

THE IMPARTIAL OBSERVER.

"Let it be impressed on your minds, that the liberty of the press is the palladium of all the civil, political and religious rights of Freemen."—JURAT.

"LIBERTAS EST POTESTAS FACIENDI QUOD JURE LEGIT."—CICERO.

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VOL. I.

SEAT OF THE MUSES.

THE WINTRY DAY,

By Mrs. Robinson.

IS it in mansions, rich and gay,
On downy beds or couches warm,
That Nature owns the Wintry Day,
And shrinks to hear the howling storm?
Ah! no!

'Tis on the bleak and barren heath,
Where Misery feels the shaft of death,
As to the dark and freezing grave;
Her children not a friend to save—
Unheeded go!

Is it in chambers, silken drest,
At tables, with profusion's heap?
Is it on pillows soft to rest
In dreams of long and balmy sleep?
Ah! no!

'Tis in the rushy hut obscure,
Where Poverty's low sons endure,
And scarcely daring to repine,
On a straw pallet mate recline,
O'erwhelm'd with woe!

Is it to flout in warm attire,
To laugh and feast, and dance and sing,
To crowd around the blazing fire,
And make the roof with revels ring?
Ah! no!

'Tis on the prison's stony floor—
'Tis where the deaf'ning whirlwinds roar,
'Tis when the sea-boy on the mast,
Hears the waves bounding to the blast,
And looks below!

Is it in chariots gay to ride,
To crown the splendid midnight ball,
To revel in luxurious pride,
While pamper'd vassals wait your call?
Ah! no!

'Tis in a cheerless, naked room,
Where Misery's victims wait their doom!
Where a fond Mother famish'd dies,
While forth a frantic Father flies,
Man's desperate foe!

Is it where, prodigal and weak,
The silly spendthrift scatters gold,
Where eager folly hastes to seek
The sordid wanton, false and bold?
Ah! no!

'Tis in the silent spot obscure,
Where forc'd all sorrows to endure,
Pale Genius leans, Oh lesson sad!
To court the vain, and on the bad
False praise bestow!

Is it where Gamblers thronging round,
Their shining heaps of wealth display?
Where Fashion's giddy tribes are found
Sporting their senseless hours away?
Ah! no!

'Tis where neglected Genius sighs,
Where Hope exhausted, silent dies,
Where Merit starves, by Pride oppress'd,
Till every stream that warms the breast
FORBEARS TO FLOW.

POLITICAL MISCELLANY.

Senatorial Nomination.

At a meeting appointed for that purpose, in which the several Counties in the WESTERN DISTRICT were represented, holden at the town of Onondaga, on the 25th day of January, inst. it was resolved unanimously, that the following gentlemen be nominated to stand as candidates for Senators from the Western District of this State, at the ensuing election, viz:

JONAS PLATT,
OF THE COUNTY OF ONEIDA;
AMOS HALL,
OF THE COUNTY OF ONTARIO;
SETH PHELPS,
OF THE COUNTY OF CAYUGA.
ONONDAGA, January 26, 1809.

To the Independent Electors of the Western District.

FELLOW CITIZENS,
The mode of nominating candidates for important elective offices heretofore practised by the members of the Legislature at the seat of government, has been censured as subversive of republican principles. It has justly been considered as an assumption of power highly derogatory to freemen, and in its operation injurious to the liberties of the people; frequently imposing on them, for their suffrages, candidates not of their own choice, and in some instances dishonorable to the district. This system of intrigue, this unauthorized dictatorial power, it is believed originated in the unhallowed desires of certain ambitious individuals, whose objects were to secure an undue influence over the people, and to effect the elevation of men distinguished for their talents and eminent for their virtues, but of those, however desitute of the necessary qualifications, who should exhibit the warmest zeal in promoting their particular interests and views. It is peculiarly the business of those who compose the legislative body to make laws, and

they are vested with no power to designate characters for elective offices.—This right rests solely in the people, and it is as important to freemen to retain the pure exercise of the right of nomination, as it is to preserve the right of suffrage. Under the impression of these obvious truths, the meeting, of which the undersigned were members, was appointed.—Having assembled in pursuance of the powers vested in them by the people of the different counties which they had the honor to represent, with a single view to the object of their mission, and cultivating a disposition to sacrifice all local considerations to the general and permanent interests of the District, the undersigned have the satisfaction of announcing to their fellow citizens, the cordial and unanimous adoption of the above nomination as the result of their mature deliberations. And they are confident in the belief, that if talents, integrity and patriotism are estimable in those whom the people select as guardians of the public weal; if correct views of the interests of the country, and a faithful execution of public trusts, heretofore committed to their charge, afford any pledge for the correctness of future conduct, the candidates above designated will deservedly receive the warm and unanimous support of the enlightened and independent freemen of the Western District. Their private characters, their public conduct, their virtues, and their patriotism, are universally known; and this knowledge constitutes their best eulogium. Honest men of all parties must certainly approve of such characters for their rulers, and true patriotism will with energy exert itself to ensure their election.

