

A Great Deal Against John Mitchell

THE PATRIOT

Not for himself, but for his country.

WEDNESDAY, October 2.

We present to our readers, in this day's paper, what may very properly be styled—JOHN MITCHELL'S ANATHEMA. It is a declaration in form of what HE purposes to do with those who have dared to speak, act & think for themselves. We know very well his lack of power, to put his threats in execution; but we would advise him, when elected to the Assembly, to have a GAG LAW passed, framed in such a manner that it will answer his end, and save him the expense of an Attorney's Fee, at each election. He has (Heaven bless the mark!) declared that all opposed to his election are of "reprobate minds." What he (or his infantile amanuensis) means by "reprobate minds," we are at a loss to determine. The word REPROBATE, signifies—A man lost to virtue, a wretch abandoned to wickedness. We are implicated in this charge, and, consequently, must be permitted to set up a defence.

If to speak and act for ourselves, without consulting an Attorney, is an evidence of a reprobate mind, then we are reprobate.

If to oppose a man for office that has acted contrary to the dictates of common honesty, in the discharge of his official duties as Treasurer, is any evidence of the absence of virtue—then we are reprobate.

And with all due deference to the opinion of John Mitchell, his attorney, and self-created POPE, we think our mind, morally and politically, quite as clear as their own.

We most heartily despise their attempt at denunciation; and most cordially invite them to do every thing that their malevolence may prompt them to do against us. A "sweeping spirit of denunciation" we have no doubt, Mitchell harbors, and destruction too, against every Democrat opposed to him, if he had it in his power, as Sheriff, to put it in execution. He has committed to paper the real sentiments of his bosom. A democrat by profession, and a Tyrant at heart, he dares to procure an Attorney, wickedly, willfully, maliciously and with malice aforethought, to draw up a formal denunciation against such democrats as are opposed to his election. It is styled a "sweeping denunciation." Truly, it would be a sweeping one, indeed, if every democrat opposed to the election of John Mitchell, must be swept into the vortex of Apostasy. We are afraid that a majority of the party would undergo sweeping by this new broom of democracy, who, it appears, has taken upon himself the office of DICTATOR. We are acquainted with the fact, that Mitchell pursued the piece alluded to, before it was handed to us for publication, & it received his sanction. We do not charge him with composing it, for we know that he is not capable of putting together three sentences, correctly. Unfit for the task, he procures an Attorney, and he very wisely advised, and devised a method to frighten the democrats to vote for Mitchell. We all know that for a fee an Attorney can be found to blacken the reputation of any one.

We find, embodied in the "sweeping denunciation," a quotation from a publication made in the Bellefonte Patriot, and which the writer endeavours to palm on the people as emanating from us, or as the sentiments of the Editor of this paper. The sentence he quotes, is as follows:

"That they were basking in the sunshine of Federal favor, or reclining on the thorny bed of Apostasy."

We disclaim the authorship of this insulting stuff. The author is the same "sweeping spirit" that has set himself up as Dictator to the Democratic party, and the author of the sweeping denunciation. It was handed to us, by him, to publish. It was without a signature. After correcting some expressions in it, which we considered too harsh, we gave it to the compositor. Being without a signature, the young men, in our absence, in making up the paper, placed it under the editorial head. Had we been at home it should not have so appeared. This is a true statement of the case, and Mitchell's amanuensis well knew he was committing himself when he placed it to our account; but, no doubt, he calculated on our silence.

(Communicated)

BE ON YOUR GUARD.—An attempt will be made, on the election, to deceive those disposed to give their suffrages to FRANCIS M'EWEN, giving them the name of William

The following are the names of the persons Candidates for Office at the ensuing election.

Assembly
JOHN MITCHELL
JACOB HERRING
FRANCIS M'EWEN
MARTIN HOOVER

Commissioner
JOHN HAYS
Coroner
WM. M'MINN
THOMAS HASTINGS JR.

Auditor
WM. KERR

For the Patriot.

