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ters to the Editor must be post paid.

For the Patriot.

No. I.

MR. EDITOR: Although the age of chivalry so much admired by the ancients for its marvelous production and unparalleled miracles, has been for many years shrouded in oblivion, yet the moderns have been for some time past clothed in sack cloth and ashes, bending at her sacred shrine, and invoking her by prayers, incense, and sacrifices, to lift the dark curtain, which conceals her object, and send forth in all his splendour, the same chaste spirit which she gave to England in sixteen sixty. Their prayers have been heard, their incense has been grateful, their sacrifices have been received; the age of chivalry has again returned, and Don Quixots and Sancho Pansas, are rising up around us in every direction; buckling on their shields, grasping their lances, and bearing away for the field of combat, where their high, untamed, ambitious fancy, points them with a smile, to the lonely wind mill twirling its long spars, in the gentle breezes. But let the somber pencil rest, when other subjects demand our attention. There is indeed of late, continually something strange and new presented to us from some source or other, calculated to awaken in our minds a serious inquiry into the state of affairs in our country, and prompt us to examine and understand the true basis upon which our state rights are founded. This at any time is a delightful task to the ardent politician, the loyal statesman and to all individuals who seek an acquaintance with the great national machine by which they are governed. But at the present crisis (the time that retires mens souls) is there a single member of the community? even the most obscure farmer, or unambitious peasant, accustomed and endeared as he is to his own native fields whose mind scarcely ever wanders from the limits of his paternal domains, is there any individual even of this class so regardless of the welfare of his country as not with every day to feel an increased interest in passing events? During the late session of congress so fruitful in every thing calculated to astonish and oppress us, the scalping sword was drawn. At a time too when political miracles were almost exhausted by the profuse wrangling of a certain clan, that joined the man that guided the house that Clay built. But unfortunately it was not the *magnus proprius gladius*; which would do infinite honour to the happy individual who would wield it

correctly in its proper place and at a proper time, but the *parius improprus gladius*, with party prejudice, and dabble, written in glaring characters upon both its hilt and blade, and which has been the pick thank compass by which its zigzag course has been regulated. Ever since that time the gleaming sickle has been held in readiness, and official documents have been the innocent subjects upon which it has been exercised.

But least your readers may be wearied with too many preliminaries, we will to the subject more particularly. In perusing your paper of the seventeenth ultimo, as it is somewhat a rarity among the peaceful, quiet good natured citizens of Guilford, I was agreeably surprised to find you had received a communication; and pursuing the common practice of looking first at the device of the author, I found your columns were honored with the name of Amicus the commentator, though at first I was not aware of this truth. I hastily reverted back to the commencement of the annotation and read in large capitals, Governor's Message No. I. what said I, is it indeed true that our Legislature has recommenced its session? but I was soon convinced of my mistake by finding that it was only the *parvus gladius* which was again gleaming in the air. Here then said I to myself will I pause and trace if I can the path by which it has been led into my country, and although I had not an opportunity of invoking to my assistance the enchanting influence of holy sepulchres, silent walls and solitary ruins, yet after perusing his last number, he seemed to me like some ancient knight of former times, perhaps a Perillus, or a Clitus who after forcing their way through the thick embattled ranks of spars, and cog wheels turns to view the desperate havoc which his fond fancy tells him he has made. But lo! instead of a dreary waste, covered with the scattered fragments prostrated by his desolating hand he sees only the same steady motion of his unconcious antagonist. These are combats which savour too much of scientific nicety, and in which the soldier is apt to bewilder his philosophy in the mazes of metaphysical jargon, and perplex all his theology with too much scholastic refinement. However I do most sincerely and with the utmost good faith adopt the sentiments of the learned commentator in marshaling the benefits bestowed upon us by the press, the caution with which they should be indulged and the free discussion of any question whatever, but as respects official documents there should be some permanent basis for its foundation; there sentiments are just, admirably just, and is it not indeed a very rare thing for us to find a man, or even a Don, who never pens a single thought that is correct, even the unfortunate servant of Balaam, spoke a marvellous truth once in his life time. But why does he in the next clause depart from these wholesome and salutary principles and lay hold on the inscription borne upon the blade of his cymetar, like a faithful knight he loves even the faults of the instrument he wields. He does not wish his formidable *gladius* to be denied the privilege of cutting its way into the columns of your pa-