It is a duty of every citizen to be awakened, and the energies of the country exerted for the preservation of its liberties. Patriotism should be aroused into action, and the best talents of the country put in requisition, to secure its safety. The prejudices and passions of partisans should be surrendered, and one universal sentiment of love for their country unite all for the preservation of those inestimable privileges in which all are so deeply interested. At such a crisis, and under such circumstances, influenced alone by motives, whose purity cannot be questioned; acting with a single view to the preservation of the invaluable rights of freemen, to be effected only by the restoration of pure republican principles; and animated by a hope that the virtue and patriotism of the country, in the pure, unbiassed exercise of constitutional means, will be sufficient to extricate it from the heavy pressure of evil under which it is struggling, it becomes the solemn and indispensable duty of electors to investigate the causes which have in a moment obscured the brilliant prospects of their country, and involved it in unexampled distress.—If on such an investigation it should be apparent, that the ill advised measures of government have in a great degree produced these effects, it becomes a duty equally imperious to place men in power, possessing different principles, actuated by different views, and who will pursue a different course. By a successful exercise of this constitutional power, internal tranquility may be preserved, the horrors of an unnecessary war avoided, and the nation be speedily restored to that high estate from which it has fallen.

It will ever be remembered that when the venerable WASHINGTON directed our public councils, and his enlightened compatriots were honored with the confidence of the people, at a period too, when every thing was to be accomplished, to restore health and vigor to the body politic, from a depth of depression bordering on the verge of bankruptcy; the country was suddenly elevated to a state of prosperity hitherto unprecedented. By a system of measures wisely adapted to the circumstances of the times, the great sources of national wealth and prosperity were explored, and a faithful and effectual application made of the means which were discovered for its elevation. As serious and alarming difficulties in our intercourse with foreign powers, it is believed, occurred during the administration of Washington, and that of his successor, as any of those which have since presented themselves for the adjustment of government. But guided by the unerring principles of justice, pursuing a policy dictated by a sound discretion, and a sincere desire for peace, equally uninfluenced by undue partialities on the one hand, and inveterate prejudices on the other, and holding an even balance as relative to the claims and pretensions of the contending powers of Europe, a bold, an immediate stand was made against aggression, and a firm and dignified system of measures pursued which eventuated in an honorable adjustment of all difficulties, preserved the peace of the country, and continued it in a state of unexampled prosperity. And here the question may be emphatically asked, whether the failure of the negotiations which have been attempted by our present rulers, and a continuance of the difficulties which still surround them, may not justly be attributed to a dereliction of the sound, practical and tried principles of Washington, and to an abandonment of that wise, temperate and vigorous policy, which, in his intercourse with foreign powers, gave effect

to diplomacy and ensured success to his measures? And may it not with equal propriety be asked, whether, by exploding the political doctrines of statesmen, distinguished for their wisdom; by rejecting the settled maxims of civil polity, which had been sanctioned by the experience of ages, and substituting in their place the visionary theories of a vain philosophy; by resorting to a system, temporising in its nature; contracted in its policy; debilitating in its effects; designed to amuse the people with a show of great devotedness to their interests, but which in its operations could produce no solid advantages to the country; and directed by views that pointed to the best interests of the nation as the pole star that should regulate every measure of the government; the men now in power have not caused the bulwarks of strength erected by their predecessors to moulder away; and brought that government which was once the pride and admiration of freemen to the very brink of dissolution. Disregarding the maxim adopted by our political father, "that the most effectual means to secure peace, was to be prepared for war," a maxim taught by experience, by the suggestions of his own enlightened mind, and verified in the history of nations, and which, upon the most impressive occasion, and in the most solemn manner, he pressed on the attention of his country;—that system of national defence which originated in wisdom, and which, had it been pursued with the same spirit that dictated its commencement, would, at this day, have proved a shield against aggression, and afforded an ample protection to our commerce, was not only sacrificed at the shrine of a pitiful economy.

National partialities and national prejudices, are disgraceful to any government, and should forever be disclaimed.—Aggressions on our national rights, from whatever quarter they may be attempted, should be viewed with an equal eye of indignation, and meet an equal weight of resistance. That unwarrantable and severe injuries have been received by this country from the two contending powers of Europe, no one can deny. But it is believed, that by a partial, pusillanimous and wavering conduct, those who have attempted an adjustment have failed in their purpose, and that as a necessary result of such a conduct, difficulties have accumulated, and the evil increased. Yielding in some instances to palpable aggression, and compromising injuries by purchasing at the price of millions a disputed right to an undefinable territory; urging in others, claims at least of doubtful origin and questionable correctness; magnifying the injuries sustained by the aggressions of one nation, and exciting a spirit of indignation and hostility unfavorable to a just compromise of difficulties; and at the same time covering with the mantle of partiality, the grossest attacks on our national honor, and the most wanton destruction of the property of our citizens by another, the consequence has been, that the unquestionable claims of justice have been embarrassed and obstructed, and negotiations rendered abortive. Under this view of the subject there scarce remains a doubt, that the administration, instead of removing, have been instrumental in increasing the difficulties that surround them; that by their own conduct they have eminently contributed to produce that miserable state of things which led to the adoption of a measure that has paralyzed the energies of the country, and that hangs with a millstone's weight upon its prosperity. A measure, to say the least of it, conceived in darkness, adopted with precipitancy and is of mysterious origin; which works a serious injury on all classes of citizens, and will produce the irretrievable ruin of thousands; which checks industry and obstructs enterprise; which is drying up the rich streams that were daily flowing into the national treasury, and which, it is to be feared, instead of materially affecting those whom it was intended to coerce, is destined to inflict the most fatal and lasting injury on the very country that gave it existence. But what is infinitely more alarming to freemen, is, that to enforce the execution of this measure, an unprecedented dictatorial power is vested in the executive—a military despotism established—the sacred bounds of the constitution passed; and the inalienable rights of freemen violated.

