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[Whole No. 302.]

FOR THE GAZETTE OF THE UNITED STATES.

MR. FENNO,

THE funding system is alleged to be contrary to republican principles. I am a zealous republican. I have heard a great many high wrought speeches and have read at least a thousand cutting keen paragraphs in the newspapers showing the danger that our principles are exposed to. What is a man good for if he has not principles.—He is not fit to be hanged—or if you will, he is fit; for you may have it as you please. Now, Sir, I am perfectly sound and well fixed in my principles. One is that the public is to be preferred to the individual—that is patriotic, and I may say it in modesty, it is much to my honor. Paying debts, say the papers, is anti-republican—the funding system is anti-republican. I owe debts, and with the advice of the writers in the newspapers with regard to my case.—It is a case of conscience. I am in trade, and having run in debt for my stock, I have eat and drank the profits—for a man must live you know, sir. Whether it is anti-republican to pay private debts, as it certainly is for Congress to pay those of the public is my doubt; I do not readily see the difference—and this difficulty of my case is not to be overcome unless by confirming the opinion I incline to adopt, that the payment of my debts is improper for a republican. In some respects it is worse than paying public debts.—For the fin lies at a man's own door; he makes it his own private act. Another point seems in my affair clearer still. My creditors are very rich and are growing richer. This overgrown wealth is agreed to be improper in a state of republican equality; shall I then by paying them add to this inequality and destroy the just balance the modest and virtuous level which ought to be maintained. No, my country is to be preferred to myself; and the creditors, if they are good citizens will respect my principles and be quiet—if they are not good citizens shall I pamper them with my money? No, I will not: Therefore I do not much insist on having my case of conscience solved—for I have resolved what to do—or rather what I will forbear doing.

Having begun to scribble about principles, I find I have more to say, though I have finished the point I first intended to state. The public spirited and truly virtuous writers against the funding system do not spare the speculators. Vipers! I like to see them well threshed. The doctrine of equal rights has been strained by some to such extravagance as to admit that they have equal rights with other citizens: But every rule has its exceptions, and Congress should have made them. They should have said in their funding law—property is found; it is every man's own, and we cannot touch it—excepting however the property of the holders of the public certificates, and also of such other persons as Congress on the ground of this precedent shall think fit by decrees from time to time to except, and as the public good in their opinion may require. The widows and fatherless should have been provided for—some persons have hastily objected to this humane plea for the widows and orphans who held certificates and have said that if relief had been given them, the provision for them by law would have been a funding law, and of course as unconstitutional and anti-republican as the existing act. This is a shallow objection—talking and writing in favor of poor orphans lays no tax—does no violence to the constitution or to republican equality; in fact a law might have been passed so as to create no burden. We have as much as a folio of State laws for cancelling their debts which never took a dollar out of their treasuries; and Congress might have done the like. But alas, with precept upon precept from the newspapers and the example of the States before their eyes they have willfully offended by their funding law against justice, principle, republicanism and the poor widows. For all which it appears the newspapers will never forgive them.

GOOD CONSCIENCE.

FROM THE CONNECTICUT COURANT.

Messrs. PRINTERS,

OF late, the newspapers have offered opinions which deserve to be well considered before they are received as truths. It has been said that we must keep up a general government, because we cannot have an union of the States without it—and according to the frozen praise of these writers, the union is rather a good thing than otherwise. But we must not have a jot more of a general government than just enough for the union to rub and go, or speaking more correctly to rub and not go; because say they if you give an inch more, consolidation will ensue, and consolidation is worse than schism, that is, than no union.

According to these new fangled federalists, the movement of government in future depends on the mutual respect and love of Congress and the State legislatures. The great concern of the latter is to be left Congress should lose a part of the power necessary for the union, and Congress in this traffic of tenderness is to fear lest the States should want power to prevent a consolidation—and so there will be a great deal of love lost. It will be lost, for as the balance between the national and State governments is to be tried in money scales, and nothing according to these writers, but love and good will can keep the balance true, it will soon be destroyed. For the trust love is sometimes hot and sometimes cold and in the first change away goes the balance, and disunion or consolidation follows in a trice. This doctrine tho expressed in other terms has been advanced in one of the Philadelphia papers.

The insidious conclusion is manifest—If the balance of Congress and the State governments is so very nice and hard to preserve, and the dangers so very unequal, consolidation being so much worse than disunion, we have nothing to do, but to turn to the left hand path which we thought in 1787 was leading us to destruction—give the State legislatures more power, take away part of that which is allotted to Congress, oppose and embarrass its exercising what is left, and break the union as fast as we can.

