PROCEEDINGS
OF THE
CONNECTICUT REPUBLICAN CONVENTION

(Concluded from our last.)

At the close of our revolution, this state stood high in name and honor among the states of the union. Under the management of our federal statesmen we are thrown into a minority and have lost our weight in the general scale.—Contrary to their policy, the president and all the officers of government have been appointed, the amendment of the constitution has been sanctioned by thirteen states, and by the people of a fourteenth, and nearly all the general measures carried. To this condition we are driven by men, who pointedly oppose the measure of a state constitution. Perhaps the same imperious necessity, which yielded to France a Consul and an Emperor, has impelled our rulers to hold their unlimited powers till this time, and to refuse relinquishing them to the people: but whatever impediments to forming a constitution might have existed in July 1776 or at the close of the war in 1783, or at the establishment of our national government in 1788, or at any time since that period, no such impediments now exist. The general government is in a train of successful operation, approving its principles and measures to the judgment of a vast majority of our people; thousands in this state are dissatisfied with our want of a constitution; parties are not exactly balanced, but *we have no fear that a constitution will be formed on party principles*; the good sense of the people will never lead them to the establishment of principles injurious to their own rights and liberty. The interests of a legislature in power, and those of the people may be at variance: but the interests of a convention and those of a people are the same.

We will not pretend to decide, what a constitution formed by a convention and submitted to the people will or ought to be; but we take the liberty of expressing what it probably will not be. It will not be an instrument full of innovations, nor will it be a departure from what the experience of other states and of our own has proved to be useful.—You will have no experiments to try: all this business has been made intelligible in our country as the art of ship building.

If it be a fact that the people of Connecticut are their own worst enemies; if they are ignorant and unable to discern their own interests; if amidst the blaze of light on the subject of free government, which has been all about them, they are able to discover no political safety but in reliance on men of high passions, powerful interests and wholly uncontroled, then indeed we may as well proceed on the charter of King Charles; but in the quiet habits of our people we discern no such humility of character. We have been uniformly told by the federalists, that the people of this state are highly intelligent, firm and honest;—therefore that they approve the present state of things. We wish to hear from this intelligence, firmness and honesty *directly*, and not through their self-appointed organs. Never since the settlement of our country has it been submitted to our people to decide explicitly on a form of government. The power of Charles passed directly over their heads to the men then in place, and these made laws for passing it to their successors in office. Thus no part of our independence has ever arrived among the people. We deem it high time that they should take rank among the people of other states, who having lived under free, equal governments of their own choice, have acquired no habits, hostile to the principles and operations of such a government throughout the union.

Opposed to our wishes on this subject are the interests of all the men in high office, and of most of their dependants. Opposed to us are all the arguments, eloquence and influence of federalism.—Opposed to us are some public attacks, many private suggestions, and all the phantoms of danger, which the cunning of men can conjure up to alarm the people. Our object will be combatted by all, whose interests it is to combat a state constitution.

But among the body of the people, can any one see sixteen of the seventeen states enjoying constitutions formed by *people*, and not reflect that this fact must have resulted from an extended impression of their expediency and necessity? Can any one reflect on the constituent parts of all these constitutions, and not discern this impression in favor of separating powers, which are now united in this state?

Does any one believe that all things are now right, and is he not willing to establish them as they are thus to silence our complaints?

Does any one doubt the perfection of the present state of things and is he not willing to apply a constitutional remedy?

Are any persuaded that the government is unequal in its operations, are they not willing to balance it by a constitution?

Do any discern in the leading federalists a strong reluctance to submit this subject, and do these discover in this reluctance no argument in favor of the measure? Could this reluctance exist, if there were a full persuasion that the *people* would sanction the present government in all its parts? Could men in power be unwilling to be strengthened by a constitutional force? Can those who claim to have all talents and all virtues fear that they will fail of influence with an enlightened people, habituated to obey them? Could this reluctance in fact exist, if all things were now right.

Can the people of this state lost in the republican scale of the union, and not seek for the cause in the aristocratic habits, engendered between the charter of King Charles and the pride of rulers, resolved not to descend to the level of the people?

Can any doubt that this is to us a bad government, and as such, unwilling to give a fair chance of making it equally good for all?

To gain a fair standing among the free nations of the earth, we feel that in addressing ourselves to the people, we submit to a safe and judicious tribunal the important question, WHETHER WE WILL HAVE A STATE CONSTITUTION?

