

IF it be for the advantage of the public to be deceived with regard to facts, then the late writers against the Indian war deserve a very peculiar regard. For it is probable, that of all the ways to produce the greatest possible error on this point, and to make it last the greatest possible time, none will be found more successful than to receive the testimony of those who know nothing of the matter, and to submit to the judgment of those who would be sorry to find the truth on the side of the government, or its officers. He that is not for us, is against us; and truth on the side of our adversaries, like spectators in a mob after the reading of the riot act, is to be hunted down like any other enemy. Indeed it is the most stubborn of them.

In pursuance of the first remark, it will be proper to ask many honest men of warm hearts, whether they chuse to be convinced—Duty may say, seek truth, and be cool and slow in judging of public men and public measures. Some will take this prudent counsel; others will listen to their first feelings. Finding fault with government is a good thing—it nourishes, according to these false teachers, the spirit of republicanism—it brings down the fat of those who eat the bread of office—it keeps the world in a bustle, and makes sport. To enumerate the causes of error which lurk in the human heart, and make the first impressions unfriendly to government and to truth, would be writing an history of human infirmity:—Your Gazette would not hold it.—Let men, and wise men too, compare the first impressions of public measures with the last. Is there a man who can wash his hands, and say, I never unjustly censured the government? I never made up my judgment suddenly upon its measures, while truth was on her way to ask of me an hearing. Such a man ought to be made a judge, tho' no lawyer.

Power is never viewed with indifference. In the hands of bad men, we fear and detest it—When possessed by good men, we respect and sometimes admire it—We seldom love it; and if we did, fear is stronger as well as easier to excite than love—So that the human heart is framed to suspect, to fear, and to hate superior power more than the contrary. The accuser is received with favor—the advocate of government is frowned upon as a poor spirited interested deceiving creature. He who has studied mankind, need not be told how much the love of the marvellous, the thirst for vengeance, the spirit of envy, and the pride of opinion, come in aid of the first impressions against government. These considerations have their weight with men as individuals:—these combustibles are scattered in every society, because societies consist of men:—it is loose powder which every chance spark may kindle. But see them divided into parties, in State Legislatures and in Congress—There faction has ram'd down the charge, and primed it.

In politics, therefore, truth has always a scurvy time of it. What sort of respect are we to pay then to writers who censure government on the subject of the Indian war? If they know all the facts, where did they obtain them? And why in their zeal for the poor Indians have they withheld them till the second campaign has ended? To these mock philosophers, is the blood that two battles have spilled not worth the saving?—Or will they confess that they are wholly ignorant of facts, and that they have abused the government, and bawled philanthropy in the dark?

It is the interest of the great body of the people to be disabused, and at last it will be their desire. In the mean time the opportunity has been singularly favorable to some few who lie in wait to wound the national government. They have eagerly seized it. The doors were shut when Congress adopted the measures—the event has been unfortunate.

A score of misrepresentations has been made to the public, as hardly as if they had been official documents. The right of the Indians to their lands, their wrongs and their virtues, the pride, rapacity and rashness of the government of the United States, and the necessity of leaving the war as it is, have been dilated upon, as if there was a merit in making the people think meanly of their own government—as if the blood of our defenceless frontier people was worth nothing—as if these savages had not for years past scattered their flesh to fatten the unclean birds of the wilderness. But to all the tales which have been circulated, a single fact may be opposed—That the government of the United States has never asked any thing of the hostile Indians but peace. It has fought no lands nor triumphs—it has fought peace in the love of it, money in hand—year after year, by every means and thro' every opening. So far from encroaching upon their possessions, it would have protected them—it would have taught them the arts of cultivated life, the use of the plough and of letters:—it fought no influence but what would have been procured for it among the savages by acts of be-

neficence and virtue.—Let the malignant come forward and disprove this if they can.

But if peace was scorned, what was to be done? Shall the tomahawk fall upon the defenceless women and children? The people of this country have nature pleading in their hearts, and will say no. They are citizens too, and understand the rights and duties of that character. They know that government is bound to protect them.

It is to be hoped that measures will be taken to lay open the conduct of government to the people. They will then see whether it has acted in a manner becoming the trust, and the distinguished confidence placed in the chief executive magistrate of the United States.

A FRIEND TO GOVERNMENT.

WINCHESTER, Dec. 24.

