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From THE AMERICAN DAILY ADVERTISER.

As it appears by the public prints that there will be a contest for the office of Vice-President, which becomes vacant on the 3d of March next, and which must be supplied by the free suffrage of the people, it may not be deemed improper, in relation to those principles which should be held sacred, to make some comments on the relative pretensions of those who are said to be competitors for this important station. This trait in the executive department of our government, is among the most important of those which distinguish it from the monarchies of Europe; and as its preservation must in a great measure depend upon the political conduct of those who fill it, a candid enquiry into the characters of the competitors becomes a matter of public right. It belongs to a free people to guard themselves from injury; and to this great principle the forms of ceremony or complaisance for persons must, upon all occasions, yield. Even the competitors, therefore, however painful the scrutiny might be, should console themselves under the reflection, that upon the preservation of the principle, the safety of their country depends.

In particular circles several gentlemen have been spoken of for the office in question, but at present all others seem to be withdrawn from view, and the contest to rest solely between John Adams, Esq. and Governor Clinton. To their comparative merits, therefore, as the only competitors, I shall confine these observations.

To treat of them in the affirmative line would be useless, as it could lead to no satisfactory conclusion; for every person will admit that, in some respects, they both possess the requisite qualifications: that both, for instance possess an adequate capacity for the discharge of its official functions—are of sufficient age and standing in America—and have likewise rendered important services to their country. To fix the preference, their merits must be viewed from a different ground. The objections which apply to each must be scanned, and he against whom the more weighty apply rejected.

To Mr. Adams it has been objected, that he is attached to a government of kings, lords, and commons; and that the allegation is true, it is to be presumed, will not be controverted. His writings, entitled, "A Defence of the American Constitution," and "Discourses upon Davila," fully demonstrate it. If it could be supposed that doubts existed upon this point, extracts from those publications should be now furnished; they shall however immediately, if any intimation of the kind be given. And to Mr. Clinton, an objection of a different kind,—his opposition to the present constitution, before its adoption, has been urged. These, I believe, are the principal objections made to either: they are, however, those only upon which I shall make any comment. To whom, then, does the stronger one apply? On whose political principles, at the present moment, would the good people of these States with greater propriety bestow their sanction?

To form a sound decision upon this interesting question, two others, on which it depends, should be previously settled. First, Which of these gentlemen's political sentiments wander farthest from the present constitution; and secondly, On which side does the greater danger lie, in the progress of the government, of an undue inclination towards the form preferred by Mr. Adams, or that ascribed to Mr. Clinton?

With respect to those of Mr. Adams, it will be readily perceived, that they depart, in all the great outlines, from the present constitution. The establishment of a government of king, lords, and commons, would entirely subvert the present one, which rests on the free suffrage of the people. Two distinct orders with hereditary rights, would be erected over them, and they reduced to a limited portion of authority only, forming a kind of balance against those higher and hostile orders.

With respect to those of Governor Clinton, it is to be observed, that they have always ranged within the republican theory. His maxim has been, to keep the government, in all its departments, essentially connected with the people. The question about the constitution involved only a modification of this principle. Besides, it is to be presumed that many of its objections have been done away by the amendments; so that, in fact, it must be deemed, in all its parts, as nearly correspondent with his own theory, as the contrary of sentiment, always displayed on a subject of such importance, could reasonably admit of.

The characteristic difference, then, in their political principles simply amounts to this, that those of Mr. Adams vary radically from the constitution, in the main features of the republican system; whereas those of his competitor harmonize with it in that essential point. In addition to which it is of importance to observe, that upon the establishment of the constitution, and prior to the adoption of amendments, Mr. Clinton's opposition ceas-

ed; and that, on the contrary, since that event, Mr. Adams has, in the discourses above alluded to, endeavored, by all the arguments in his power, to inspire, in the minds of his countrymen, a distrust of a government founded on the people alone, and to prepare them for the gradual introduction of hereditary orders in the State.

