

For the Gazette of the United States.

MR. FERRO,

As there are men in every society who will justify every thing that tends either directly or indirectly to promote their personal views.—I am not surprized to find writers who justify those hostile associations which have been formed in various parts of the Union.

It is not with an expectation that any of these will be influenced in their opinion, or that the majority of persons who form those societies will be affected by the sound principles contained in the enclosed remarks; but it is of the greatest importance that the people at large, should fully understand the nature and tendency of those societies; and that the citizens in one part of the Union, should be informed of the sentiments entertained respecting them; by the wisest and best men in another. D.

The following observations, with those of other writers who have dissented the principles of our new sangled legislators, it would be well for their advocates to answer if they can. D.

From the GREENFIELD GAZETTE.

Fellow Citizens;

IN my first address, upon what are called "CONSTITUTIONAL SOCIETIES," I intimated my wish, that some person better able to do justice to the subject than myself, would come forward, and shew more particularly than I had done, their unconstitutionality, and destructive tendency: But as no person has appeared, I shall resume the subject.

These Societies, in general, endeavour to cover themselves under that article in the Constitution, which says: "The people have a right in a peaceable and orderly manner to assemble to consult the common good."

This article contains both a permission, and a prohibition. The permission is defined by the prohibitory part. It prohibits all disorderly, and anarchical meetings; and all assemblies which are not convened for the purpose of consulting the common good—that is, if a number of citizens convene for the purpose of taking into consideration, matters, in which others, or the public are concerned as well as themselves, the good of the public, and not a party good, must be their object, otherwise they convene neither in a peaceable or orderly manner.

To know then, whether these societies come under the prohibitory part of this article, we must bring to view, not their FAIR PROFESSIONS, nor their SOPHISTICAL REASONINGS, but their actual conduct. It can never be expected that the enemies of the Constitution, in the beginning of their plans for its destruction, should appear any otherwise, than under the cloak of HYPOCRISY. To be open at first, would terminate their wishes suddenly.

By "consulting the common good," we are to understand, that whatever subject is taken up for discussion in any peaceable assembly, it must be attended to with an ultimate view to the peace, happiness, and prosperity of all who may be concerned in that subject.

The way being thus prepared, I would observe;—that, for private clubs to endeavour to obtain an influence over the national councils, is so far from consulting the common good, as that it is an attempt to infringe upon the equal rights, and privileges of the people. This is a position which cannot be disproved, and I trust will not be controverted. For, just in proportion as the national councils are influenced by such clubs, so much the other parts of society are under the effects of an influence, in which they have no voice, and consequently they are under a necessity either of joining those private clubs, or of submitting, whether willing, or unwilling, to the influenced decisions of their civil rulers. Let us now see whether these societies are not endeavouring to obtain this influence. The principal reason which most of them give for their forming, is "that they may keep our civil rulers within the bounds of the Constitution." How is this to be done? Either by their influence, or their arms;—the latter they will at present disavow,—and probably will so until their treasuries become rich, when it may be depended on, their resolves will be enforced. But when and how is their influence to be used?

It is, when in their opinion acts of Congress, and the doings of the executive are unconstitutional. Their opinion is then to be the standard, to which the PUBLIC OPINION is to be subjected. Most of them have already come forward, and have resolved that such and such doings of Congress, and of our ex-

ecutive are unconstitutional; and these resolves must have been designed to have influenced our civil rulers. This indeed, looks like a faction, a rebellion in one point of view, and in another like tyranny. For a handful of the people, in private conventicles, to arraign the civil rulers of the United States, to judge and condemn them without a hearing, and that for conduct highly approved of by at least nineteen twentieths of the freemen, is without false colouring, both factions, rebellious, and tyrannical.

Among other strange reasons which some of the societies have given for their forming, are the following:—

- 1. "The inattention of Congress to the recovery of the Western posts."
- 2. "The construction of the Federal Judges on the stability of States."
- 3. "The alarming circumstance of eleven members of the Federal Senate having voted in the negative," on a certain question.

I must confess that these reasons being given as the ground of their forming, look like some design; greater than that of influence; it looks more like an assumption of the rights of government. What is the natural implication?—Nothing less, than that the people, instead of looking to Congress, must look to them for guidance, direction, and assistance.

And now judge, Fellow Citizens, whether these Private Clubs, giving such reasons for their forming; and when they have formed, setting up courts of inquisition upon your civil rulers, and trying, and condemning them without a hearing, and publishing their condemnations, and all this without your voice; Judge, I say, whether they are peaceable, or orderly, or whether they consult the common good.