Alter considerable exertion, an Assembly ticket has been gotten up in opposition to the one formed by the regular democratic delegation. That man professing the utmost attachment to democracy could be brought to oppose what his delegates did, is, and ought to be, a matter of very great surprise indeed. The delegation system has its enemies to be sure; but they are the enemies of democracy. It is the best method that can be fallen upon to unite the party, and it is because this is its excellent tendency that we hear so much against it from the enemy. As a party wishing to have the ascendancy in the management of our political affairs we cannot blame them. If they believe the principle they profess to be orthodox, it is but just and proper that they should wish them to predominate. They are tho' well persuaded that the major part of the citizens of Centre and Clearfield counties do not think with them, and that it is impossible that old-schoolism, or federalism, its concomitants can gain the ascendancy unless through democratic dissension. They have on more than one instance attempted to succeed in this way, but have been disappointed; and they are still outrageous against delegations because it will render it impossible for them to attain their ends. It is unnecessary to say any thing to the people of this district in support of so excellent a system. The best evidence that can be had of its estimation with our citizen democratic brethren is the admirable manner with which it was attended to recently. The respectability of the delegates, their republican integrity and the distinguished character of their proceedings fully attest that it is a favorite system with the people. I believe no one can except to their nominations unless it is a few who think they were not noticed according to their merit.

It is true that we have many deserving men in our district whose claims upon the democratic party are great. The names of many such were mentioned by the people and it is well worthy of remark that almost every township in the county instructed their delegates differently. From the whole number proposed two were selected by them whom they thought best calculated for the stations to which they were nominated. If every delegate had stood forth and refused to yield, the consequence would have been no nominations would have been made, and the end and design of the meeting frustrated. They sent their representatives to fix on a ticket for their support:—not that they should go to Bellefonte and state their instructions without doing any thing else. Although they instructed them to support certain persons yet still they had a discretion which they might exercise, and in the full exercise of this discretion I have no doubt they did what was right. The respectability of the members of the delegation is sufficient to warrant such an assertion. In many things they did not do as I could have wished. But my powers to act were resisted in them and I fully concur in what they did. I am extremely sorry that all do not do so, for many reasons, but those most prominent are, that it is a pity indeed that any democrat would suffer himself to be duped by those politicians who profess opposite principles, or permit his

*This is untrue. But six townships were instructed; and it is worthy of remark, that wherever the meeting was held in a township by an assemblage of Democrats no instructions were given for John Mitchell, except in Lamar township, and there the meetings was held before the day appointed. In Haines township, we are informed, not a democrat was present; and we know that the chairman of the meeting is a federalist: the delegates, it is true, were democrats, but they received their instructions from the federalists and old-schoolmen.

† In many things they did not do as I could have wished. No; they appointed conferees contrary to your wish, young man, for which you bestowed on them a good deal of abuse. But if you are vested with the power, and a spirit of sweeping denunciation

private griefs to get the better of his judgment. The editor of the Bellefonte Patriot a few weeks since in an intemperate dissertation, very correctly observed that there was a time when we had such men amongst us, but that they were basking in the sunshine of federal favour or reclining on the thorny bed of apostasy. It appears tho' that the party is not yet altogether purged and that it will be our melancholy duty to consign some more of our brethren to the same bed; and give them "over to reprobate minds." A sweeping spirit of denunciation is much to be deprecated nor is it our disposition to harbour any such thoughts or practice such principles. It is the right of every person to do as they think proper, and act in political and other matters as they think right; but when any member of the democratic party, in contradiction to his profession, makes an attempt to divide the party; the mark of the Beast ought to be stamped upon his forehead, and the democrats ought to shun him as they would a pestilence.

If Francis M'Ewen had not been properly represented in delegation; if the discontented had not been properly represented there; if the delegates were corruptly influenced, it would be a different matter; and none would be more willing than myself to disapprove of their proceedings; but when the name of Francis M'Ewen and others, their qualifications and claims were mentioned and fully discussed; and when every person was represented, for there never was, in this county a more full delegation; when they acted without prejudice and their selections have been made with judgment it is to be hoped that the people will affirm their proceedings. I have no doubt too that such will be the case. I have more confidence in the virtue and intelligence of the people than to harbour a suspicion to the contrary. I cannot believe that the people will be the ministers of vengeance for a few men of Mr. Mitchell's private enemies who have persecuted him and are persecuting him with the utmost rancour and malignity.

The names of other democrats were mentioned in delegation but not nominated. Democrats too, whose souls were well tried when the party was in its infancy—democrats who have always been seen in the front of the battle—democrats too who have nevertheless been little noticed by their brethren—where are they now, or are they manifesting any discontent?—No.—Matthew Allison, Esq. William Kerr, Esq. John Patton, Esq. and many other worthies disdain to murmur, or aid those whose principles they abhor and detest, and have seldom combatted. They don't wish by a single act to undo all they have been doing in order to gratify the malice of a few discontents; nor do the people of our district. Many of them have tugged and toiled for democracy through life, and now when their heads are silvered o'er with honorable age they are not going to degrade themselves and desert the democratic standard. Their patriotism will prompt them to act and a goodly result will follow their exertions on the second Tuesday of October next.

