

# THE MINERVA.

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the Baltimore Federal Republican.

Adams.—It has lately become fashionable with the democratic party to quote sayings of this old doatard, upon all occasions when the patriotism and purity of the federal party are disputed. It is ridiculous to imagine that any thing, which an aged man (who has just lived long enough to see the blackness and malignity of his old age, and the weakness of his head,) can say will destroy the federal party.

Mr. Adams, is good testimony for the federal party, he is equally good against the democratic party. Among all the trash and nonsense he has committed to paper, the third letter which was published in the Boston Patriot, contains truths, which the old admirers ought to blush while they read. It contains evidence of the existence of a democratic French faction, "who were as ripe to pull President Adams out of his house as they were to dethrone Washington in the time of Genet!"

ye democrats what follows, and then to bubble about president Adams.

From Adams's XIIIth Letter.

Worthy fellow citizens!—Our form of government, inestimable as it is, exposes us more than any other to the insidious and pestilential influence of foreign nations. Nothing but our inflexible neutrality can preserve us.—The public negotiations are secret intrigues of the English and the French have been employed for centuries in every country in Europe. Look back to the reign of Spain, Holland, Germany, Russia, Denmark, Prussia, Italy and Turkey, in the last hundred years.—How many emperors and kings have fallen victims to the intrigues of parties excited by English and Frenchmen? and can we expect to escape the vigilant attention of politicians so disinterested so keen and so rich? If we consider that our attachment to neutrality is changeable, they will let us alone; but if we are as a hope exists in either power, or in our enemy, we shall be torn and consumed by their manoeuvres.

There was there a grosser mistake of public opinion, than that of Mr. Hamilton.—The public opinion had not then, nor has it, taken place. The French republic was still struggling for liberty amidst all internal revolutions, their conflicts of power and their bloody wars against the monarchs of European powers.—Monarchy, had not been suggested. Bonaparte appeared only as a soldier; had acted on the stage in no civil or political employment. He was a man of gratitude, for services rendered us in revolution, by far more sincere and ardent than reason or justice could warrant, still he was on the minds not only of our republicans but of great numbers of our soundest federalists.—Did Mr. Hamilton recollect the state of France? Recollect the names and positions of the opposition papers? That of the *Republican*, and that caustic malignity of soul which appeared so remarkably in the writings of Paine and Callender, which to the eyes of human nature, never fails to command attention and applause? THE MEMBERS OF THE SENATE AND THE HOUSE, WHO WERE THEN AGAINST THE ADMINISTRATION, AND CONTINUAL INTERCOURSE AND COMMUNICATIONS WITH FRENCH EMISSARIES? The clamour against the alien law, and the naturalization law, both considered as levelled entirely against the French and their friends, and the French according to the British treaty of 1794, imposed upon the French murderer Nash, imposed upon the French for Jonathan Robbins? DID HE RECALL THE INSURRECTION IN PENNSYLVANIA? The universal and perpetual inflammatory publications against the land tax, stamp tax, excise law and 8 per cent loan? Did he ever see nor hear of the circular letter to the members of Congress from the middle states? Did he know nothing of the biting sarcasms, the burning rage, against himself and his own army? Did he know nothing of a kind of journal that was published of every irregular act of any officer, of every military punishment that was inflicted, under the appellation of the *French cockades*? Did he see nothing of the *French cockades* ostentatiously exhibited by the American cockades?

Did a French minister been seen here with a French flag? he would have been instantly informed by every source and symptom of discontent. Every Frenchman upon the continent, and every Frenchman in all the states, would have been employed in circulating the American cockades, in applauding the condescension of the French directory, and the friendly, concili-

ating disposition of the French nation. Nothing could have been kept secret, the popular clamour for peace on any terms would have been very difficult, if not impossible to resist. The multitude in Philadelphia, as it was, were ripe to pull me out of the house as they had been to dethrone Washington in the time of Genet. Even on the night of the first day, the streets were crowded with multitudinous assemblies of people, especially that before my door, and kept in order only as many people thought, by a military patrol, ordered, I believe by the governor of Pennsylvania.

When the Chief Magistrate of the Union could only find protection from the violence of a democratic faction, in a military guard, there is little room to bestow praise upon a party which was led on by French emissaries, "ostentatiously exhibited by French cockades against American cockades," and sent across the Atlantic for the avowed purpose of introducing anarchy and confusion in these happy states."

But if all these will not do to prove the existence of a faction in this country more devoted to France than to the United States, let us read another extract from the letter of this newly converted Oracle of democracy. It will be found that the object of contention was not merely France and England, but the democratic party took side with France against their own government. So it appears by the following testimony of Mr. Adams.

