



Presidential Election.

ADDRESS

TO THE DEMOCRATIC CITIZENS OF PENNSYLVANIA.

By the General Committee of Correspondence, (appointed at a General Meeting of the Republican Members of the Legislature of Pennsylvania.)

Fellow-Citizens.—At a full and general meeting of the republican members of the legislature of Pennsylvania, relative to the Presidential Election, held at Lancaster, March 7, 1812, the subscribers were appointed as a general committee to correspond with the other committees appointed throughout the state, to address the electors, and fill any vacancy which might take place on the electoral ticket agreed upon and recommended at the above meeting. In pursuance of the duties, thus honorably imposed upon us, and not from presumption or forwardness, we now address you. The confidence, founded on experience, which we have in your integrity of principle, attachment to republicanism, and devotion to the best interests of your country, have heretofore determined us to remain silent; nor do we know whether we should even now have addressed you, but for the extraordinary efforts which are making, and the unprecedented conduct pursuing, to uproot your principles, to league you with federalism, and wean your affectionate esteem from the present chief magistrate of the union. To effect these objects, addresses and circular letters, from a neighboring state, have been sent into every part of this state, by every established course, and through every possible channel which industry and wealth could open. Not content with thus assailing the republican character, and thus endeavoring to divide the republican party of Pennsylvania, another and a still more unusual and exceptional mode of electioneering has been resorted to.—Self-created committees, composed principally of the officers of government of a neighboring state, have travelled our state up and down, and traversed it in every direction to seduce our citizens from the standard of principle, and induce them to rally round a candidate of whom they know little or nothing but the name, and whose only hope of success rests on a party which has not yet acquired even a denomination. This union is one of those anomalous associations with which our country has more than once been cursed, the dangers of which cannot better be described than in an extract of an address of the republican members of the legislature of Pennsylvania on the Presidential Election in 1803. We could hardly have hoped that a case so strikingly in point could have been found on the file of precedent.

While federalism preponderated in Pennsylvania, no overtures of union or reconciliation were made; but, on the contrary, a system of expulsion of every man, who differed from them in opinion from all offices of profit or of honor, was openly avowed, and pursued with unremitting diligence. Foiled, however, at length they invite to union and harmony! But, listen not to their siren song of pretended friendship and reconciliation, designed only to lure you to destruction.—While, traitor-like, they seem to offer you the hand of cordiality, they are watching an unguarded moment to stab you to the heart. To evince their insincerity, you need only observe the torrents of abuse, violence, calumny, and detraction, which are incessantly issuing from the federal prints, against Mr. Jefferson, (and Mr. Madison,) from every quarter of the Union.

Citizens, beware of their artful wiles! beware more especially, of pretended republicans, men of third party principles! Beware of the "Union of honest men!" If you turn your eyes to our sister state of New York, you there behold an intriguing, ambitious individual fomenting division among the republicans, that he may rise into office amidst the ruin of those principles he once professed. Happy were it for Pennsylvania, had she not characters of this description also, equally restless, ambitious, and dissatisfied, because they are not elevated to the highest stations in the government; to which their fellow citizens have not thought them entitled, either on the ground of principle, patriotism or talents! but who, notwithstanding, are determined to climb into office, in defiance of true republicans, by

forming a coalition with federalists. Great exertions were made by these men previously to the last election; great exertions are now making by men professing republicanism, near your government, to bring about this preposterous union, in order to accomplish their own elevation to office, and restore the ancient order of things.

"Pamphlets, tending to this point, addressed to your representatives, are industriously, though covertly, circulated, containing sentiments and doctrines that go to sap the very foundation of republicanism, by bringing into disrepute representative government, and inducing a predilection for aristocratical and monarchical institutions; and tending to excite suspicions and jealousies in the public mind, against the measures of the present and preceding legislatures.—Far be it from us, fellow citizens, to excite animosities and discord among you. No.—Let peace and social harmony mark the character of Pennsylvania. We ardently wish to inculcate those sentiments, both by precept and example: but at the same time we devoutly deprecate the monstrous connection of federalism, or aristocracy, with republicanism; from the fullest conviction, that such a union would be a certain prelude to it, if not the actual prostration, and total ruin, of the republicanism of Pennsylvania. As well might heaven and earth come in contact; as well might fire and water mingle, and the most discordant principles in nature be united, as federalism and republicanism.

"This third party scheme, fellow-citizens, cannot, we presume, have escaped your observation. Scarcely a state in the union, scarcely a county in this state, in which this Hydra has not reared its horrid front: And, though hitherto it has been baffled, it is not yet destroyed.

"This plan appears the dernier resort of the federalists. They well know, that the re-election of Jefferson [Madison] will be likely to place republicanism on so firm a basis, as not to be sapped or shaken, for at least a century to come. Every artifice which human ingenuity can suggest; every scheme which deep rooted enmity can suggest; and every exertion which desperation can prompt, will be combined to prevent his re-election. But, we confidently trust and believe, that we shall again triumph over all their machinations by adhering strictly to the characters recommended to you as electors. "AARON LYLE, Chairman.

"JAMES PEARSON, secretary."