In regard to the other question, on which side does the greater danger lie, of a more probable inclination towards the subversion of the republican system, by the introduction of a government of an higher tone, or too great a relaxation of its principles, I am persuaded that no person can seriously entertain a doubt on the subject. He must be little skilled in the political balance, and the true complexion of the times, who suspects in any degree, a preponderance of the latter evil. That the government may stand on its present ground, is certainly the wish of those to whom a contrary sentiment has been attributed: for let the objections of those who were opposed to it, where opposition was made, be examined, and it will be found that the space which separated the body of the opposition from that of its adversaries, was a narrow one.—That, in fact, the difference in many instances, was but trifling, and that this has been generally accommodated by the amendments. The truth of this position has been so well established by events, that to doubt it, argues a mind so inveterately blinded by prejudice or interest, that the force of truth cannot reach it. No danger then of a vibration back need be apprehended; for, in truth, no person wishes it. On the other hand, it must be admitted, that the evident tendency is in the opposite direction. A particular enumeration of those measures which contribute to give this bias, is at present unnecessary, and would certainly, in their development, exceed the bounds of these observations. For the truth, however, of the remark, I beg leave to appeal to the judgment of every impartial and well-informed American.

If then, the good people of these States wish to preserve their government as at present, elective in its form and limited in its powers, can they hesitate in deciding to which of these gentlemen the preference should be given? An unequivocal declaration of their sentiments upon this point, thus expressed, would hereafter be felt by the candidates for public favor, and respected. It would give a republican tone to the American character, that might tend to preserve their liberties forever. No consideration of local attachment, should interpose to defeat a measure, which their interest requires and their judgment dictates. For the security of those great principles upon which their revolution was founded, and their present government rests, their union should be firm, solid and indissoluble. LUCIUS.

PHILADELPHIA, Nov. 21.

At a meeting of the Officers of the Militia of the City and Liberties of Philadelphia, at the house of Michael Kitts, on the 15th of November instant, agreeable to notice, in order to receive the report of their committee appointed on the 20th of August last.

Colonel William Williams in the Chair. Colonel Shee, from the committee, presented the following report.

The committee appointed on the 20th day of August, by the Militia Officers of the City and Districts of Philadelphia, to designate the characters to whom respect ought publicly to be shewn, with the time and manner most eligible to manifest that attention,—to determine the order of funeral processions; and to report on such other subjects, as had immediate relation to them in their military capacity; with deference submit the following resolutions:—

1st. That the characters to whom it is incumbent to manifest such attention, are, the President of the United States, and the Governor of the State.

2d. That the time of presenting our respects shall be on the anniversary of those days, on which happened events, auspicious to our rising empire.

3d. That, as long as this city shall continue to be the seat of the General Government, we will annually wait on the President, on the fourth day of July, in commemoration of an era, at once propitious to our country, and glorious to him who so eminently contributed to its establishment. For this purpose we will assemble at the State-House, at eleven o'clock, in the forenoon, with side arms, and in the uniform of our respective corps. The Governor on such occasions to be requested to precede us.

4th. That at the same place and hour, and in like manner equipped, we also will annually assemble on the second day of September, being the anniversary of the adoption of the Constitution of Pennsylvania, and felicitate the Governor on an event, which, while diffusing happiness through the state, gratifies him in the means of becoming more extensively useful to its citizens.

5th. That the order of procession in either instance, shall be regimentally, conformably to the rank of battalions and corps.

6th. That, upon the death of any commissioned officer, of the militia aforesaid, the commandant of the corps, to which he belonged, shall, if agreeable to the connections of the deceased, cause written notice to be given of the same to the several commanders of corps; mentioning the place from whence, as well as the hour, at which the funeral will depart. He likewise will cause to be published in the Gazette, an invitation to the officers, containing the foregoing information, and requesting their attendance. The officers of the regiment or corps, to which the deceased did belong, shall, if sufficiently numerous, be the bearers of the corpse; but field-officers are to be borne by those of the like description. In all processions of this nature, the officers of the youngest regiment, and of that, those of the lowest grade are to take precedence, and succeed immediately to the mourners.

7th. That, with a view to add to the respectable appearance of the militia, we will, upon the occasion of a commissioned officer, to which we belong, and will appear at all times in the same, when on duty, or when attending processions,

Which being considered by paragraphs, was unanimously adopted.

Ordered that the foregoing proceedings be published.

WILLIAM WILLIAMS, Chairman.
JOHN SMITH, Secretary.

Foreign Affairs.

PARIS, September 14.

PIECE OF THIONVILLE.*

THE following is the account of the late attack of Thionville, on the 5th and 6th of September, and of the resistance of the garrison, stated in a letter which M. Merlin presented to the National Assembly on Friday last, and the authenticity of which he warranted.

