely destitute of all principle, all honor; one so abandoned and profligate; one who for self had devoted his country to ruin; is yet to appear. Such a scene of iniquity as Mr. Clark exposes, is without example.—R. J. March Tower.

From the New-York Evening Post. THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF.

No. 1.

The Hon. David Clark, late member of Congress from New-Orleans, has at length published his highly interesting and important work respecting the man to whom Mr. Jefferson entrusted the command of the army of the United States, and continued him in the same, with a full knowledge of his guilt.

The book is entitled "Proofs of the corruption of general James Wilkinson, and of his connection with Aaron Burr; with a full refutation of his slanderous allegations in relation to the character of the principal witness against him."

I have read no piece of controversial writing since Whitaker's "Vindication of Mary," that has surpassed the little volume before me, in closeness and perspicuity of reasoning, or energy and beauty of style. The conviction it leaves upon the mind is of a nature so perfectly satisfactory that not a doubt remains to be solved, not a question remains to be asked. It certainly is one of the most complete triumphs of virtue and talents over villainy and meanness the world ever witnessed. All who can purchase this book ought to get it; but I mean to treat my distant and numerous readers who have not the means of procuring it, with copious extracts. The following is the introduction:

"Whatever pleasure is derived from the punishment of crimes, it is always painful to become the instrument of inflicting it. It was therefore with regret that I found myself called on to lay before the house of representatives the information I possessed of general Wilkinson's treachery and corruption.

This regret was heightened by the idea that a part at least of my information had been acquired from the voluntary confession of the party accused, and a breach of confidence was so repugnant to my feelings, that although the confidence was unsought, but rather pressed upon me to prevent, I believe, a disclosure of facts I before knew, yet a strong sense of duty alone could have induced me to obey the call of the house. I complied with it; and my evidence established a direct confession of guilt. Little foresight was necessary to discover that this would expose me to every attack that could be made upon my reputation—it was verified by the event; every crime in the catalogue of human depravity was immediately imputed to me, and the basest and most contemptible arts were used, however, with so little success, that although in a moment of warmth I had thought it unnecessary to promise the public a refutation of the charges, I yet on a cooler consideration of their absurdity had nearly determined to treat them with silent contempt. I thought that the motives of the calumniator would be plainly perceived; and that a character, which was founded in a virtuous education, and formed by a habitual attention to its precepts, could not be injured by the unsupported accusations of a wretch, weighed down still more by profligacy and crimes than by years, and sinking under a pressure of public abhorrence and contempt. I was moreover convinced that in vindicating myself I should be obliged to undertake the disgusting task of pursuing my accuser through all the mire of speculation and vice, in which he had endeavored to conceal his treason and corruption. My aversion to this office would have induced me to remain silent, if I had not reflected that the unaccountable favor granted to general Wilkinson by the executive might weigh among the partisans of the president, outweigh the strong proof of his guilt, and that every doubt on that subject must create one of my veracity.

But the important trust which has lately been committed to him, forms a motive infinitely stronger than any personal consideration.—Knowing, as I do, that he has for years been the pensioner of a foreign power, that his hire was paid for the dismemberment and ruin of his country—and believing, as I firmly believe, that the same wages are yet paid for the same iniquity, I cannot with indifference, behold him placed in that very situation, in which he can with the greatest convenience complete his treasonable purpose. I owe it to my country to call their attention to the amazing blindness, the wilful incredulity! or the co-operation in guilt, that has thus invested a detected traitor with the means of completing his treason. At the moment I write this, James Wilkinson's arrival is hourly expected; by special directions of government, preparations are making to receive him with a pomp and splendor which the U. States have heretofore shown only to a saviour of his country. He comes a commander in chief of the place, where but a few years since he arrived, first to sign the pact of his own dishonor, and afterwards to receive the yearly wages of infamy—where the notoriety of his guilt will make him fear a witness in every inhabitant of the country—where he may with facility renew his ancient engagements, or make others that will be more efficacious for the success of his schemes.

The important province of Louisiana, will

in few days be at the disposal of a man, who by a close, long laboured system of corruption, is known to have bargained for the sale of the western states: I say at his disposal, for the civil power in the territory, as now administered, is worse than nothing in the scale; the little force it has, will be immediately surrendered, and forced to operate in its own destruction; and there is no salvation for the country, but such an appeal to the people as will force conviction on the government; such demonstrations of his guilt as must drive the most prejudiced to abandon his defence, and such an exposition of his treachery as will deprive him of the means, now strained and forced him of renewing it. A few weeks will place at the head of the executive, a man, whose mind will, I trust, be open to conviction, and who will not suffer his country to be degraded by continuing a traitor in office, or her soldiers any longer to be led by a pensioner of a foreign power. This is my object in the present publication; to attain it I shall show.

1st. That Gen. Wilkinson, from the year 1794 to 1803, certainly was, and that probably he is yet, a pensioner of the Spanish government.

2d. That his object was a treasonable attempt to sever the union of these states.

3d. That he knew, favoured and advised the enterprises of Col. Burr, and never resolved to be treacherous to his accomplice, until he could no longer with safety be so to his country.

It is possible that my personal knowledge of his treason and corruption induces me to suppose the other proof more positive than it is, but unless I greatly err, there will be no occasion to recur to my own testimony to establish his guilt. Much of the evidence now offered has already appeared before the public, but without order and at considerable intervals of time; frequently without such remarks as were necessary to make it intelligible, and never accompanied by any that would show the manner in which the different documents elucidated each other and supported the testimony of the witnesses.

My object is now to supply this defect, to give the evidence at one view, to show how it applies to the different charges, and then let an enlightened and impartial public decide whether the testimony I was forced to give was a malicious calumny, or a simple narration of facts as they occurred;—whether I am a false accuser, or he a hired betrayer of his country. I submit to this alternative; although I cannot but lament that the strong presumption, if not the positive proof, long since in the hands of the executive power, were not sufficient to have precluded the necessity of this task being performed by an individual. Let it be remembered that the man whom I accuse is commander in chief of the armies of the United States; that he is supported by the strongest marks of presidential favour; that, after he was openly accused, and after my testimony and that of others was heard, he was continued in command, and that the more forcibly to express contempt for the accusation and confidence in the accused, he is sent to the very scene of his alleged corruption, is placed with the fullest powers in that very country which it is alleged he wished to sever from the union, and where the freest intercourse is afforded with his former corrupters: a private individual carries on a very unequal warfare against a man thus supported, thus invested with the power to screen himself and assail his accusers. Witnesses are with difficulty persuaded to appear; documents are withheld; and in this country particularly, where the laws have been so grossly violated by this very man with impunity, the fear of military execution has, I know, prevented my obtaining much evidence which would have supported a prosecution carried on under the sanction of government. If therefore, under these disadvantages, I should have done no more than raise such violent presumptions of guilt as to throw the burden on the accused, it would be enough in so serious a charge to justify the active researches of government: More has been done and yet all is quiet: no investigation is made by the proper officers; corruption rides triumphant in the car of office; treason rears its head adorned with the trappings of command. But the pageant is nearly past. Unaided as I have been, abandoned as I am by those whose duty it was to take the lead in the enquiry, I have fortunately for my country succeeded; and when this evidence is published, not a single doubt will remain—conviction will flash on every mind. But the arrogant offender will not engross the public indignation. A strict account will be demanded of those who have thus trifled with the dignity of the nation and endangered its existence.

* Written previous to Mr. Madison's presidency.

Just Published and for sale at this Office. ROYLAN'S ALMANCK, For 1810.