per merely an account of its opposition to your own private sentiments or the sentiments of a portion of your readers, and in the very same sentence he tells us quite frankly that he wishes his stricture (as he is pleased to term it) published on account of its being parallel with the opinions of another portion of your readers, and although the reason in strictness may be just yet the undeniable conclusion which we must draw from it is, that the learned commentator has imprinted on his mind in a legible manner the initial P, at least, and the expression which immediately follows is no more than a modest apology for the former. Why has Amicus as gravely told us that he has no private feelings to gratify, is this any thing more in effect than to tell us that he ought to have none? why has he told us that he does not wish to excite a spirit of animadversion? to harrow up unpleasant feelings, nor harshly censure those who regard the subject as too delicate for discussion, what are we to infer from his mentioning all these quicksads towards which he afterwards steers with so much rapidity? I know not how it is with the modern chevaliers, but to the ear of a calm observer, it is a very suspicious circumstance to hear a man exculpating himself before he is accused. The good natured annotator delicately tells us that he only asks permission to state his sentiments with frankness and candour; I also crave permission to know where is there a better performance as, in order to come to the object which he says he wishes to avoid? Passing over this as the substance of things intended, and the evidence of things not seen, we arrive at another part of the commentators stricture which treats on his hearty approval of the sentiments of his excellency on the question of education and internal improvement, and feelingly laments that his talents have been misapplied on another subject which is an effectual stop to their progress. But as I intend pursuing the original numerical plan marked out by Amicus, and as some of your readers may be fond of variety I shall here stop for the present.

DUDLEY.

March 4th, 1827.

GEN. SAUNDERS AND MR. WRIGHT

[From the National Intelligencer]

STEAM BOAT MOUNT VERNON,
Friday night March 2, 1827.

Messrs. GALES & SEATON: As I had not the opportunity of replying to certain remarks made by Mr. Wright of Ohio, in his third speech, on the resolution submitted by myself in regard to the printers of the laws, you will do me the justice to publish this communication, in the same paper in which his remarks shall hereafter appear.

When I first submitted the resolution, calling upon the Secretary of State for the information desired, I confined myself strictly to the improper course, which, in my estimation, had been pursued, without reflecting upon the private conduct or character of any one. I was replied to by several gentlemen, and amongst others, by the gentleman from Kentucky, (Mr. Buckner.) In my rejoinder, I used an expression relative to him, which he seemed to consider as implying doubt of his willingness to meet a foreign or domestic enemy.

I repeated what I had said, so as to leave no doubt of my meaning. What he said in reply, as to his disposition to meet danger, when put to the test by any one, I did not deem of a character, requiring any particular notice at my hands. If I had so considered it, or if it had been so considered by others, whose opinions I hold in respect, as falling from a man responsible for what he said, and I had suffered it to pass, I should then notice any thing personal from the member from Ohio, I should deserve the epithet of the meanest potroon in existence. I do not now propose to notice that member, farther than what may be necessary to my own character for consistency and for truth. I could not speak of the member from Ohio, as language has no term of reproach, the mind no idea of contempt, sufficiently strong, to express my opinion of such a character. He was pleased to say, I had become "a new convert to the cause of Gen. Jackson, and asked, in the same breath, "if a certain Solicitor (Generalship had not become vacant in North Carolina?" I supported the election of William H. Crawford, before the People, and opposed that of Andrew Jackson, as they were then considered rivals. I voted for Mr. Crawford in the House of Representatives. But from the time it was known the election was to devolve upon the House, up to its final decision, that any one ever heard me say, that I could, under any circumstance, be brought to vote for Mr. Adams, is utterly untrue. I had expressed myself freely, and without reserve, before the People of my own District, on all occasions of which I spoke of him publicly—that I considered him a political apostate, undeserving the confidence of the American People. As to the office of Solicitor General, I know not from whom the member received the intimation, as having the least influence upon my conduct. If he received it from any one of the delegation from that State—if there be any one of them, who could hold friendly communion with such a person, and he will avow himself, I will place upon his forehead a mark, which he will find difficult to remove. The office referred to, is not, and has not been vacant. If it was, and I was disposed to sell myself, I should not go to the Legislature of N. Carolina to find a market, but should have sought one nearer at hand, to reward my apostasy. So much for the consistency of my conduct. I made but one affirmative expression, in regard to the member from Ohio, and that was, his "petty revilings" of Mr. Jefferson. He did not deny the fact—but admitted his residence in Troy, State of New-York previous to the Spring of 1809. I learn, from a source entitled to full credit, that he did edit a paper in that place, and that it was Federal in its politics. If so, no one who knows the honorable member, can doubt the truth of my remark. In regard to the expression of working the wires, which seemed to give him so much concern, I have now to say, if he was selected to denounce the members of the Hartford Convention to vouch for the course they had, or would pursue; or if he was selected as an instrument, in whose ear was whispered the abuse he uttered, and afterwards so warmly greeted for the manner in which he had discharged his duty, by a former friend and a co-tutor of that Convention—then, I repeat he was a fit instrument for such a purpose. And I do not hesitate to declare, that, however great my detestation for those who composed that Convention from my impressions as to their object I consider them as deserving of higher respect, & more worthy of trust, than those who were