Again, every embarrassment which is thrown in the way of the public administrations, of the constitutional officers of government in the performance of their official duties, is an opposition to the peace, freedom, and happiness of the United States.

That it has been the unwearied endeavour of these Societies, to embarrass our civil rulers in all their proceedings, is as true, as that Genet is their father—or, it is as true, as it is, that they have constantly opposed, by their resolves, and by their writings, every prudent endeavor of our political fathers, for preserving to us the blessings of peace. Even the President's proclamation of neutrality which so perfectly harmonized with the wishes of the people, was by them opposed. The Democratic Society in Philadelphia, had the impudence to resolve, that this proclamation of neutrality by the President, was "a questionable constitutional act" and also that it was "impolitic." They have also uniformly, and publicly blamed the President, and Congress, for every exertion they have made to preserve a strict neutrality;—and also for all their endeavors to terminate existing difficulties with Great Britain; by negotiation. And, in fine, they have opposed every thing, excepting war and anarchy. It will be enquired, Are these things embarrassments to our civil rulers in their official duties? The question needs no answer.—If these things have not been embarrassing, it is because our civil rulers have considered these societies too small, and contemptible, to demand much notice.

Again, every attempt, made by private clubs, to disaffect the minds of the people towards their civil rulers, and alienate their affections from them, so long as they deserve their confidence, by a faithful discharge of their official duties, is a direct attack upon their peace, happiness and prosperity.

That it has been the unwearied endeavour of these societies, to render despicable, in the view of the people, their civil rulers, is as evident as that they have voted most of their doings, for six months past, to be unconstitutional; and that without shewing, in a single instance, sufficient reasons therefor. In their writings, also, they have suggested, that our political fathers, "have been under the influence of British gold;"—that they have "crept into office;"—that they have been endeavoring "to keep the people in ignorance, lest they should discover their wicked plots, and hurl them from their easy situation." These societies have talked about "the necessity of a general sweep;"—that is, of guillotining, at once, our civil rulers, as enemies to the country; and have constantly insinuated, that they have "deep designs and machinations," against the liberties of the people.

Whilst the Senate doors were shut, they clamoured about the secrecy of their proceedings; and called that honorable body "a conclave, a cabal," and many other hard names;—and what is very singular, at the same time, these societies shut their own doors, and established a test of admission; and whilst they were condemning the secrecy of the senate, they were forming a secret censorship, over the representatives of the people. Some of these societies have proceeded so far, as to form lists of what they call Aristocrats, that is, friends to our present government:—

And, is it not manifest from all things, that it has been their constant design, if possible, to disaffect the minds of people from their civil rulers? Has this the complexion of equal rights, that a few citizens excluding themselves by bars, and bolts, from all other freemen, who are equally interested, and there, forming lists of proscription against others,—and there arraigning for adjudication, and even condemnation, those characters, who are put into office by the great body of the freemen? No, this is tyrannical and factious. And, in fine, by the writings of these societies, it appears that their minds have been on the rack, in the invention of every species of calumny, for the purpose of sowing the seeds of discord, and of spreading among the people, a general dissatisfaction, with respect to their civil rulers.

These societies pretend that they form for the purpose of spreading information, and of disseminating political knowledge. What is the knowledge and what is the information they are spreading? This must be determined from their votes and writings. I have yet seen no other knowledge, or information spread by them, only, that the President is deserving of censure, for endeavouring to preserve us in peace; and; that Congress is a venal body—that their proceedings have been such, as to deserve the highest disapprobation, and their political sentiments, such as to require the greatest jealousy of the people;—and that the great body of the freemen, the farmers, &c. are suffering great depression, and intolerable burthens under such an aristocratical government. This is the knowledge they are disseminating; and whilst it manifests the restlessness and depravity of their hearts, it manifests, also, their intolerable ignorance of the condition of the great body of the people, who are rejoicing in the highest possible prosperity. That which they disseminate, is so far from deserving the name of knowledge, that it is only their anarchical, dogmatical, passionate, party opinions. The main body of the people are as capable of judging as these societies are; whether their public servants exceed the bounds of the constitution, and they are perfectly satisfied with what they have done.

Thus, Fellow Citizens, I have given you the truth, relative to these Clubs. They have boldly, and impudently asserted, that no man durst deny their right, of meeting to consult the common good. I have not denied this right to open and peaceable assemblies; but I deny it to them, for they are neither.—Their conduct manifests the venality of their designs—and if they are not prohibited in the Constitution, neither is open rebellion.