This last fatal act of the National Legislature is now in operation. Its character cannot be mistaken. It needs only to be read to produce conviction that it is arbitrary and tyrannical in its principles; severe, vexatious and unconstitutional in its provisions; and fatal to the existence of liberty if executed. Among other obnoxious provisions of this act, a power is given to the executive secretly to instruct his collectors: his collectors, in pursuance of such instructions, and the provisions of this act, are empowered, in direct violation of it, is believed, of the fourth amended article of the constitution, on mere suspicion, without showing probable cause, without oath, and without the previous intervention of civil authority, by the aid of a military force, to enter the house of a citizen, which has ever been considered his castle, seize his property and require its removal to any place that his caprice may dictate. Can a measure be honestly approved

in a free country, when the existence of such a law is deemed necessary to enforce it? Can rulers who have aimed so deadly a blow at the liberties of the people still retain their confidence?

It cannot be expected, such is the imperfection of human nature, that those who live on the bounties of the government, and are consequently attached to our present rulers by the strongest of all ties, self interest, will not only not condemn, but even approve of their measures. At such a period however, and under such circumstances, their approbation can have but little effect on the public mind. The pride of opinion is great, and the attachment to office and its emoluments, still greater;—they are difficult to be relinquished. But the great body of the people are bound by no such ties; they are influenced by no such motives; they can have no possible interest but in the election of the best men for their rulers; men who will dissipate the evils that overwhelm them, and restore the country to its wonted state of prosperity. To them the appeal is made. To the enlightened and independent yeomanry of the country, who, to act understandingly, will be zealous to seek information, and from such sources as are least liable to deception. They will recollect that principles and professions are best tested by experiment. And if experience has taught them that those who now direct the destinies of the nation, have by their measures, produced the accumulated weight of distress, under which they are struggling, they will not fail to apply the constitutional remedy. They will recollect that illegal resistance to the laws is worse than any other resistance; laws exist, whatever be their nature or tendency, every good citizen will feel a sense of his obligation to obedience. But they will also remember, that it is their duty as well as their privilege, when evil is produced by the measures of government, by all lawful and constitutional means, to effect its removal. Exercising this privilege and pursuing this duty, as they are interested in the prosperity of their country; as they prize the blessings of liberty and a free government, and as the sure means of effecting the restoration of the one, and the preservation of the other, they will not fail, when the proper period arrives, to exert their utmost energies to secure the election of such men as are above recommended for their suffrages.

- Niagara, { Cyrenus Chapin,
Fuba Storr.
- Genesee, { Sebe Brainard,
Charles Blanchard.
- Allegany, { Moses Van Campen,
Horatio Waterhouse.
- Ontario, { Ebenezer F. Norton,
James Rees.
- Steuben, { John Knox,
Samuel L. Haight.
- Seneca, { John Dey,
Reuben Smith, 2d.
Jesse Southwick.
- Tioga, { Vincent Mathews,
Isaac Baldwin.
- Cayuga, { Elijah Miller,
Walter Wood,
Charles H. Merrell,
John Stouell.
- Broome, { Joshua Whitney,
John H. Aubrey.
- Onondaga, { Eben. Butler, Junr.
Medad Curtiss,
Ethan Andrews.
- Madison, { Reuben Leonard,
Peter Smith,
Zebulon Douglas.
- Cortland, { Gideon Curtiss,
Peleg Babcock.
- Chenango, { Isaac Foote,
Peter B. Garnsey,
Stephen O. Runyan.
- Otsego, { Jacob Morris,
Richard F. Cooper,
Timothy Morse,
William Campbell.
- Schoharie, { Alexander Boyd,
Wm. Beckman.
- Herkimer, { Benjamin Bowen,
Gaylord Griswold,
Matthew Brown, Junr.
- Oneida, { Jesse Curtiss,
Joseph Kirkland.
- Lewis, { Isaac W. Bostwick.
- Jefferson, { Henry R. Starrs,
John Paddock.
- St. Lawrence, { John Boyd.

Commonwealth of Massachusetts.
ANSWER of the Hon. SENATE of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts to the SPEECH of His Honor the LT. GOVERNOR.
MAY I PLEASE YOUR HONOR,
While the Senate lament the solemn dispensation of divine providence which has deprived the Commonwealth of its Chief Magistrate, they earnestly beseech the Father of