"After enumerating all these symptoms of the popular bias, it would be frivolous to enlarge upon the conversations of which I was informed at taverns and insurance offices, threatening violence to the president by pulling him out of his chair, upon the French cockades that were every where paraded before my eyes, in opposition to the black cockade or upon the declarations and oaths, which I know were made by no small numbers, that if we went to war with France, AND THE FRENCH SHOULD COME HERE THEY WOULD JOIN THEM AGAINST THE FEDERALISTS AND THE ENGLISH."

Thus it appears that not only declarations, but oaths were made by no small numbers, that "if we went to war with France, and the French should come here they would join them against the federalists and English." The oaths of two respectable witnesses proved that General Smith was among that number who threatened "to join the French as friends if they landed here as enemies." The General finds it material to his popularity now to deny it, but it is notorious that he was one of those violent Jacobins, who was at all times ready to assist in "dethroning President Washington," to tear down the American cockade, and substitute the French cockade, and to join the French if they invaded the country. Yes, General Smith, now a candidate for a seat in the Senate, was and still is of that party which laboured to introduce anarchy and confusion, which convulsed and distracted the government, and has ever since proved himself the friend and advocate of the French government.

FROM THE BALTIMORE FEDERAL REPUBLICAN.

Strength of parties in 1807 and 1809.

Two years ago popular delusion was carried to an alarming and unexampled excess in this state. Federal Republicanism was scarcely known except to remind us of what had been, and our party was completely broken up and scattered, and generally considered as almost extinct. The name of Federalist was thought so obnoxious that our party could never again rise unless under some new appellation. To anticipate a recovery of the power and influence which had been wrested from us by foul and perfidious means, was deemed universally, visionary and idle. Our most experienced politicians bid a final adieu to federal ascendancy and surrendered every thing as lost, unless some mighty political revolution should arouse the people from their lethargy, and dissipate the delusion, which, as a cloud, hung around and obscured their sense and better reason.

For eight years, democracy reigned uncontested and triumphant in Maryland. An unbounded sway was given to the ill-directed ambition of evil and unprincipled men. The most wild and immature schemes of state reformation were executed in quick succession, and free from check or restraint, demagogues were left to fence in their power by barriers difficult to be broken down. All their leading and important measures were first conceived in an untamed and implacable spirit of revenge, and had for their final object the total extinction of federal principles, and the annihilation of our party.

After a long and arduous struggle the federal party first gave way in the year 1809.—

They were succeeded by a gang of hungry speculators, and greedy half-starved office-seekers, who were as remarkable for their want of talents and good breeding as their leaders were notorious for poverty and destitution of principle. A fœtid mass of crawling ascarides was engendered by the unusual corruption and political degeneracy of the times. Not less disgusting to the senses, than threatening to the state, these minikin cormorants furiously assailed and seemed ready to devour the very vitals of the body politic. How passing strange it is, that the constitution and the laws have weathered the storm, and are still preserved!

When the fatal effects of a system of policy originating in the folly and infatuation of a weak and presumptuous old man\* and a traitor to his party, drove the federal party from power, the hateful spectacle was witnessed in this state, of erudite, venerable and patriotic statesmen, giving place to illiterate, time-serving, mushroom politicians emigrants and adventurers. A Carroll, Howard, and Hindman and other sage politicians were forced into retirement, to make way for Roger Nelson, John Montgomery, a James Nobb and Jacob Gibson. Demagogues, exiled sycophants and ignorant babbling politicians like these, were elevated to the seat of authority to govern honest men, and make laws to foster morality and advance the general good.

The creatures and advisers of these men were also to be provided for. To accomplish this favourite project, an entire new organization of the state government was necessary. An attack was instantly meditated against the judiciary system, and a plan for its abolition speedily devised. But to carry into effect this bold and extensive scheme of party excommunication, it was essential to seat themselves securely in power. The out posts were to be seized and strongly guarded, and every political fortress invested and well defended.—Accordingly the first material movement was to alter the constitution as to the modes of voting. In order to open a door for fraud, the mode of voting by ballot was substituted to that of viva voce. To encourage intrigue, cabal and violence, numerous districts were created, and the influence of every demagogue was rendered ten fold more important to a well appointed and growing faction.

The next popular step was to destroy the proper qualification of electors, and thereby diminished the weight and influence of those whose stake in society gave them an interest in the proper administration of the government. An universal suffrage bill, which once passed could never be repealed, was carried through the legislature with acclamation, and thus armed and equipped the democratic phalanx sallied forth to commence the dreadful work of devastation and destruction. The great body of the people, as in the days of Robespierre and Marat, were intoxicated with the idea of liberty and equality, and opposition was not only fruitless, but might have been attended with consequences fatal to the peace and happiness of the state.