A FRIEND TO DEMOCRACY

† For this very reason the people do not to be duped to vote for John Mitchell. He is one of your tag-rag and bob-tail politicians, his principles measured by his interest.

‡ We refer the reader to our remarks under the head for an explanation of this.

§ "Our melancholy duty to consign some more of our brethren to the same bed." What brazen-faced impudence is embodied in this sentence. A boy, to take upon himself to denounce men of years for daring to act without consulting an Attorney.

¶ This is not the fact. Francis M'Ewen's name was not mentioned in the delegation.

‡ What a deal of coaxing is here to be found. "Many of them have tugged and toiled," &c. Indeed, they all have, and what advantage have they derived from it. Wm. Kerr would have been nominated and on the ticket for Assembly, if a second vote had been taken; but that would not answer. Wm. Kerr had nine votes; P. Cambridge had seven. The next vote would have placed Kerr above Mitchell.

I suppose unless they "tug and toil" for Mitchell in one of your "sweeping denunciations" you will also set them on their back.

For the Patriot.

The people of this county have been greatly harassed by Tax gatherers for some years past, and as the expenses of the county are not greater now than they were some years ago, many of them are at a loss to know the reason why such heavy taxes are laid upon them. As every public officer subjects himself, if he discharge

the present opportunity, a justice it should long since have been done, to make known, to the honest farmers of our county, the reason why their purses are drained in payment of taxes. John Mitchell, a man lately come to this county, and now a candidate for Assembly, was by some mishap, appointed Treasurer some four or five years ago. At the expiration of his lawful term of service, it appears, by the Report of the Auditors, he had a balance in his hands of the money of the People, amounting to about three thousand one hundred dollars. This money he should, and of right, and according to his oath of office, ought to have been paid over to his successor. Next year, the Auditors again reported, and by examining the report we find a large balance still remained in his hands. Report upon report has been made, and still John Mitchell, honest man, remains—what? a PUBLIC DEFAULTER, to a very large amount. For the truth of this, I refer those concerned to the balance reported and published last year by the Auditors as due by him. It is no deception for electioneering purposes. It is a stubborn fact, that John Mitchell who now offers himself, fellow citizens, for your suffrages, has dishonestly pocketed the "money of the people," and placed it to his own private use; thereby subjecting you to ENORMOUS TAXES, the fangs of the Tax gatherer, and bringing the county Treasury into disrepute. John Mitchell's friends have asserted that the money has been lately paid with eight per cent (an unlawful interest. It is not true: at this moment John Mitchell has upwards of ONE THOUSAND dollars of the county money in his hands. It is a great piece of folly for Mitchell's friends to deny this. The balance as at first reported was three thousand one hundred dollars. It now stands at one thousand and seventy eight dollars, including interest. How he managed to reduce it thus, I know not; but I challenge him to produce a receipt for any amount of CASH, paid into the Treasury, by which the original report of \$3100 was lessened to \$1078. John Mitchell is now a candidate for another important Office. Is it fair to elect him, when we have none of tried honesty, offered to our support. Is it politic to place him in an Office where he may have it in his power to debar the people from receiving that money which his maladministration requires him to account for, and act honestly in.

Fellow Citizens.—The matter rests with you. You are to decide whether our Officers shall be forced to act honestly when in Office, or whether you will sanction the mal-conduct of your Officers by exalting them to higher and more important stations. It is now referred to the people, and to an injured public;—decide as in justice you think right. Let every man have his due.

JUSTICE.

For the Patriot.