Tuesday afternoon arrived here from Fort-Washington, Lieutenant Stevenson, of the Virginia battalion of levies.—He was in the unfortunate action with the Indians on the 4th ult. and has favored us with the following particulars, viz. That the number killed on our side, amounts to 637, including officers—that Majors Brown, Clarke and Gaither, Lieut. Hopper, Quarter-Masters, Ward, Reynolds and Semple, are not among the slain as formerly stated; but that Ensigns Wilson and Reeves, not mentioned before, lost their lives in the unhappy conflict—that Colonel Gibson's wounds, it is thought, will prove mortal—that Colonel Darke is but slightly wounded—that Capt. Darke, a most promising youth, received a musket-shot in his face, which fractured a jaw, and rendered him speechless, but that he is still alive—that the Kentucky militia, which were to march with General Scott, did not go; General St. Clair having signified to that officer, that the Fort had been amply supplied with provisions, and every other requisite from Head-Quarters—That Major Hamtramck, of the 1st United States regiment, is put under an arrest, for some supposed misconduct on the day of the action—that he had information of the defeat, and was detached, but declined giving the necessary succour to the retreat.\*—That the enemy's loss is conjectured to be between one and two hundred.—Number of our troops engaged 1400—number of the enemy, supposed to be between two and three thousand.

\* He has since been tried and honorably acquitted.

NEW-YORK, January 7.

This morning Mr. Seley, mate of the sloop Hiram, was found dead in his cabin.—He had previous to going to bed, made a fire in the stove, of charcoal, and closed the cabin in such a manner as to preclude all vent, which it is supposed occasioned his death.

Jan. 10. Yesterday morning, about 4 o'clock, this city was alarmed by a most tremendous fire, which happened at a house in Front-street, between the Fly-Market and Depeyster-street, by means of which seven dwelling-houses were consumed, and several others much damaged. Happily the wind blew in such a direction as to carry the embers from the city. The houses destroyed were occupied by Mrs. Dickey, Mr. Reynolds, Mr. Hughes, Mr. Dennis M'Creedy, Mr. Lalor, and Mrs. Keeling.

The large buildings on the opposite side of the street were much scorched by the heat of the fire, particularly the one belonging to Cary Ludlow, Esq.

We learn that a subscription is opened for the relief of the sufferers.

Philadelphia, January 14.

The House of Representatives of the State of Georgia, have resolved that James Jackson, Esq. is by the free voice of the people their Representative in Congress, for the lower district of that State, and that thro' mal-practice he was not returned. The house also resolved that articles of impeachment be exhibited against the Hon. Judge Osborne, for high crimes and misdemeanors, referring to his conduct in respect to the above election.

The account of the elopement of the King of France, is dated at Washington the 26th December [not Ed-nton]—"The State Gazette of North-Carolina," published in Edenton on the 30th of the same month, contains no such account.

ORIGINAL COMMUNICATIONS.

The numerous treaties lately formed with the Indian tribes on terms so just and liberal as to occasion complaints on those very accounts; and the overtures repeatedly made to form similar treaties with those tribes now in arms against the United States, are entirely winked out of sight by those who, at this particular crisis, appear to feel so much for the rights of Indians, and so little for the numberless burnings, murders, and robberies committed for the last seven years on our frontier citizens, by those very Indians who have thus refused all terms of peace or accommodation.

There always has been a party in this country, whose interests they conceive would be essentially injured by the establishment of Manufactures among us—and every proposition that has ever been made since the peace, that embraced this object upon any plan that appeared feasible, has met with opposition; and unfortunately for our country, this opposition has hitherto been too successful. It is therefore natural to expect, in future, that the same or similar exertions will be made to defeat those extensive designs which are now on foot, to render the United States more truly and substantially independent, by establishing Manufactures on a competent scale.—But the people so fully realize their true interest in this important business, that there is the strongest reason to hope, that the influence of foreign connections, either of a political or commercial complexion, will never be permitted again to disappoint our expectations, or blast our prospects.

The zeal of some writers has occasioned them to charge Congress with enacting a funding law, imposing on the people a burden four-fold greater than was necessary. Is it not fair to ask persons who hold such language, why they did not begin their complaints against those who have granted additions to the terms of the funding system? The truth is (and it contains a full answer to these complaints) that those state legislatures and the legislature of the United States, have granted rates of interest which appeared to them just and consistent with the public interests in an enlarged view of them.

In a late publication, which discovers great apprehensions about the designs of the general government, and fears about the state governments, Congress are severely censured for leaving open a door for Bank Directors to be members of the federal legislature. This reminds a correspondent of the old saying, "that it is safer for some people to steal a horse, than for others to look over the hedge." Though not one state legislature has prohibited state Bank Directors from sitting in those bodies, it is an abominable thing for Congress to leave the same thing upon the same footing.