A REPUBLICAN.

For the Gazette of the United States.

MR. FERRO,

THE same arguments which are daily used in favor of direct taxation, may be urged with equal force in favor of all systems, which however pleasing in theory, are from certain causes impracticable in their nature. Happiness is in a great measure the creature of opinion.—To suppose that it is only to be found among the rich would be to admit a position not warranted by experience. If the great majority of the inhabitants of any country are contented with their situation—if they are satisfied that the government is so administered as to promote their true welfare, it would be the height of wickedness in any man or set of men to disturb their repose, by advocating systems, which having for their object a partial good might produce great and lasting evils. To frame a law so as to make direct taxes operate equally in the United States, would be an herculean task indeed. It would not have the desired effect on the proprietor of houses and cultivated farms, because he would raise his rents.—The merchant would as in the other case, charge it upon his goods.—The owners of unproductive property would probably become the only victims of the operation of a law of this kind. I have said nothing about those persons who live upon the interest of their monies in the funds or otherwise, because it must be obvious to the meanest understanding, that if indirect taxation has been the real cause of the enhanced price of living, they will have no reason to lament the new projected order of things.—For the truth of this assertion, I will appeal to every house-keeper in this city, whether an income of 200l. at the present day is equal to 150l. three years ago? Besides that the mode of collecting direct taxes would be extremely difficult—very vexatious and would have a tendency to harass and render the people dissatisfied with the government, and this I

believe to be the real aim of the profligate authors of a scheme, which they themselves know to be impracticable. The mode in which the revenue of the United States is now collected, leaves it optional with all persons to contribute to it or not, and also operates as an encouragement to home manufactures. It has been said that from long habit Tea, Coffee and Sugar, have become as it were necessities of life among all descriptions of persons, and that in consequence thereof, the tax upon those articles operates as forcibly upon the indigent as upon the wealthy part of the society. To this assertion I answer, that it is a well known fact, that the price of labor has kept pace with the price of those commodities and that the rich not only consume greater quantities of Tea, Coffee and Sugar, but expend yearly large sums in the purchase of articles of luxury charged with high duties, and which duties might be increased if judged expedient. Nothing perhaps would go so far to expose the vile hypocrisy of those men who are continually decanting upon the imaginary imperfections in the government as a perusal of the sentiments expressed at their grand Kin-to-keys.—It is there we shall find the little despicable tyrant over fifty or a hundred unfortunate Africans drinking confusion to despots.—It is there we shall see the lawless intruder on the lands assigned by nature's God to the untutored Indian holding forth in favor of the rights of man—and there also are to be found gamblers, drunkards, bankrupts, in fortune and in fame, gentlemen cockers, jockies, athletes, &c. &c. looking out for the promised millennium and chanting hymns in praise of honesty, temperance and morality!!! I. S.

For the Gazette of the United States.

To the MEMBERS of the DEMOCRATIC SOCIETY.

Fellow Citizens.

In order to give full proof of our real attachment to the cause of Liberty and Equality as well as to each other, I wish to communicate my sentiments to you on this important subject, viz.

The destruction of Artificial Aristocracy originating in extra industry, superior abilities, or lucky circumstances, by an equal and just distribution of all Property owned or possessed by the Brethren of our Society. As this idea is by no means novel, it already existing in this country among the Moravians at Bethlehem, Nazareth &c. Its practicability therefore, can never be doubted by any but the rich, to these I would quote a passage in the New Testament viz. it is easier for a Camel to go through the Eye of a needle, than for a rich man to enter into the Kingdom of Heaven; this far for religion and now for politics. It will be easy to demonstrate that true equality cannot exist where riches are enjoyed by a few, and poverty is the portion of the remaining part of the Community; and that the evils and mortifications which this kind of Aristocracy creates, are of the most obnoxious kind—I have not time to be more particular at present, and I mean only to give notice that at the first meeting of our Society in September next, I shall move for a general return of all the Property possessed by each individual of our Society, in order that the expediency of an equitable division may be duly and fairly considered. To preserve and perpetuate the equality created by this return, and division, I would have the same repeated at least biennially—and that no one may have the least cause to complain, I would propose that any member who may not approve of this wise measure, may be at liberty to withdraw from our Society and that his name be recorded on our black list of Aristocrats.

A True friend to EQUAL LIBERTY.

Query, will it not be more desirable that the proposed return and division of Property should extend to all our State Societies collectively, than that the same should be effected by and confined to each Society within itself?