The only candidates now nominated for the Presidency of the United States, are James Madison and De Witt Clinton. Every thing which ingenuity and talent, experience and legal information can adduce in support of Mr. Clinton, is to be found in an address "to the People of the United States," from a "special committee of the city of New York, acting under the authority of the general committee of correspondence of the state of New York." That we may meet the question fairly, we purpose briefly and candidly to examine this address. We know the importance of the subject, and we shall scrupulously adhere to facts. Neither sophistry nor misrepresentation are necessary to subvert the cause of truth or promote the great interests of the republic. The election of a chief magistrate, always a momentous epoch, is now more than ever so, because now we are at war. The courage and resources of the nation should be called forth vigorously and promptly. It is only by waging a vigorous war that we can hope for an honorable and lasting peace. The man who now shall be chosen to preside over the destinies of the nation ought to be a long tried, well principled, faithful public servant: one whose patriotism has been tested as gold in the furnace; one whose well regulated and well stored mind should be the nation's security against rashness or ambition; above all, he should be a citizen known to the whole union, and confided in with a confidence which should never awaken suspicion.

The first passage in the address which attracts our attention, is the declaration that "the state of New York has, by an open nomination of a candidate for the Presidency, entered its formal protest against the practice of congressional nominations." The addressers appear to have been apprehensive that this declaration would either not be implicitly credited, or not have the consideration and weight which they were desirous it should have; they therefore, very shortly afterwards, repeat, "we have said the state of New York has entered its protest against congressional nominations." In other paragraphs of the address, it is affirmed that the state of N. York has nominated Clinton for president.

This committee have carefully and sedulously attended to every meeting and movement in the state of New York, and throughout the union, in relation to the Presidential Election, and they have no where seen a "formal protest against the practice of congressional nominations by the state of New York;" nor have they been able, by any diligence or research, to find that "the state of New York has nominated De Witt Clinton for the Presidency." The last act of the state of New York respecting "congressional nominations" for the Presidency, was so far from "a formal protest against the practice," that it was a decided approbation of them, by giving a large majority of her votes in 1808, the last Presidential Election, for the candidates that had been previously selected by a "congressional nomination." "The nomination of De Witt Clinton for the Presidency, by the state of New York," is no where found. The state of N. York has had no convention, to ascertain her opinions; therefore, she neither has, nor can have, made any nomination. Whether she will, or will not, sanction the nomination made "at a meeting of the republican members of the senate and assembly of the state of New York," we presume not to determine. It is not without regret that we have felt ourselves bound thus positively, and upon the best evidence, to rebut the truth of the allegations made by the New York committee. That "the state of N. York has entered its formal protest against the practice of congressional nominations," and that the state of N. York has nominated Mr. De Witt Clinton for the Presidency, are the main presumptions upon which the N. York committee have predicated their hopes of success, and claimed the public vote "in support of the nomination of the Hon. De Witt Clinton for the Presidency of the United States at the ensuing election." We have, we trust satisfactorily shewn that those presumptions have no foundation in fact, and if we have not shaken the superstructure to its centre, we have certainly so shaken it as to make us cautious how we take the assumptions of the committee for historical facts, and to induce the committee themselves to forgive us, if we "learn wisdom in the school of experience, and distrust those who" make assertions that "shrink from investigation."

No inconsiderable portion of the New York address is taken up in warning the people of the U. States to be on their guard against nominations made by members of Congress, for fear they should be acting under "corrupt influence," or even under the influence of "a foreign power." It is true the addressers declare that "as yet, we hope no foreign power has attempted to influence the elections of our chief magistrate;" thus most uncharitably insinuating that which, thank heaven! can obtain no credence in the country, at least not among republicans. It is matter of pride and exultation to every honest American, that whatever suspicion may have been entertained as to individuals, there is no shadow of evidence to induce a belief that Congress has ever acted under corrupt or foreign influence. The whole object of the attack upon "Congressional nominations" is to lessen in public estimation the citizens whom they have nominated. It is a strange expectation to hope to win the suffrages of Republicans, by insinuating, that such is their want of integrity or discernment that the men whom they elect, by their voluntary suffrage, are so wicked and unprincipled as to abandon their duty to their constituents, and from "corrupt influence" to lay it prostrate at the footstool of "a foreign power." It is ungrateful to our feelings to call to your recollection facts which are not honorable to our country, and nothing but the necessity of the case could justify or induce us. If we say aught which shall wound the pride or humble in the dust the vauntings of the committee of N.

York, they must acknowledge, and the public will do us the justice to recollect, we are not the assailing, we are only the defending, party. The committee of New York having, without "the fear of criticism or censure," attacked and most unsparingly reprehended the Republican members of the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States, because they have nominated Mr. Madison, as a candidate for the Presidency, it will not be considered irregular or foreign to the discharge of our duty if we state a few authentic facts relative to the republican members of the Senate and House of Representatives of the state of N. York, who nominated Mr. Clinton for the same office. If Mr. Madison is to bear all the sins and suspicions laid at the door of those who nominated him, can it be regarded as either ungenerous or unjust, that Mr. Clinton should be loaded with a portion of the crimes and corruption charged by high authority against those who nominated him?