Tedious as has been the season and long as have been the details of our wrongs, we ask no sudden redress. Our wish is, that men of all classes would coolly examine this subject in all its parts and would decide under a full conviction of its importance. *By their votes will be known their decision.* If a constitution appears desirable, they will vote for men, who are in favor of it. Previous to voting for men, who oppose the measure let them weigh carefully the motives of such opposition, let them decide that a free, intelligent people are unfit to form a constitution for themselves, and in this decision let them recollect that they abandon the cardinal principle of our revolution, and that they exhibit a character of Connecticut, such as it has been unwilling to wear in view of the world. Are we in fact an intelligent people, let us, if we dare risque it, assert this publicly, by establishing the charter of King Charles, as our form of civil government.

People of Connecticut, you are careful respecting titles to your estates, you are careful in your contracts and in your last wills. Can you deliberately reject the only season, which will probably be lent you on earth for establishing a constitution, which will give validity to the past and future, which shall quiet all men in their rights, which shall secure you a government of sound principles and perpetuate such a government to the latest generations?

We ask men of all parties to attend punctually at proxies and to continue a contest of votes, till the great question, "*Whether this State shall have a Constitution,*" be settled finally and forever—ingloriously, (if such must be the effect of invincible prejudice) but *gloriously*, we trust, for we are persuaded that on our part we have truth and reason, which must sooner or later impress all ingenuous minds beyond the power of opposition.

The foregoing address having been read—Resolved, that the same be accepted, and that ten thousand copies thereof be printed and distributed.

Signed by order of the meeting,

WILLIAM JUDD, Chairman.
W. W. EDWARDS,
L. WHITMAN, Clerks.

From the Danbury, (Con.) Republican Farmer.

On the fourth ult. we selected a piece containing the most degrading sentiments, from a New York federal paper, displayed in striking characters; we are happy to see that our example is followed by many eminent republican papers, and that is fast circulating through the continent. We have this week received another paper of the same kind, from which we select the following and solicit its perusal by every honest man within the sphere of our circulation. It need no further comment.

"The last though not least, portion of this community, is the labouring class, including mechanics of every degree.—I shall merely give a brief outline of the features of this crude mass of inconsistencies, and then offer some observations upon it as a popular weapon. A foreigner would hardly believe that the servants of America were effectually their masters; that they kept them in their houses for the purpose of making laws for the state; or that, when they applied to have a shoe or a coat made for them, it was at the option of the maker whether it should be a short or a long one, a shoe or a slipper. In short, a foreigner would hardly believe, that those who had grown up, in *habits of morality and good order*, who had been WELL EDUCATED for *THEIR RESPECTIVE STATIONS* in society, and whose *situations* best enabled THEM to judge of the true interests of their country, were governed by those of opposite habits who were equally UNABLE TO PRESERVE THEIR OWN HAPPINESS, OR TO PROTECT THE LIBERTIES OF THE STATE. Yet that such is the case, I feel it my PAINFUL duty to declare, I have only to prove this declaration, to ALARM every honest, intelligent mind. In this I shall find no difficulty, even to the meanest capacity. The *habits of the early settler, complained of in my first number, have been greatly improved upon* by the ambitious and the designing, within a few years.—SUFFRAGE HAS NOW BECOME UNIVERSAL—and *HE WHO CAN NEITHER READ NOR WRITE* is equally called upon to give his approbation of, or dissent from, public measures, with HIM WHO HAS SPENT A LIFE IN STUDY, AND DIRECTED IT ALL TO THE SCIENCE OF *JURISPRUDENCE.* Thus is the *principal incitement* to learning done away; and the nation has no resource but to be *governed by its own* VANDALS, or to *call in foreign assistance*, BOTH of which are alike ruinous. It is declaring to the world that *numbers* shall rule, and not *talents*, an axiom than which NONE CAN BE MORE FATAL.

"We have SO MUCH LIBERTY that it is next to impossible to obtain a SERVANT, either BLACK or WHITE that will be faithful to their employment. The European, will not wonder at this, when he is told that they are all *freemen* and *patriots*, who have not only themselves to take of, but the exigencies of the state. What! would you have a man neglect his public duty for any paltry considerations of self? Is not this a free country, and is not every one a governor? Sir, if you are dissatisfied with me, or my conduct, I shall quit your *employ (not your* SERVICE*)* and go somewhere else——there are hundreds who want me. After he has received the wages of his employment, it is ten to one if he does not tell his employer that he must not expect his vote next year!"

'Tis a most galling affair indeed, to apostates and angel-federalists, that MECHANICS are suffered to speak to a lawyer or merchant with their hats on; to have any voice in choosing rulers, or any consequence in the scale of society!!! 'Tis a most ruinous thing to the country that hired men have a right to speak their minds to their employers and an equal chance to obtain justice, to demand reward for services, and reparation for injuries!!—But, fellow-citizens we leave you to your own reflections on the above child of federalism.

From the Philadelphia Political and Commercial Register, of Sept. 20.

