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THE TERMS OF THE STAR

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Defamation of the United States of America.

The defamation of the United States is a *business*, which has steadily been pursued for more than seven years by writers in various news-papers. Their great examplar and leader is the English lord Sheffield, who defamed America in six editions, of a work, which first appeared as a pamphlet and was afterwards extended to a very large octavo. That writer completely *duped* the foreign world on the subject of America. He predicted that England would supply us with India goods: yet it has come to pass, that we have not imported from G. Britain or Ireland a chest of tea, a case of china, a bale of piece goods for years together.—He foretold that our population would not encrease from about two millions, yet we have now almost six millions. He had stated that we should not build or keep many ships, yet our merchant shipping exceeds that of any other country on the four continents of Europe, Asia, Africa and America. He endeavoured to deceive the Irish into a belief that they would be mal-treated and not succeed here, yet there are more *freeholders* in the United States, who are Irishmen or descendants of Irishmen, than there are in Ireland itself. He pretended that we should not manufacture, yet our manufactured goods exceed our exports in value. He asserted that we should not increase in produce, and yet we have shipt in various single years twenty, thirty, forty, fifty, sixty, seventy and even ninety millions of dollars. He pretended that we should have neither money nor credit, yet our three per cent. stocks or public funds are worth more than those of any nation in Europe. He alledged that our government would be unstable and feeble, yet it has continued and been regularly, steadily and indisputably improved from the year 1775 to the present time, without the drawing of a sword, or the firing of a gun. He asserted that we could not carry on trade with the French colonies. This foreign lord hazarded many other defamations:—The writers who closely follow lord Sheffield, in our own newspapers, must be deemed far more culpable than he was. Lord Sheffield may have been misled, and it is generally understood that he was misled by a great body of misinformation from Mr. Silas Dean, of Connecticut. But persons, now here, who constantly and grossly defame this country against their own perfect knowledge; have no such apology. It is the deepest stain upon federalism, that these persons are federalists; supported by federalists; countenanced by federalists; and assisted by federalists. If they were to be credited, this happy and well ordered country (compared with any of the principal countries of Europe) would be deemed a scene of folly, crime, distraction and misery. There is not a holder of any description of personal or real estate, in America, who does not lose foreign applications from purchasers, on account of the criminal and frantic representations, against every thing in this country, with which those papers incessantly teem. It is pretended, that our country and government do not merit the confidence of the sober part of Europe? yet an English and Dutch association have bought from France the whole eleven millions of dollars payable in fifteen years, of certificates, which we issue for Louisiana. It is pretended that we have no religion, yet we are the most distinguished example, of an *early* and *unvaried* maintenance of the rights of conscience, upon earth. It is pretended, that we are convulsed by elections yet there are more real breaches of order in a single county or city election in Europe, than we experience in a whole state. It is pretended, that we are extravagant in this country, yet there are not three families in Pennsylvania, which spend six thousand dollars per annum. It is alledged that we are ignorant and neglectful of elegant and useful knowledge, yet we import and print fifty times as many books as we used as *colonies*, though our numbers are only trebled. More seminaries of learning have been established during the twenty eight years *of the commonwealths*, than in all the preceding years back to 1606. Female education is advanced beyond its degree in 1775 twenty fold. The German language which before our revolution, was little used but in religious books for children, and the French language, which was still less used at the period referred to, are the channels through which we are introducing into the cities and towns and seminaries that immense body of variegated knowledge which the French tongue contains, and that great mass of sound and elegant knowledge which is found in the innumerable publications of the German empire. Some of the federal presses eagerly embrace the contemptible error of the count de *Buffon*—believing, or rather asserting, that all that is European degenerates in America. Hating as they do all that partakes of France, they will however embrace the opinions of a Frenchman, *if he defames America*. They affect to despise the venerable names of *Franklin* and *Rittenhouse*, and shew their devotion to each of a list of three score and ten *foreign* persons, whose united talents are inferior to the mental endowments of those illustrious Americans.