Mr. Clinton was nominated a candidate for the Presidency, by the republican members of the Legislature of New York on the 28th May, 1812. That Legislature had been adjourned from the 27th of March to the 21st May by Governor Tompkins, because as he declared in his Message, "It appears by the Journals of the assembly, that attempts have been made to corrupt by BRIBES, four members of the bill to incorporate the aforesaid Bank [of America;] and it also appears, by the Journals of the Senate, that an improper attempt has been made to influence one of the Senators to vote for the bill." At a meeting of the republican members held at Albany the same day on which Governor Tompkins prorogued the Assembly, it was resolved that for that act he "merits our warmest thanks and the gratitude of his country." This meeting further declared that the stock of the American bank 6,000,000 dollars was "owned principally by Foreigners" and that "representations UNDER OATH have been made of corrupt attempts to seduce several members of the Legislature." These declarations and resolutions were unanimously concurred in by 59 members; other republican members thought the Governor had acted "hastily and unadvisedly." Our fellow citizens will bear in mind that the bank of America was afterwards incorporated by the New York Legislature. We have thus as evidence, the official Message of Governor Tompkins, the Journals of both houses, and the opinion of a very respectable number of members, to prove that corrupt attempts were made to bribe and seduce several members of the New York Legislature, and that those bribes came out of a fund owned principally by Foreigners, and those foreigners now alien enemies.—Yet this was the legislature, so charged and so suspected, that nominated Mr. De Witt Clinton, and it is a Committee emanating from the same source, which cries aloud "to the people of the United States" to take care that their Presidents are not nominated by "corrupt influence" and which, with real or affected charity, expresses a hope that "no foreign power has attempted to influence the election of our chief magistrate." We forbear all comment and submit the facts to the sober judgments of our fellow citizens, not doubting but they will duly appreciate the labors of the N. York Committee and the merits, claims and qualifications of their candidate.

The New York Committee having disposed of the Congressional nomination, which they appear to have regarded as the strongest bulwark around Mr. Madison, they proceed to inform the people why the next President of the United States should be taken from the state of New York.—Before we enumerate the pretensions of the state of New York as arrayed by its Committee, we wish to be distinctly understood to protest, in the

name of the republicans of Pennsylvania, against any party or any candidate that attempts to sow the seeds of jealousy and distrust among members of the same community, among sister states, who have a common interest and ought to be united by a common bond of affection: On behalf of the Republicans of Pennsylvania, and we know we deliver their sentiments, we protest against any arrogance of one state over another, or "urging pretensions and claiming superiority" because she is larger or more populous; and lastly, for the Republicans of Pennsylvania, we solemnly protest against any claims to the Presidency, or to any public station, except those which are founded on capability, public services, republican principles and attachment to the Union. The following are the claims put in by the Committee, on behalf of the state of New York, to shew "the propriety of its giving the next President to the Union!"

- i. Because "now, for the first time" N. York has "put forward its claim." This claim would be equally just, and conclusive as it respects Pennsylvania or any other state in the Union. This is "the first time" that any state has "put forward its claim" to have one of its citizens made President of the United States.
- ii. Because the state of New York is not the state of Virginia. "Virginia influence is a bye word" we admit, but it is only "in the Eastern States" among those who make a "bye word" of French influence and who would make "a bye word" of any body, or any thing, that would promise to raise them to power. They would even make "a bye word" of Mr. De Witt Clinton.
- iii. Because "the resources and population of New York, place it in the first rank." At the late Presidential election; New York ranked with Massachusetts and after Virginia and Pennsylvania, and no one can charge N. York with any delay in "putting forward its claim" when she asks to have the first officer in the Union, so soon as the marshal's return gives her a greater number of votes than any one of her sister states.
- iv. Because its local situation makes it "one of the fit depositories of power, until the distrust and jealousies between the Northern and Southern States shall have subsided."
- v. If New York hopes to be the depository of power until the jealousy of eastern federalists against southern and western republicans "shall have subsided" she hopes for what we trust no state will ever enjoy—a perpetuity of power.
- vi. Because she "is a middle state." New York is not so much "a middle state" as Virginia, against which the addressers rail as a southern state, whose influence has become "a bye word in the eastern states."
- vii. Because "she is eminently commercial, and most extensively agricultural." Those claims are not sound: her commerce is founded on British and banking capital. She has not the American, solid specie capital of Pennsylvania, nor is her agriculture more extensive.
- viii. Because "she would be likely to hold the balance even." This committee cannot discover upon what the addressers presume, which can justify an opinion that New York is more "likely to hold the balance even" than any other of her sister states.
- ix. Because it would "conciliate the interests and good wishes of all."
- x. If the New York Committee could only establish this assertion, could only prove it to be true, their labors would be at an end, for certain it is that the people of the United States will elect the man most likely to conciliate their interests and fulfil their wishes.
- xi. Because she is a "Frontier state." Virginia has certainly a much greater extent of "frontier" seaboard than New York, and as certainly would have had a much more extensive inland "frontier," but that, let it be re-

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