

PEOPLE'S PRESS

NO. 126.

WILMIN

Published every Wednesday Morning, by

THOMAS LORING.

TERMS.

THREE DOLLARS PER ANNUM, IN ADVANCE.

ADVERTISEMENTS

Not exceeding a Square inserted at ONE DOLLAR the first, and TWENTY-FIVE CENTS for each subsequent insertion.

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FROM THE N. Y. EVENING POST.

WM. C. RIVES, OF VIRGINIA.

Among the distinguished citizens of the United States, there is scarcely one who, from his character, talents and attainments, as well as his political principles and conduct, merits a higher station in the confidence and affections of the people than this gentleman. From the period of his first appearance in public life to the present moment, his course has never altered. Brought up at the foot of the great apostle of the democratic faith and practice, he has carried his principles and examples into action on every trying occasion, and the last act of his public life demonstrated the sincerity of his devotion to both.

If there ever was a time when such an act of devotion to the great principles of representative responsibility deserved the gratitude of the people, and merited their rewards, that time is now. Every where we see this great principle either denied or derided, and men sitting in the highest, most responsible situations, in opposition to the expressed wishes of their constituents, thwarting their will, and acting in direct disobedience of their instructions. In so far as this practice has extended, the Government instead of flowing from its great fountain, the people, has become an erratic, unmanageable stream, whose source is unknown, dashing its furious torrent with wild impetuosity, overflowing its banks, destroying every landmark of our rights and liberties, and repelling every effort of the lords of the soil to restrain its devastations. Instructions have been disobeyed, public promises openly violated, pledges set at naught or dexterously evaded; and it requires little foresight to predict, that unless the people punish those who disobey, and reward those who obey their will, we shall ere long have a government, professedly derived from the people, as independent of their authority, as the monarch who inherits the succession from his fathers, and reigns by "divine right."

One example, and one alone, in the midst of this presumptuous disregard of principles and promises, remains to console the advocates of the rights of the people, and that is the example of Wm. C. Rives. When instructed by that body from whence he derived his powers as a Senator of the United States, and which every man is bound to consider the true representative of the will of the people of a state, to act in opposition to measures to which he had previously given his powerful support, he took the alternative presented to the choice of every high minded citizen. He acted as a man of principle and honor always acts. He could not obey, and he resigned, in order that the legislative body which instructed him, might supply his place with one who could conscientiously obey its instructions. By this means he preserved his own integrity without violating the duty of a representative of the people. He behaved like a faithful servant, who being commanded to do an act which he cannot approve, disdains to receive any longer the wages of a master he refuses to obey. He sacrificed a station as honorable as any which presents itself to the ambition of a citizen of the United States, and voluntarily sought retirement from a scene which he embellished by his talents, and ennobled by his integrity.

This young man (for compared with many of the leading politicians of this country he is still young) is, if we do not mistake, destined, if he lives, to the highest stations in our Government. His integrity, his talents and his acquirements, all combine to point him out as worthy the unlimited confidence of the people.— He is most emphatically the representative of the policy of Mr. Jefferson, and he has the ability, industry and perseverance to carry that policy into practice. Deeply read in the theory, and versed in the practice of the true principles of liberty, as guaranteed by the Constitution, which though now contemned and despised by a party of mad zealots, or ambitious hypocrites, is, we trust, still venerated by every true American; firm, yet mild; profound without being visionary; with information extensive, yet not confused or heterogeneous; a mind direct, forcible and clear, animated with the love of his country and of liberty; and an eloquence addressing itself equally to the understanding and the heart, Mr. Rives presents to us a character worthy of the state from whence he sprung, and deserving the respect and admiration of every other state in the Union.