It cannot be that those who sound these alarms are alarmed. No encroachment on the State powers is made or threatened—there is no symptom of any disposition in the public to countenance such an attempt. Congress is not even accused of having exceeded its powers; it has repeatedly kept short of the limits, as in the judicial law and some others: These writers see no danger on the other side; they are silent on the exclusion of federal officers from State assemblies, on the refusal of State legislators to take the oath to support the constitution—on the continuance of tender and paper money laws—on the discussions in the State assemblies of the excise law, &c. &c.—It is only Congress that usurps powers and disregards the constitution.

No friend of his country would approve the disturbing its peace by usurpation on the part of Congress. The wishes and the interests of the nation concur in keeping each government within its proper bounds. Time is daily softening prejudices and binding

more closely together the affections of our citizens. Knowledge is spreading, and liberty of course is better understood, and stands on a firmer foundation than ever. The future arrangements of our government will depend on the people themselves; and if thus enlightened, thus improving, they should be so imprudent as to make or allow an unnecessary change of the forms and powers of their legislatures, it would be strange if their case should become at once so bad that they could neither mend nor endure it—surely a free people could apply a remedy, as well as many palliatives of the evil.

It will not be denied that separate legislatures are exposed to the danger of clashing. The danger, however, is aggravated by instructing the people to look with dislike and fear towards Congress, and this they surely will if they believe that consolidation is the greatest and most probable danger they stand exposed to. The constitution is the child of the people. It is not doubted they love it too well to suffer these men to execute upon it the judgment of Solomon, and to saw it in two.

These writers have little affection for the union or a strange apprehension of futurity when they represent consolidation as worse than schism or no union at all. It is not easy to imagine what could be worse than a division of the states. The evil affords no room for palliatives. Rival or neighbour states could not remain friends. Injuries would sharpen resentments, and hatred would become hereditary. And what could be gained or hoped for? With more enemies and those within our present limits, should we have less armies or taxes? Would a weaker government defend us, or would its yoke sit lighter? Should we enjoy more liberty, more tranquility, or more wealth. What can be more shocking to a nation than its dissolution, than brothers becoming enemies and seeking each other's blood.

Those writers who represent consolidation as worse than a separation of the states, are great admirers of the French revolution. France has indeed recovered its liberty, and one of the first uses it made of it was to break down the provincial governments, and to consolidate the whole nation into one body. France has seven times more people than the United States, a navy, colonies in every quarter of the earth, and a vast trade. The present happy order of things is not to be changed to follow the example of France—but no man will believe that it is not better to adopt that example than to suffer a separation of the union. That we may not be driven to this alternative, let us contradict those who represent consolidation as no improbable event, and yet as the worst of all political evils.

A FRIEND TO THE UNION.

[If the following remarks are not predicated on the idea that "GOVERNMENT IS A NECESSARY EVIL"—they are sanctioned by the sentiment, that "ORDER IS HEAVEN'S FIRST LAW."]

FROM THOMAS'S MASSACHUSETTS SPY, &c.

SUTTON, January 11, 1792.

To Master KIDDER.

SIR,

IT is a common report, that a school district engaged you to teach their school this winter; which school you set up and taught some days; but in the mean while another teacher was consulted, and a district meeting appointed to answer the request of a certain gentleman; but his request was totally disregarded, and the time spent in disputing, whether your government should be regarded by their children, or not. And when the vote was taken, four appeared for your government, and four against it. Then one of your scholars, who was under age, put in the casting vote, which turned you out of the district; or you must give up your government, which, by judicious men, is supposed to be good.—Now, Sir, whether this report be true, or false, I know not; and who the gentlemen are, is none of my business: But the abovementioned report, is the occasion of my writing to you upon government. Neither do I wish to apply my observations upon government, to those gentlemen in particular; but to the character deserving.

Government is an institution of Heaven. When man was first formed, he was put under law and government; the violation of which, has introduced into the world, all the evil which now is, or perhaps will be; which was effected by the instigation of the devil; and by him and his emissaries, this rebellion is still going on. But the seed of the woman hath undertaken to put a check to it, and to introduce good order and government again; which he will do effectually among his children, which apparently distinguishes them from the children of the devil. Now wherever you find godly parents, the man, according to the order of Heaven, takes the lead, and the wife is in subjection; and their utmost endeavor is to subject their children to good order. For the welfare of this rising nation, depends much upon the good government of parents and school teachers, toward the blooming youth: For the want of which, the Sabbath may be violated, gaols crowded, whipping posts employed, and gallows loaded, &c.