In the discharge of an important, and to myself an indispensable, duty, the subjoined statement was communicated in the first instance, to the government—In a respectful solicitude for the right and interest of our country the deposition and letters are now made public.

W. JACKSON.

Sept. 20th.

On Thursday, September 6th, 1804 about noon, a note, of which the following is a transcript, was left at my office, as my clerk informed me, by a person who lives with Mr Francis Breuil, merchant, in Philadelphia:

"The marquis de Casa Yrujo presents his compts to major Jackson, & would be very happy to know from him when and where he could have the pleasure to see him in the course of the day."

"*Thursday* 6"

Never having before received any communication from Mr. Yrujo: Never having even exchanged one word of conversation with him in my life—I was not a little surprised at receiving this message, which I answered by a note to the following purport:

"Major Jackson presents his compliments to the marquis de Casa Yrujo—in reply to his note of this morning, just now received; major Jackson will be at his office until 2 o'clock, and at his house in Chesnut street, next to general Dickinson's, until 4 o'clock, at either of which places he will see the marquis de Casa Yrujo, or, if more convenient, he will wait on him."

"*Thursday, Sept. 6th,*

This note was sent by Mr. Johnson, my clerk, and left at governor M'Kean's—Mr. Breuil called on me soon after, and said that the marquis de Casa Yrujo would be glad to see me at the marquis's house at 5 o'clock.

I asked Mr. Breuil if he knew on what business Mr. Yrujo wanted to see me? he said he did not know.

I went at five o'clock to Mr. Yrujo's house, and, on entering the room, was accosted by him in nearly the following words:

"You will be surprised, major Jackson, at the liberty I have taken in sending to you, but I trust an explanation of the motive will excuse me. I consider you, Sir, as a gentleman, a man of letters, and a man of honour.

"By a political intolerance you have been forced to adopt a profession different from what you have heretofore pursued; but it is one in which you are qualified to be very useful. I observe by certain opinions expressed in your paper, that you consider the present administration (for I will not call them government) as disinclined to go to war with Spain; in this, however, you are mistaken; the reverse is the fact; and they only wish the federal papers to utter those opinions that they may have an argument of that sort for indulging their wish to go to war with my country, which would certainly be very injurious to your's; for if the king, my master, was to order three ships of the line and six frigates to the Mississippi, three ships of the line and six frigates to the Chesapeake, and three ships of the line and six frigates to Sandy Hook, what would you do? But you have it in your power to do much good, by espousing the part of peace, which is so necessary to both nations; and if you will consent to take elucidations on the subject from me, I will furnish them, and I will make you any acknowledgment." Perceiving, at this moment, his infamous purpose, I with difficulty stifled the emotions which it excited, and restrained my indignation. He went on to examine in detail the several points in dispute between Spain and the United States; and as I wished to learn his opinions respecting them, I suffered him to proceed. Among other things he said that if Mr. Pickney had acted by instructions from the administration, or if his conduct should be approved by them, war was inevitable.—But he had no doubt war was the wish of our administration; for he had received a letter from New Orleans, dated on the 29th of April last, which stated that there was a letter at that place, in Mr. Jefferson's hand-writing, dated in March last, which declared that if the settlers between the Mississippi and the Rio Perdido would raise the American colours, they should be supported.

He continued his observations, and pressed me to give him an answer—assuring me that this was no diplomatic management, but an *epanchement* (unbosoming) of himself to me as a man of honor—and he trusted I would so consider it. I then quitted the room; he went with me to the street door, and again asked me when I would give him an answer. With difficulty I suppressed the indignation of my feelings and left the house.

W. JACKSON.

Sworn the 7th Sept. 1804, that the contents of the within statement are just and true.

EDWD. SHIPPEN, Chief justice of the supreme court of Pennsylvania.

Philadelphia, september 7th, 1804.

SIR,

Considerations paramount to all others, the love of my country, and a sense of personal honor, which no change of fortune or circumstances can ever efface or diminish, have decided me, on the present occasion, to address you.

The accompanying documents refers to the most interesting objects that can engage my attention, and for the moment, those objects, banish every other remembrance.

Mr. Yrujo's official character, precludes the only reparation I would consent to receive for this attempt against my honor. It is for you, Sir, to determine what satisfaction is due to our country and its government

I shall wait the time necessary to learn your decision before I give further publicity to the transaction.

I am, sir,

Your most obedient servant,

W. JACKSON.

Thomas Jefferson, esquire, president of the United States.

Monticello, Sept. 15, 1804.

SIR,

I have received your letters of the 7th and 9th instant,* and shall use their contents in due time and place for the benefit of our country; as you seem sufficiently apprised that the person of the marquis Yrujo is under the safeguard of the nation, and secured by its honor against all violation, I need add nothing on that head, on another I may be permitted to add, that if the information respecting a letter said to have been written by me was meant as a sample of the communications proposed to be given to you, their loss will not be great, no such letter was ever written by me, by my authority, or with my privity. With my acknowledgments for the communication I tender you my salutations.