"The enemy had erected their batteries near the chapel of Sainte Anne, between the Luxembourg gate and that of Metz, in a small plain, which commanded the fort above La Haute-guise, on the right bank of the Moselle. The troops stationed to defend the fort, perceiving that the enemy were endeavoring to throw up works, and to form a trench, with a view of establishing their batteries in the spot abovementioned, agreed to suffer them to proceed, until a favorable opportunity for interrupting might occur. The besieged being informed that the enemy meant to give the signal of attack by firing a gun, waited patiently till midnight, each of the cannoners lying down by the side of their guns.—As soon as the besiegers gave the signal, their batteries began to play, but their fire continued only a quarter of an hour, during which time three shells fell in the town, one on the parish church, another on the house of M. Henrion, in the grand street, which did no damage, and the other in the third story in the house of M. Jolle, in Hospital-street, which destroyed the furniture, and set fire to the bed.

"At the end of a quarter of an hour the batteries of the town and fort, lighted by fire-pots, played for three hours. The first discharge, which was with langridge, killed many of the enemy, who had advanced in order to attempt an escalade, and this fire obliged the assailants to abandon the place. The garrison then being at liberty to fall forth, collected the spoils left by the enemy, among which they found the planks destined to assist them in scaling the walls. Having carried all these things into the fort, a second fall was made to destroy the works of the enemy. It is asserted that three Princes were killed

* A strong fortified town, lying on the river Moselle, about 450 miles from Paris.

in this action, among whom was the Prince of Waldeck, who at least lost an arm; and that the enemy carried off three waggon loads of dead bodies. When the garrison made their first sortie, they found near the batteries of La Haute-guise, limbs and arms of every kind, together with cloaks, watches, &c. The enemy, satisfied with this first check have attempted nothing since. The deserters from the camp of Richemont say, that they lost in this affair 450 men, and that they would have given four thousand to preserve the Prince of Waldeck. The environs of the town are at present inundated by the river Seville, the current of which has been stopped. Fresh orders have been given to the citizens to cut down all the trees within 250 toises of the town. General de Saxe's army, composed now of 35,000 men, 12,000 of whom are cavalry, quitted Void sur la Meuse last Sunday, in order to advance towards Bar. Orbes's say that a part of this army have joined that of Dumourier, and that two columns have blocked up the King of Prussia in Verdun.

SEPTEMBER 16.
New Christening of the former DUKE OF ORLEANS.

(In consequence of desiring to have a name) ELECTORAL ASSEMBLY OF PARIS. Decree of the Commons of Paris, the 15th of September, 4th year of Liberty, and the 1st of Equality.

On the request of Louis Philip Joseph, French Prince, made thro' the Attorney General of the Commons, the General Council have decreed,

1st, That Louis Philip Joseph and his posterity, shall in future bear the family name of EQUALITY.

2d, That the Garden, known at present under the name of Palais Royal, shall in future be called the Garden of the Revolution.

3d, Louis Philip Joseph Equality is hereby authorized to have the present Decree entered in the public Registers, and in the Notarial Acts.

4th, The present shall be printed and affixed up for public notice.

BOULA, President.
COLOMBAU, Sec'y Register.
TALLIEN, Register General.

September 30.
The following communications are dated from Thursday to Friday inclusive.

Operations of the Army.

On Thursday morning the 20th, M. Servan announced to the National Assembly, that he had received a dispatch from M. Dumourier, stating that the several detachments expected had joined his army; that he was, at the moment of writing, equal in force to the enemy. That he had under his command 70,000 men, 12,000 of which were cavalry. He says, that the whole army had demanded the punishment of the run-aways; that he had deprived them of their uniforms; he doubts not but that there are many in his army sold to the enemy; but that the late executions he has made, will keep the rest in their duty. That his army now is ardent to engage; and he concludes, "what may I not hope to do now, when I have been able to resist the enemy with inferior forces?"

Mr. Rules writes to the minister, that the invasion of the French territories in the department of the Lower Rhine, is reduced to a mere nothing.

The Austrians remained only a few minutes in the village of Berth. The peasants who favored the invasion, are seized and delivered up to the tribunals.

After these letters had been read, M. Merlin informed the Assembly,