Men of property and public spirit, of every degree and description in this country, are deeply interested in checking this criminal and pernicious defamation of its character and qualities. We suffer from it in our mercantile and public credit, in the estimation of our climate, in the valuation of our houses, and in the reputation of our manufactures and produce. The object of these remarks is the address of an evil, which falls both upon the republicans and the federalists in proportion to their property. It is not meant as an attack upon the federalists nor is it wished to be used as a mean of under-rating them for want of patriotism. It is believed that they are not aware of the vast deductions from its prosperity, which America sustains by these licencious and incessant defamations of all that it contains. The subject is earnestly recommended to their serious and particular attention.

[*Aurora.*

From the NATIONAL INTELLIGENCER.

NEW SERIES OF Federal Misrepresentations.

No. II.

There are occasions, whatever may be the virulence of party, when we have a right to expect an universal union of sentiment. When national misfortues occur, which no prudence could foresee and no human means avert, we have a right to expect from a high spirited and virtuous people no pusillanimous indulgence of vain regrets, no despicable efforts to impose censure where none is meritted; but a hearty and unanimous resolution to use the means in their power to redress wrongs which could not be prevented. Such are the casualties to which all human plans are exposed, that prudence, however perfect, cannot always prevent the occurrence of great evils. It can always, however, aided by strength, rise superior to them, and often does elevate the nation they befall to a higher station than she might otherwise have oocupied. One of these occasions is to be found in the loss of the frigate Philadelphia. The misfortune *has* happened. There is not a virtuous citizen that does not deplore it, and the consequences it has drawn on the unfortunate crew. There is not a humane citizen that is not alive to their situation, and is not ready to strain every nerve to relieve them. We speak on this point with confidence. Lightening is not more rapid or decisive in its effects than was the creation of a sentiment of ardent vengeance in the breast of every patriotic citizen on being informed of the misfortune. But at the same time, mingled with this sentiment, sprang up a sentiment of confidence in the government. The prompt and spirited measures of the legislature and the president shewed that this confidence was not misplaced.—— Whatever variance of opinion there may be respecting the extent to which our naval armaments should be permanently carried, the government did not hesitate a moment to feel the necessity of energetic measures, and the propriety of increasing our naval force in the Mediterranean. For this purpose a million of dollars have been appropriated, and four national vessels are equipping with the greatest speed. These are *measures* of the government. Can they flow from bad motives? If they do, should not federalists be the last to condemn them? Should not they rejoice; should not they hail with the joy the occasion that bolstered up, when its necessity began to grow equivocal, their favorite establishment? Should not they, on an occasion so propitious to their hopes, and on the occurrence of measures so congenial with their wishes, for a moment, relax the severity of censure, and by candidly approving these measures, shew that there are some instances in which the perverse spirit of party is lost in the glow of patriotism. How far this is the case, let the following extracts from a long piece in the *Charleston Courier* shew:

"We remembered to have heard of a shrewd œconomist in Virginia, who could not be prevailed upon by the most warm remonstrances and earnest request of his friends, to go to the expence of a conductor to save his house from lightning. "Let it alone, he would say, let it alone; my faith in GOD is great!!" But on one unlucky day, a misadventrous flash of lightning came, burned his house to the ground, and at once put him to an expence equal to five hundred conductors—not to mention that of the one which he wisely put up when he rebuilt the house. Thus it fares at this moment with our state œconomists. These unprosperous prudence has blasted the expected harvest of their penury, and what is infinitely worse, consigned to misery against which no pecuniary consideration can be put in balance, a number of our gallant fellow citizens.

"It will be readily understood, that in these observations we have an eye to the loss of "*The Philadelphia Frigate.*" A loss which may or may not be considered, just as moral feeling may happen to be a match for political filth, a dreadful, a horrible calamity. The œconomists will estimate the extent of the evil by the balance of dollars lost or gained by crippling our navy—the moralist and man of feeling, will estimate it by the groans, the tears and the miseries of his captive countrymen. But we hope that there are few, even of those who have been cajoled into wasteful *œconomies*, by the crawling beggary of the cabinet, who will hesitate to say that they would rather pay a dollar more of taxes in three hundred and sixty five days, than have even one of their fellow citizens undergoing the horrors of *Tripolitan* slavery. Americans shed their blood to be relieved from speculative slavery, but they walk deliberately into practical slavery—into actual iron chains to save a dollar. Such is the policy of the man of the people—and such is the policy by which he became the man of the people—GOD forgive us if we wrong them, but we fear that there are some whose love of a dollar is greater than our hatred of slavery, or our pity for fellow-citizens enslaved. It shall be known, however—this is the test—this is the touchstone now to be applied to the American heart, and we shall soon see whether it be gold or dross.