Few men at his time of life have acquired greater experience in public affairs, or served the country in stations of higher

dignity or responsibility, and certainly none with more zeal and success. As a Representative in Congress, his speeches on great questions of national policy are equally profound and masterly. He does not merely skim the surface, but dives to the bottom, and brings up nothing but pearls. He is not merely theoretical, but practical, and practically republican too; he sees far and sees clearly; his vision does not end in the mists of obscurity, but in the regions of light and distinctness.— Like a skilful navigator, he leads us safe into port, instead of losing his reckoning and wandering away into the boundless ocean of doubt and uncertainty. He sees the end of his voyage before he unfurls his sails, and always makes a successful venture, because he always knows whether he is bound. His speeches smack of the early years of the Republic, and remind us of the temperate dignity, the philosophic spirit, and deep erudition of Madison.

Of his talents as a negotiator, the fact of his having succeeded in concluding a treaty with France, which had baffled all the previous efforts of some of the ablest men in this country, may be taken as evidence. Whether France will in the end sacrifice both her honor and her interests to domestic dissensions, and the spirit of contending parties at home; or whether she will at length perform an act of lingering justice which will from the manner of its doing, be received not as an act of prompt and willing faith, but of tardy necessity, is of no consequence to this question. Whatever may be the final result, Mr. Rives is entitled to the credit of success, without being responsible for its failure. He made the treaty; but it is to France, and her alone, we are to look for the responsibility of a breach of faith in refusing to carry it into execution.

The attempt to connect his correspondence with his own Government, with the delays and ultimate refusal of the French Chamber of Deputies to sanction the appropriation to carry that treaty into effect, is one of those desperate and disingenuous artifices to which the present contest of parties has given birth. It has been asserted that Mr. Rives boasted to his Government that he had obtained more than was due, and an explanation, or apology for, accepting less than was claimed, has been distorted into a silly attempt to compliment his own superior dexterity in the art of deceiving. The whole tenor of that letter shows that it was intended as an apology to his own government, not as an expression of triumph over another, and the blame rests, not in having written it, but in the publication of that letter through the instrumentality of Congress. If the President in answer to a call of that body, and with a desire to withhold from it nothing necessary to a proper understanding of the subject, communicates information which ought not to be published, on Congress rests the responsibility of the publication and its consequences, and not on the writer of the letters. Wise and all seeing as is that body, it assuredly ought to know the delicate nature of various portions of the correspondence of every foreign minister with his own Government. There are a thousand things which that Government ought to know, but which if known to the power with which he is negotiating, would be fatal to the success of his mission. If they should come to light, it is not the person who communicates them to his Government, but those who place them before the world, that are answerable for the consequences.

The use made of this apology of Mr. Rives to his own Government for not having got more, by the Senate of the United States, and by the French Chamber of Deputies, is only worthy of two bodies, one of which has no other object than to embarrass both our foreign and domestic relations, and the other to evade an act of justice. The argument of Mr. Clay, that this apology for getting too little, was nothing less than a boast of having got too much, and therefore a justification, or at least an excuse to France for paying nothing, can only be justified by the fact of his having none better to offer; and the use made of it by M. Bignon in the French Chambers, is entirely worthy of a man, who relies on the establishment of a new principle to justify a breach of faith, to wit, *that the robbery of one portion of a nation furnishes no ground of complaint, provided another portion is growing rich at the same time.* This is the basis of his argument, and we are told "it made a great impression on the Chambers." Whether this impression was indicated by the members buttoning up their breeches pockets for fear of having them picked, under this new exposition of the moral duties by Monsieur Bignon, we are not informed. Perhaps we ought to apologise to Mr. Rives for thus defending him against these frivolous charges, which in truth would be unworthy of notice, did they not come from such high sources as the Senate of the United States and the French Chamber of Deputies.

It is scarcely necessary to revert to the course pursued by Mr. Rives in the Senate of the United States. It is great in itself and still greater by contrast. His speeches in relation to questions connected with that common enemy and common disturber of the peace of the Union, the Bank of the United States, are not only masterpieces of eloquence, but replete with the safest and soundest constitutional princi-