

From the Gazette of Maine.

To the Democratic Society of Wythe County, Virginia

Gentlemen, or rather Citizens, but not Fellow-citizens,

A MORE impudent, hypocritical and villainous, and at the same time a more superficial, foolish and contemptible thing than your Address to the People of the United States, we do not recollect that we ever have been condemned to read!—You address the People of the United States!—You compare your rights with those of the PEOPLE? You attack the constitution?—You exclaim against neutrality and peace?—You advise and reform the world? much you know about them, to be sure.

We shall, so far as a mixture of contempt, and indignation will permit, in the first place examine a few of your political notions, or rather tricks, and then do you the friendly office of holding you up to yourselves.

You begin curiously—"It is the right of the PEOPLE to assemble and deliberate." (So it is.) It is the right of the PEOPLE to publish their sentiments. (So it is—but mind the application.) These rights We exercise, and esteem invaluable. Now in the name of common sense, what business have you with these rights? Have you stolen them from the people! Not yet we hope. Or will your amiable modesty say that you are the people! Modest gentlemen indeed!

2. Dear sirs! what on earth have you to do with France, or with England, or with "the small neutral powers?" And your sympathy with British convicts, from whence could it possibly be derived? It is pity that patriotism and religion are alike subject to rascally cant, which imposes on almost all but those who employ it. You have lamented that your good wishes were the only aid you could give to the French." That is, (deducting the cant for tare) you have lamented that you could not get your country into a war!—We know it. Be so kind in your next address, as to point out the infinite benefits your country would derive from a war, to her trade, revenue, and happiness! And add in your pleasure, a list of the offices that you in the backs woods of Virginia, have sustained in your navigation! And her of your slaves, and yet another of certain little embarrassments, might wonderfully "purge the vital ray." There is another small particular, which we should demand of you, if we believed you to have sufficient penetration to discern it.—And that is, the agency by which you are driven; for nobody will suppose that your uncommon patriotism is original.—It is a humble copy of still greater patriots, who are yet a great deal more concerned about the public than you are.—We do not mean to insinuate that you are not as great patriots as you can be but only that there are some very few who love liberty and love the PEOPLE, and all that, as Bayes says, ten times as much as you do, or ever will do in your lives.

3. While you take care of the affairs of Europe, you condescend to think, that it "would be criminal to forget your own country."—Your country thanks you for nothing. While you are engaged in the "affairs of Europe" she will try to take care of herself. You say "you have seen the nation insulted, our rights violated, our commerce ruined, while government, under the corrupt influence of the paper system, has uniformly crouched to Britain. Our allies the French, have been treated unfriendly; denied any advantages from their treaties with us; their Minister abused; and those individuals among us who desire to aid their arms, prosecuted as traitors." What an impudent libel upon your country! Have the PEOPLE "seen" all this?—Do these vile rulers live?—Where are a million swords?—God of our fathers, does vengeance sleep? Or does this quotation set out with an imposing truth and proceed and end with a nefarious lie? Gentlemen of the Democratic Society of Wythe county, in Virginia, you ought indeed to be a little decent when you appeal to the Sovereign People! Has France complained? Or are these things but trifles? It is a melancholy consideration that the truth of God is not guarded against clippers and coiners—if it were, this would be—*ears* at least.

4. "If all tyrants unite against free people, should not all free people unite against tyrants? Yes! Let us unite with France, and stand or fall together!" Here the cat leaps out.—War! War! War! Let us go to war with Britain, Germany, Holland, Prussia, Spain, Sardinia, Sicily, Portugal, Tuscany, Rome, and all the world! For why? If some tyrants unite against some free people, should not all free people unite against all tyrants? Conclusive, even to contempt!

5. Mr. Jay's appointment you call "a severe trial of the public confidence." Now, on the contrary, it is a fact, and we believe you know it, that no man in the United States could have given such general satisfaction. But you, parricides, do not wish Mr. Jay succeeds. Your scheme of war would not take place if he should succeed. We know you. "The constitution hath been trampled on and your rights have no security." You tell of the constitution?

How can you smother your own consciences, that thunder to your souls that you, you are in the deliberate act of overturning the very system, whose pretended injuries, like crocodiles, you affect to deplore! Who has trampled on the constitution? How dare you to insult the *obsequies* of The People?—Have George Washington and the Senate trampled on the constitution? And did you, Democratic Society of Wythe county, feel the first and only shock? And your miserable quibble about the union of legislative judicial and executive in Mr. Jay, could you have been foolish enough to publish it, if you had barely read the constitution, whose clappings you pretend to be, which vests the power of making treaties, not in an Envoy-extraordinary, but in the President with advice of the Senate? The farther we go, the more we are ashamed of our antagonists, the Democratic Society of Wythe county in Virginia.

To you, "it seems that a radical change of measures is necessary, and citizens! you say, it is to be effected by a change of men!" It amounts to this—you could not get a war the last session of Congress, because with infinite difficulty and expense your plans were virtuously detected and exposed.—You find that the President, with the majority, is in favor of neutrality and peace—and so men must be changed, that measures may change. It is observable too, that you intend to have a war two or three years hence, if you cannot have it before; because you say that a new President would "produce a new state of things." Let him that reads this letter with us, hold up his folded hands and humbly beseech Almighty God to blest, to continue, and to prosper the councils of peace!