TH: JEFFERSON.

Major William Jackson.

* *Duplicate.*

CHARLESTON, *September* 10.

The southern and northern mails which were due on Saturday evening did not arrive till yesterday afternoon. We learn that all the bridges between this and Jacksonborough have been carried away; and so many trees have been blown down across the road, between this and Georgetown, that neither of the stages will be able to travel for several days.

TERRIBLE STORM.

A storm, which it is said has not been equalled within the memory of any citizen of Charleston, commenced on Friday evening last, accompanied with very high wind from the north east, and continued without any considerable abatement till 1 o'clock yesterday morning. We have it not in our power, at present, to state particulars; but the damage sustained is very extensive. Almost every vessel in port (it has been stated by some that there is not a single exception) has received more or less injury, and a considerable number were entirely destroyed. There is not a wharf in the city that has not experienced the dreadful effects of the storm, and some to a very great degree. Many buildings were thrown down, and many others much injured; some of the streets were covered with slate and tile which were torn from the roofs of the houses; great numbers of the trees which ornamented the city, are destroyed, and the havoc generally made is almost beyond description.

It is impossible to state, with any degree of accuracy, the pecuniary amount of the losses on this occasion; some are of opinion that several hundred thousand dollars worth of property have been destroyed; and others think a million of dollars would not make good the good the damages which have been sustained.

We have not heard of the loss of any lives.

Among the effects of the dreadful hurricane experienced in the southern states, we learn that our gun boat, No. 1, has been lodged in a corn field on Whitemarsh island, about eight miles from where she drifted, and within in seventy feet of a navigable creek. The loss she sustained is very inconsiderable; being little more than that of her cable and boat. Neither the gun boat, or her crew, received any injury. It is thought she will be restored to navigable water without difficulty.

Nat. Intel.

Virginia Influence, is now all the cry. Several years since, it was French influence, and our country was about to be annexed to the French dominions, after it had, with unprecedented fortitude shook off the oppressive yoke of Great Britain. That federal stratagem having failed, now we are to be crushed under the overbearing power of Virginia, and the acquisition is an irrefragable confirmation, of this terrible destiny; therefore, a separation from the southern states is absolutely necessary to save us from ruin. However, this mighty noise and bustle of the agitated federalists, who grasp at every thing let it be ever so chimerical and absurd, will but serve further to elucidate the real character of the Virginians, not to tarnish their honor, but to render their merit and their glory more conspicuous, by the discovery of falsehoods, and the developement of truth, and eventually more firmly to establish our union, to the total discomfiture of its enemies.

A FACT—*worth remembering.*

"The total amount of expences for John Adams's army and navy for the years 1799 and 1800 *only*, amount to the sum of *twelve millions fourteen thousand six hundred and fifty one dollars and five cents.** The appropriations for the support of the army and navy for this *present year* amount to dolls. 1,508,851 and 9 cents—two years at the same rate is dolls. 3,017,702 and 18 cents.—From which it appears that the monstrous sum of eight millions nine hundred and ninety six thousand, nine hundred and forty dollars, and eighty seven cents *more*, than the present administration requires, in the small space of *two* years was wrung from the *hand of labor* to build the pyramid of *slavery!*"

Tren. T. American.

* *This is exclusive of immense squandered in erecting useless fortifications, barracks, &c.*

The following extracts of letters from an American captive in Tripoli, are given in the Philadelphia Gazette.

TRIPOLI, May 21.

"Since my last, nothing worthy of recital has occurred, except the death of one of our crew. I fear this will be the purport of all future letters; as the summer is fast approaching, and the heat will naturally have a fatal effect upon your unfortunate countrymen, who are daily yoked to a large waggon, which they are obliged to drag into the country, where it is loaded with heavy timber for their return."

April 7.

"A few days ago, a small craft, under English colors was captured by the Syren, on this station: in consequence of which the Bashaw sent for the British consul to know whether a United States vessel dare to take any articles out of a vessel under the protection of his majesty's colors? Mr. M'Donough answered in the negative, also gave the Bashaw a written certificate or passport. The vessel was immediately ladened with a very valuable cargo belonging to the Bashaw's subjects, and set sail for Malta; but unfortunately for his majesty's consul, she was captured almost under the forts—Captain Stewart ordered her for Syracuse. The Bashaw sent for Mr. M'Donough, and after giving him sufficient abuse, ordered him to quit his dominions in 12 hours. The next day he set sail for Malta in a small craft; but was captured off the harbor by the Syren, and sent to Syracuse. His excellency is very much enraged at the conduct of the