Party animosity knowing no bounds, and the people being prepared to advocate whatever changes might originate with their favourites, the propitious moment had arrived to complete the great scheme of reformation. The judiciary system fell at a single blow. All the federal judges were instantly swept away, and under the fascinating name of reform, an ancient and beautiful fabric which the wisdom of enlightened men had framed, was violently broken down, and learned and incorruptible judges dismissed from office, to make room for men, some of whom were mere pettifogging, saddle-bag lawyers. The very amendment to the constitution contrived to cover this wicked and uncharitable act was scarcely upon record, before its flagrant violation was witnessed in the appointment of some judges who were not lawyers, and disqualified by the act itself from exercising the functions of a judge. The designs of the party were, however, gratified, and these high toned constitutionalists felt no other responsibility than what was due to themselves.—They had the power, and disdained to consult propriety or right. Their exultation at elevating their friends and depressing their opponents, banished reflection and allowed no interval for remorse of conscience.

Still studying to please while they deluded the people, this new born faction threw out another bait to catch popular applause. After providing for their friends, and making the people believe that at a trifling additional expense justice was brought to every man's door, the cry of economy in the administration of government resounded throughout the state. St. John's College was singled out as

\* John Adams—Ed. Ev. Post.

the next victim, and the arts which were essayed to crown this second disgraceful project with success, will long continue singular in the annals of Legislative proceedings.

Soon after the troubles of the revolution terminated and our independence was acknowledged, Maryland stepped forward first among the States of the Union to foster seminaries of learning. The encouragement of science and useful knowledge was considered promotive of virtue, and as essential to the support and existence of our Republican institutions. Banishing ignorance from the land, and affording facilities to the enlightening of youth was thought to exalt the national character, and promote the happiness of the people. To this end, the Legislature of this state entered into a solemn and perpetual contract with certain individuals, guaranteeing to them the payment of a certain stipulated sum, "annually forever," to be paid out of the treasury as a fund for the support of St. John's College. The condition to be performed on the part of those individuals, was the raising of a certain sum on their part to be appropriated towards laying the foundation of a seminary. This condition was strictly and honorably performed, and the state on its part continued for many years punctually to comply with its engagement, and without default to execute its contract. The benefit was felt, and acknowledged to be mutual and extensive. At this day Maryland can boast of numerous and bright examples of gentlemen educated at that seminary who are an ornament to society and an honor to their country.

At length democracy reared its hideous head, and with its pestilential breath threatened to blast the wholesome fruits which had just ripened and come to perfection. A sage Senator of the state, now Collector of the port of Baltimore, made the wonderful discovery that science was unfriendly to Republics. His fulminations against learning were heard on the floor of the Legislature. He boldly declared against literature as containing the seeds of destruction to popular governments. He thought that all the learning which ought to be given to young men in Republics, was reading, writing and arithmetic, and a little latin, if necessary. This speech was received with applause. It was thought more than entitling the author to a Pope's tiara, it was worth all the beauties of Shakespeare, Homer, Milton, Pope or Burke, and was more valuable than the most invaluable discoveries of a Newton. The College received its death blow: a solemn contract was illegally annulled, the honor of the state was violated, and those individuals who were parties with the state, were by a legislative act, without an indemnification, defrauded of the money which they advanced. He that has hardihood will deny these facts.

Here we find another artful attempt to perpetuate the power of democracy. Learning ought not to be encouraged in a government like this, because, unless the people are ignorant, democracy cannot flourish. The authors of such a sentiment would have received a diadem if he had lived in the dark ages.

During the eight years that the democratic faction bore sway in this state, they have gone on step by step, in the execution of schemes equally diabolical and wicked. Fraud, corruption, illegal violence and immorality have never wanted patronage. General Smith, the Legislature, the Executive and Roger Nelson are living witnesses of this fact. And although it may be meet, at some future period, regularly to review their measures, it is beyond our present purpose to undertake the task. They have gone on, uncontrolled, from one species of outrage and corruption, to another, even from patronizing tarring and feathering down to purchasing votes at elections with the public money.—But the people were delighted at being oppressed and abused by their favorites, and they accordingly continued supine and regardless of their rights.

Last year they were suddenly aroused from their slumbers. Almost ruined and driven to despair by the embargo, they began to move a little. Like the snake, to whom the genial warmth of spring has communicated a little animation, they made a sort of effort to bite when trod on. Poverty pinched them and they began to reflect. Oppression irritated them, and they agreed to act. The gun tax reaching the fire side of every poor man, being superadded to the grievous burthen of the embargo; many of the most pliant and passive tools of democracy determined, for a while to shake off the chains which had so long ignominiously bound them down as vassals to worship at the foot stool of Jacobinism. Like the degenerate sons of ancient Castile, they rose in the majesty of their strength to dispossess their enemies, their oppressors, and the cent