"We have often taken occasion to lead the public mind to a just consideration of the misconduct of those who merely to fix the imputation of prodigality on the federal administration, and emblazon their own pretensions to economy, though to the injury of the state, to injure their opponents, not to serve the public, divested the country of its best and safest defence, a navy. Who to make a sixpenny saving, committed the honor and security of the union to the care of chance and subjected its people and their commerce to insult, plunder, and imprisonment. Hitherto the evil has been slight, compared with what it is at present—the captures and confiscations of French, Spanish and English, though enough to have deterred administration from dismantling the country of its defence, were nothing when compared with the evil which that misconduct has now occasioned. Our commerce was squeezed, and our people mal-treated, but our brave fellow-citizens were not reduced to the state of galley slaves to barbarians, or presented as Algerines present all their captives with chains about their necks, in the public bazars or market places, for sale. This is probably the case at this moment with our unhappy countrymen, captain Bainbridge, his officers and sailors, who are now in chains doomed to hard labor, with little more than half food, and that of the most unwholesome kind—namely, very bad bread, moistened with rancid oil.

"It may however be worth the while of Mr. Jefferson to send an humble ambassador to the barbarians, to remind them of his good nature in returning their captives ransom free; to bid them do likewise, like good christians, as he and they are; and if they should refuse to do so, to tell them that "they are not the persons he took them for."

"In one respect the thing may be considered by our cabinet as fortunate. As a ruinous church was said to be good enough for one born in a stable, a Mahomedian Seraglio will be good enough for paltry christians. There they will have ample room for reflection on sacred subjects, and if ever they return to their native country, they may bring over with them some happy improvements in our religion and morals, to furnish an embellishment to the next presidential message to congress."

Comment on the above is, we trust, unnecessary. There are, we hope, few citizens—there are none we are certain, who feel the noble spirit of freemen—that will not resent language so full of indignity and insult to the conduct of their government and the character of their nation.

It may not, however, be altogether useless to expose the falsehood of a statement contained in a part of the piece not exsacted, wherein it is represented that the ransom of the captives will amount to one or two millions of dollars. It is not possible to make a precise estimate, but the probable demand will be about 60,000 dollars for the officers, and 180,000 dollars for the men, making altogether 340,000 dollars.

No. III.

The following extract from a speech lately delivered by GENERAL MORRIS, in the general assembly of Vermont, on the proposed amendment to the constitution, deserves a most conspicuous place in our catalogue of federal misrepresentations. We presume general Morris is Lewis R. Morris, (though in this we may err) a representative in the congress, and who from the opportunies he possessed, cannot plead ignorance of the measures of either the last or present administration of the general government. He was likewise a member of the house of representatives during the presidency of Mr. Adams:

"During the administration of Mr. Adams, says gen. Morris, Virginia was in a state little short of *open revolt* against the national authority, because a 'Yankee' instead of a Virginian "was president." The proof of this important fact may be drawn from a review of recent events, in which not one of the objections urged against what was called the federal administration, has served as a principle of guidance to what is in *popular language* denominated the republican administration. We look in vain for that increase to the mass of human happiness, which was "*proudly promised*," but the *negative catalogue*, is as large as the enemies of the ruling party could wish or the proud moralist desire in confirmation of the vanity of human hopes. No reduction of taxes, except such as bore exclusively on the rich. No abridgment of executive patronage. No restraint of presidential power. No "specific appropriations." On the contrary, the discretionary power of the administration over the national treasure has been enormously encreased. Although the *national revenue* has (owing to the accumulation of wealth by national industry) rapidly advanced; the *national debt* have advanced still more rapidly by the improvident purchase of a new world. In fine maxims are assumed from the British constitution, and laws passed in conformity thereto, which gave a Virginia president more than royal power. From all which it may be clearly inferred that the leaders of what is (arrogantly enough) called the republican party, were not dissatisfied, because the *power of government was too great*, but because it was *not in their hands*—that their attachment to the constitution was *merely pretended* the better to conceal their design; and that the false and *practically defective* principles which they dignified with the name of republican—(principles hostile to all regular and efficient governments, and particularly fatal to all republican governments,) were only assumed in order to lead honest men to abjure the fundamental principles of our constitution, and become ignorant accomplices of their own subjugation to the aristocracies of Virginia and New York."