Mitchell's friends have stated, and stated knowing it to be false, that Francis M'Ewen has been induced to run for the Assembly at the instance of the Old School and Federalists. It is utterly false. What will they not state, when one of them, regardless of truth, asserted to an honest countryman a few days since, that Francis M'Ewen was always a Federalist. Another of them stated that Francis M'Ewen supported Joseph Heister for Governor in 1820. "Spirits of falsehood," blush at this!! Are you not ashamed to be caught in such palpable misrepresentations. But Mitchell needs propping. Conscious of being the choice of the Federalists, he affects to despise their suffrages, and to secure to himself the votes of Democrats he was induced to stigmatize, by his agents, Francis M'Ewen with apostasy. Francis M'Ewen was not solicited by the Old Schoolmen and Federalists to stand the poll for Assembly. It was at the solicitation of Democrats, alone, that he suffered his name to be placed in nomination. Francis M'Ewen has ever and anon been a Democratic Republican. During the "reign of terror days," he was a zealous Democrat, and has never, in one single instance, or by one single act, evidenced a departure in the most remote degree from Democratic principles. He has been long a citizen of this county: he removed hither before its organization; and at a time when this region of country was a wilderness, by the sweat of his brow he has made an honest livelihood; and lived to see the "desert blossom like a rose." He has not been seeking public patronage, nor depending on Office for subsistence. He has, to use a homely adage, never "eat the bread of idleness." His claims on the Democratic party are of no ordinary nature.

Although a plain country Farmer, he is not to be despised for his talents, which, combined with a good education, present him as more eminently qualified to discharge the duties of the Office with advantage to his constituents, than a man whose only object is to make money out of the Office. On the other hand, John Mitchell is a very doubtful Democrat. He is but a butterfly of a day, in point of time, a democrat, in comparison with Francis M'Ewen. He and his friends have endeavoured to instil into the minds of some people that "Francis M'Ewen has apostatized." This comes well from him and them, indeed. John Mitchell but lately settled in this part, having neither paid nor lot, until lately, in the interests of people of this county, asks you, fellow Citizens, to denounce as an apostate one of the Fathers of Democracy, and for what? In order that he may reap a golden harvest at the expense of Francis M'Ewen's character. A very modest request and not at all an unreasonable one, truly!! I put this question to all of you: Has not John Mitchell been well remunerated for any service he ever done for the party? consider well, and I know you will all respond—He has been well served.

Democrats! be not deceived, as to the men you have placed before you for your support. You have a choice of Democrats.

Jacob Herring is a warm active and zealous democrat.

Francis M'Ewen is also a warm, active and zealous democrat.

Martin Hoover is also a warm active and zealous democrat.

These men have not lived on the industry of you and your children.—They are not always seeking office, and denying to others the right of appearing before the public as well as themselves. They base not, and will not attempt to denounce you, if you do not voluntarily make choice of them for your support. They have never attempted to force themselves on you, or to coerce your opinion in any measure. They do not make a theme of abuse those who may perchance not agree with them in opinion. They are Farmers, and well qualified to discharge the duties of any office in your gift with honor to themselves and the country. And lastly they have, all of them, discharged the duties of any office they have held, with that fidelity which betokens that they did not consider themselves as elected for their own interest, but for the interest of the people. None of them have betrayed the trust reposed in them by the people, by speculating on the public finances. I wish I could here draw a veil over the conduct of John Mitchell; but honesty forbids it. He was intrusted with the "lock and key to the door of the county." How did he discharge the trust reposed in him? did he act as a faithful steward? He has rendered his account, and his own statement shews that he, contrary to his burden duty, has been unfaithful. How can he ask you to sanction by your votes his conduct on this occasion? He has more than ordinary presumption so to do. He is hardly known to you in any other way than as an office hunter. But for his thirst for office, a majority of you would have never perhaps, heard of him—And yet this man, and a few of his satellites, hired for the purpose, and ready instruments of slander, have endeavored to traduce the character and standing of one of our oldest citizens, and uniform Democrats!! He (Mitchell) has been a dead weight on the party ever since he resided in the county and if not gratified in all his "askings," he, under the influence of the worst passions of the human heart, procures men to ride the county to denounce all opposed to him as corrupt apostates, guilty of moral and political turpitude—and aliens to the cause of Democracy.

Truly this is a new thing under the sun. Because a man prefers not for Office, one who has already forfeited all confidence, he must be denounced as an Apostate. If such be the case, the sooner the party sanction such proceedings, the better; for then, and not until then, its predominancy must, and of right, ought to cease. But I hope better things. The denunciation of John Mitchell and his two CHAMPIONS, is no evidence of the disposition of the Democratic party. These men are in every sense of the word a "gall" from which bitterness must ever flow, without a single mixture of sweet to render any thing coming from them palatable to the most vitiated taste. Hurried on by their malignant feelings, they would, by one stroke, hurl virtue from its seat and principle from its throne, if by so doing they could render success certain; for my part, most heartily despise them and their denunciations. Altho' they "take wings to themselves," no spread it to every corner of the county, and one that it