PHILADELPHIA,

AUGUST 5,

Says a Correspondent.

The farming interest has declined of late years—and the value of farms and lands in general is so diminished that it is proposed by a correspondent, in order to doing justice to the farmers, and proprietors of lands, that at the next election all the members of the state and general legislatures should be chosen from the above classes—another correspondent proposes that as trade and commerce are on the decline and will be annihilated soon if something is not done, all the representatives of the people should be merchants—another proposes, to revive the drooping mechanic arts, that they should all be elected from the mechanics—another conceives that stockholders have no interest in the affairs of this country but what is contrary to all other interests, and suggests

that they should be disfranchised—and their affairs committed to men who will think it their duty to annihilate both debts and credits together. Ironical.

Besides the intelligence brought by Capt. Hampton, from St. Kitts and St. Eustatius, and published in our last, under the Wilmington head, we were since favored by that gentleman with the following particulars, which may be depended on.

The Republican forces at Guadeloupe had increased to upwards of 7000 men, by the addition of considerable numbers of the inhabitants, and of those who had been aristocrats but converted to republicanisim by the tyranny and cruelties the British commanders had exercised over them. Numbers of prisoners who had been permitted at St. Bartholomews to obtain a passage to the United States, were returning to the assistance of their brethren by every opportunity.

American vessels in the British islands, and the French islands in their possession were not suffered to carry away any other produce than rum and molasses, and such only on giving bond that they should not be landed in any port of Europe to the northward of Cape Finisterre, except Great Britain.

The frigate Resource, Capt. Rofs, which called at St. Eustatius, had been dispatched by Admiral Jervis in quest of three French privateers lately fitted out at St. Bartholomews and which were cruising among the islands with great success; one of them, a brig of 16 guns, chased two Dutch sloops into the road, a day or two before Capt. Hampton sailed from St. Eustatius, where Capt. Rofs, the commander of the Resource, mentioned that the Admiral had sent for the fleet of men of war, now on the coast of the United States, requiring their assistance at Guadeloupe.

The inhabitants of St. Eustatius were much alarmed at the prospect of an attack by the French. Not a vessel was suffered to enter the road after dark, and in the night of the 11th of July, a schooner was much damaged and lost a man by being fired at from the fort.

The St. Kitts Gazette of the 7th July mentioned the receipt of intelligence from England to the 18th May, and the arrival of an American brig at Antigua, which sailed from Brest with a fleet of 20 sail of the line, to join the convoy from America, which they met off the Western Isles.

An American ship which arrived at St. Eustatius, after a short passage from Amsterdam, brought an account of the safe arrival of the aforementioned convoy at Brest.

The schooner dispatch, Capt. W. J. Keen of Philadelphia, arrived at St. Eustatius from Dominico; Capt. Keen informed Capt. Hampton that he was in company with N. C. Higginson, Esq. the agent of the United States, on the 9th of July, who was about departing from Dominico without having been able to accomplish, in the smallest degree, the important business required of him in that island. The enormous sum of ten thousand dollars was demanded of him for permission to procure copies of the documents relative to the condemnation of the American property in the Court of Admiralty there.

Captain Hampton's was the first arrival at St. Kitts after the embargo, and was received by the inhabitants with the liveliest expressions of joy and civility.

On Wednesday last, off the capes of Delaware, he was brought too by the Deane British frigate, of 32 guns, Capt. Kemp, who shewed much politeness, and to whom, by particular request, he delivered the St. Kitts and St. Eustatius Gazettes (containing the intelligence from Guadeloupe, &c.) he designed to have brought to this city.

Left at St. Kitts the sloop—Captain W. Jackson, of Philadelphia, and the brig Diana, Capt. Barker, of New-York; and at St. Eustatius the brig Ann and Mary, Capt. Curry of Philadelphia. The brig Yorick, Capt. M'Allister sailed from St. Domingo on the 11th. The schooner Washington, Capt. Watson, was to have sailed on the 15th for Norfolk.

Amer. D. Adv.

August 2, 1794.

Wilmington Borough, Jf.

IN consequence of a publication in the Delaware and Eastern shore Advertiser of this day, signed Adams and Smyth, styled the "Alarm Bell," suggesting some queries respecting putrid hides; to which I subjoined an address "to the People of Philadelphia." The Burgeses and assistants convened for the purpose of investigating the same; and called before the house the health-officer of the port, the inspector who attended at discharging the cargo, the mate, and three people belonging to the sloop, (the captain being absent) who being severally and duly sworn to