The assertion respecting Virginia is without a shadow of truth, either so far as it relates to the fact alledged, or the cause assigned for it. Virginia has never been disgraced by an "open revolt;" unless it was a disgrace to have taken the most efficient part in our glorious revolt from British tyranny. It is true that she felt indignant at the encroachments made upon liberty by a sedition and an alien act, and the serious invasion of the general happiness by an enormous system of patronage and extravagance, leading to a standing military force no less threatening to the peace than to the prosperity of the country; but, notwithstanding her abhorrence of these measures and the principles in which they originated, she stood cool and collected; ready to meet without increasing the storm; and it is eminently to her patriotic and philosophic temper, that we are indebted for the bloodless revolution afterwards so honorably atchieved.

The motive assigned for the alledged spirit of revolt—"because, a Yankee, instead of a Virginian, was president"—is *pitiful, wonderous pitiful.*

We pass over the equivocal idea couched in the droll expression that the "negative catalogue" of human happiness is as large as the enemies of the ruling party could with; and proceed to the assertion that under the present administration there has been "no reduction of taxes, except such as bore exclusively on the rich."

How true this is will appear from a very short notice of the internal taxes abolished; the objects of this species of taxation were distilled spirits, stamps, refined sugar, and carriages. From the two first articles by far the greater part of the million raised was derived. Now, it is a fact well understood by every man that so far as spirits and stamps were taxed, the burthen fell upon the poorer class of citizens, *directly* as to the tax on spirits, and *indirectly*, but not less effectually, as to the tax on stamps—The same observation, though not in an equal degree, may be extended to the tax on carriages, most of which are two wheel carriages.

Such are the facts of the honorable speaker, we have his principles to the refutation of every republican of common sense.

"*No diminution of salaries*"

This is not a fact. Many thousands of dollars have been saved by a reduction of the compensations of collectors, and of various agents of the war and navy departments.

"*No abridgment of Executive patronage.*"

By a repeal of the judiciary act, sixteen judicial officers have been abolished with a long train of marshals, clerks, &c.

By the repeal of the bankrupt law, a large body of commissioners, appointed by the president, has ceased.

And by the abolition of the internal taxes near five hundred officers have been dismissed, who drew from the nation the annual sum of above one hundred and eighty thousand dollars.

A multitude of other reforms beneficial to the nation, and derogating from the mass of executive patronage, though, perhaps, not in an equal degree with the above, have been made.

The national debt is declared to have advanced more rapidly than the national resources though in the short period of two years and a half the debt has been reduced 9,900,000 dollars, and the cash in the treasury increased above 4,000,000.

Cure for Ringworms and Tetters.

The rhus radicans of Linnæus, or the toxicodendron of Tournefort, the juice of which is acrid and corosive, and which by simple contract produces erisipelatous eruptions, and has hitherto been known only by its destructive qualities, and by some properties useful in dying, M'Dufresnoy of Montpellier, has accidentally discovered in this plant certain valuable qualities.

Having observed that a young man who had been for six months troubled with a tatter on his wrist, was suddenly cured by handling the rhus radicans (or poison vine,) he determined to try its effect in other cases, and after several experiments, has ascertained its efficacy in destroying ringworms, and in healing paralysis.

HAVING received information from several of my friends on the Eastern Shore, of a report circulating there, that it was my intention to decline the *Commission Business*—I beg leave to assure my friends and the public generally, that no intimation of the kind has at any time fallen from me; and that all those who may be pleased to intrust their property to my care, may rely on every exertion being made for their interest, by their most obedient servant,

RICHARD NICOLS.

Baltimore, August 2, 1803. tf