How jaundiced must be the eye which views the systems of Congress as pernicious to the honor, interests and happiness of our country! Although the impartial foreign world rescinds open applause for the revival of our public credit—for the maintenance of honesty between man and man—for the restoration of commerce and the advancement of manufactures—tho' the resulting prosperity of our increasing agriculture is attracting the attention of the most intelligent nations of Europe—tho' our government is the frequent topic of the eulogies of the struggling patriots of the old world, the tongue of prejudice and error is incessantly recounting a different tale to the happy people of the United States. Americans, be sober-minded. Think for yourselves, and that seriously. Let not the effusions of heated minds have any influence on those reflections concerning public affairs, which it is the duty of every free citizen to make.

Liberty, like any other good thing, is to be used with discretion. Cry huzza, and down with Government—is there any liberty in this? The few who govern the many, often raise this cry, and possess themselves of the power of a multitude who join in it. But again—is this liberty, or the power of a few? In sober times, when the laws have no passions, the multitude really governs. The people, therefore, by supporting the laws, support liberty and equal right, which they already possess—by opposing the laws with force they put all at risk. Are the opposers of the excise fons of liberty?

The people cannot always watch their privileges—they cannot always create a spirit of union to oppose any encroachment upon them. Therefore it is their duty, and should be their first care to provide such securities, that liberty will be in a degree safe, while the people are about their business. Government is naturally divided into three branches. When thus divided, one branch will watch and check the others. Liberty cannot be lost by a plot; for the losing branch will surely call upon the people. We are always sure of one marplot in every scheme against liberty. In every other plan of government, we may be deceived by relying on the virtues of the best men. But on the idea of these branches the vices and passions of men may be depended on, at least so far as to resist any encroachment upon their lawful authority. Accordingly the constitutions of America have adopted this plan, and we may justly hope that our great grandsons will enjoy the blessings of it.

On Tuesday last the Directors of the Bank of North-America proceeded to the choice of a President, and John Nixon, Esq. was unanimously elected.

At the annual election for Directors of the Bank of North-America, held on Monday at said Bank, the following gentlemen were chosen for the ensuing year:

John Nixon	George Latimer
Thomas Fitzsimons	John Morton
Josiah Hewes	Benjamin Fullet
Mordecai Lewis	Robert Waln,
Joseph Swift	Miers Fisher
John Swanwick	William Smith

APPOINTMENTS—BY AUTHORITY.

Jan. 12, 1792.—The President of the United States, by and with the advice and consent of the Senate, has appointed

GOVERNEUR MORRIS, of New-York, to be Minister Plenipotentiary for the United States at Paris, and  
THOMAS PINCKNEY, of South-Carolina, to be Minister Plenipotentiary for the United States at London.

PRICE CURRENT.—PUBLIC SECURITIES.

FUNDED DEBT.			
6 pr. Cents	24/	pr. £.	120 pr. cent.
3 pr. Cents	14/8		73½ do.
Defered 6 pr. Cents	15/1		75 do.
UNFUNDED DEBT.			
Final Sett. and other Certificates	20/6		102½ do.
Indents	14/		70 do.
Bank Stock—half shares	109		per cent premium.
			—whole shares 60 per cent.

ANNAPOLIS, January 1, 1792.

At a Meeting of the Visitors and Governors of St. JOHN'S College, in the State of Maryland, on Thursday the 10th of November last,

RESOLVED,

THAT this Board, at the quarterly meeting in May next, proceed to elect a Vice-Principal of St. John's College.

"That it be the duty of the Principal and Vice-Principal, to teach some of the higher Authors in Latin and Greek, certain parts of the Mathematics, Logic, and Moral and Natural Philosophy; and that the departments of the said Principal and Vice-Principal shall hereafter be ascertained with precision, on considerations of their mutual convenience and respective qualifications.

That the Vice-Principal shall be entitled to receive, for his services, a salary of three hundred and fifty pounds, current money, rating dollars at 7/6 each, to be paid quarterly.

That persons desirous of, and qualified for the appointment of Vice-Principal, be, by public advertisement, requested to make application to Mr. Charles Wallace, Mr. Charles Carroll of Carrollton, and Mr. Alexander Contee Hanson, all of the city of Annapolis.

By order of the Board,  
JOHN THOMAS, President.

N. B. The fundamental Laws of St. John's College prohibit all preference on account of religious tenets or opinions.

As the appointment of a Vice-Principal is alone wanted, to complete the plan of this rising seminary, the Board will certainly proceed to the election at the stated time; provided a person qualified, in their judgment, for this important station, can be procured. The personal attendance of the candidates, although not positively required, will be obviously proper.

It may be useful to remark, that the salaries of all the professors and teachers have hitherto been paid with entire punctuality; and that the funds of St. John's College produce a certain annual income, superior to all the appropriations, which have been, or probably will be made.

The Printers of newspapers throughout the United States, are earnestly requested to insert the above resolve and remarks—and to repeat the publication as often as convenience will permit.