Now, Sir, a Washington placed for the defence of this nation, will be of no avail, if children may govern their parents; for parents must govern in state and town matters; and if they are governed by their children, and their children by the devil, then on whose shoulders is government?

To conclude, Sir, I was informed, that with all modesty, you stood your ground like an hero: And an hero in the field, cannot better serve his country, than you can in your school, by subjecting your pupils to good order and government.

From your friend.

SAMUEL WATERS.

Mr. ASHBEI KIDDER.

P. S. If children can rule their parents and school teachers while under age, who is there whom they cannot rule when they come to years? They feel every way qualified to rule kingdoms and states; and all must bow to them, or there are disturbances in neighbourhoods, noisy town-meetings, mobs, insurrections; and kingdoms and states, by them are disquieted. This ground also produces tavern-haunting, horse-jockeying, card-playing, thieving, robbing, rioting, murder, and all manner of vicious practices. But, will not God shorten their days? Will not the earth open her mouth quickly, and swallow them up, as the did Korah? For by them the government of Heaven is struck at: If so, the neglect of proper government, by parents, masters and school teachers, is no less than a wicked conspiracy, against both God and man.

I have only given you a general sketch of my simple thoughts upon the education of children; and more especially, some of the ill consequences which accrue from the neglect of it.—Therefore, let us, by our examples, teach them every point of piety, especially benevolence toward our enemies.

LONDON, January 7.

THE galleries in the National Assembly of France, continue the indecent practice of relieving their approbation by plaudits. Surely, one serious admonition from the President would correct this.

A merchant at Dunkirk, named Peter du Burgo, is gone off with two hundred thousand livres, the property of various creditors. He has destroyed or carried away all his books, accounts, &c.

The Parisian Volunteers, upwards of thirty thousand in number, are now become a well disciplined body. Great harmony reigns amongst them, and they are united by one great and common interest. They are for the most part strongly attached to the leading principles of the present constitution, and disposed patiently to suffer the inconvenience of its defects, until by time and experience a remedy for these can be found, without endangering the safety of the whole. In the course of the last twelve months, they have had frequent communications with each other, and the sentiments of the majority are known to each individual. They see with indignation the present effervescence in different parts of the kingdom, and the source of this they know to be in the capital.

Legislative and municipal enquiries will soon lead to a full discovery of the authors; and in the punishment of these the immediate safety of the nation depends.

The duration of the treaty between Russia and Sweden is to be for eight years. The four Swedish plenipotentiaries have each received a rich snuff-box, and 3000 ducats in specie. The Russian general de Pahlen, has on the other hand been gratified by the king of Sweden with his picture surrounded by diamonds, and with a very valuable ring from the queen.

After a late interview between the Elector of Saxony and the King of Prussia at Cunerendorf, they sat down to a grand entertainment, in a magnificent saloon, built by his Majesty expressly for that purpose.

The Elector of Saxony insists on the following stipulations previous to his provisional acceptance of the crown of Poland.

1st. That no decree of the States shall have the force of a law, without the royal sanction.

2dly. That the marriage of the Princess of Saxony shall entirely depend upon her august parents; and,

3dly. That the King shall command the army, and be independant of any military controul whatever.

Extract of a letter from a gentleman in Paris, to the Editor of the Gazetteer, dated Dec. 19.

"The leading features in the state of this capital remain pretty much the same as they have been described in my former letters. Happily the extreme violence which lately prevailed has been attended with some good effects; an union of the moderate party has in consequence been formed, and is at present predominant in the Assembly. More prudent measures have been adopted, and the proceedings of government marked with more confidence.

"The King has been exceedingly popular since his late resolutions. Nothing indeed could be better calculated to conciliate the public mind: A war against the emigrants, and those German Princes who favor their designs, is now the general cry, and instead of dreading an attack, they are eager to commence hostilities! The appointment of La Fayette as one of the Generals, affords the highest satisfaction. No person can be better qualified to defend the new constitution, than he who had so great a share in establishing it. None has been engaged in public with more advantage to the community, or a character more irreproachable to himself.

"M. Pethion has commenced his office of mayor with great activity. The vigor of his proceedings against gamblers has been attended with the most useful effects. Along with the morals he has not failed to attend to the appearances of the city, and is at present busy to promote the convenience and beauty of the streets.

"The state of credit is very fluctuating. The same lamentable scarcity of money remains. The late changes in the state of credit have, however, rather been for the better, and from the popularity of the measures now adopted by government, we trust will continue to improve."