And now we have finished our observations on your address to the "citizens" and "fellow citizens" ("my lords" and "my lords and gentlemen") of this people. If you choose to come forward again, never fear but you shall be noticed, gentlemen. It is not constitutionally in our power to notice you *properly*, but we will endeavor to do the introductory honors of the PEOPLE.

The second department of our undertaking was to hold the mirror up to your faces.—Will any body on earth believe your foolish pretensions to the palm of patriotism in the United States? Do you know that your northern brethren have systematized what you have just begun to learn? Do you really think that your impudent assertions and vague declamations will occasion this part of the States especially to disturb the philosophic balance of their minds?—"Foolish Galatians! who Galatians! who hath bewitched you?" Who will believe that Republicanism is purer in Virginia than in New-England?—Look at your habits, your education, and your employments.—Can you govern the world? Consider at large your passions, your interests, and your vanity—do not they govern you? and who governs them?

Remember, gentlemen, if you live to see your country ruined, the cause of it. All tyrannies begin by an officious assumption of authority. Who has called for volunteers in the government of the United States?—Has the silent majesty of the people either beckoned your assistance, or ratified your association?—& against whom do you pretend to support your country? Against her own choice—against her constitution—against her deliberate will and pleasure? THE PEOPLE only meet in their legal constitutional divisions; and meeting thus, they have & doubtless will always take care to have a right to deliberate. But you—who are you? You give us a sounding foolish name to your society and tack on your Chairman and Secretary.—Your Negroes could do the same One man, by the help of a little forgery (no great addition to your offence) could do it.—At least, when you appear again, let the public have your names.

You despise—we reverence the people. This charge is right, for you are habitually proud and (even in the present instance) dictatorial, and if you examine your hearts, will find that you are sorry that the people have the power which you are obliged to court. Your habits are British, and your elections are even now of the British pattern.—Yet you affect the French principles, which you do not feel, and can never equal either in sentiment or effect. Nay, you do it absurdly, for neither you nor we have the least need of or could possibly apply, these principles. But you find them popular, and employ them to be popular yourselves. Now he that does this is a Democrat; but in that sense of the word wherein it means, to govern the people, and that too by imposing upon them.

Gentlemen, accept our republican advice.—Be honest and mind your business. We shall pray to God to continue our

ability and privilege to judge for ourselves—and by all means to avert the necessity of asking your assistance or opinion.

One for MANY.

District of Maine, August 1794.  
The Republican Printers may publish this too, if they please.

BY THE PITTSBURGH MAIL OF LAST EVENING.

A Report of the proceedings of the committee appointed at the meeting at Parkin's Ferry on the 14th instant, to confer with commissioners on the part of the executive of the Union, and on the part of the executive of Pennsylvania, on the subject of the late opposition to the laws of the Union, and violation of the peace of the state government.

On the part of the executive of the Union. William Bradford, attorney general of the United States.

Jasper Yates, associate judge of the supreme court of Pennsylvania.

James Ross, senator in the Congress of the United States.

On the part of the executive of Pennsylvania.

Thomas McKean, chief justice of the state of Pennsylvania.

William Irvine, representative in the Congress of the United States.

Committee of Conference. Westmoreland county.

John Kirkpatrick, George Smith, John Powers.

Washington county. David Bradford, James Marshall, James Edgar.

Fayette county. Edward Cook, Albert Gallatin, James Lang.

Allegheny county. Thomas Morton, John Lucas.

H. H. Braekenridge. Ohio county. William McKinley, William Suteland, John Stephenson.

The committee having met on the 31st, proceeded to the election of a chairman, upon which Edward Cook, was nominated and took his place.

A question was made, whether the proposed conference with the Commissioners from the government should be private or public. It was determined that it should be private, as less liable to interruption, and as leading the Commissioners from the government to give a more frank and full communication of their sentiments and intentions; and that after the preliminary arrangements, the correspondence as to what was material should be in writing, which the committee were not at liberty to communicate to the public immediately, but to report to the Committee of Safety, which was to meet on the first Tuesday of September.

It was moved and directed that two members be appointed to wait upon the Commissioners on the part of the Union, and of the State Government, and to adjust with them the place and time of conference.

Thomas Morton and James Edgar were appointed.

Agreeable to arrangement a conference took place at ten o'clock next day, and was opened by a communication on the part of the Commissioners of the Union, stating with all the solemnity due to the occasion, the extreme pain it gave to the Executive, to have heard from time to time of the deviations from the constitutional line of expressing a dislike of particular laws, to those means of violence and outrage which would lead to having no laws at all; that in the case of the present infractions, they were solemnly called upon by the constitution to exert the force of the union, to suppress them; but that in the first instance, all those lenient measures of accommodation were about to be tried, that the great reluctance of the Executive to have recourse to force, had induced it to use; that for this purpose, they had been commissioned with certain powers from the Executive in order that if possible, short of bloodshed, submission to the laws might be obtained, and peace restored; that in the mean time the most effectual and decisive measures had been taken, that should a pacification be found impracticable, by an address to the patriotism and reason of the people, submission must be enforced, and however painful, the strength of the union drawn out to effect it; that the militia were actually draughted, and their march delayed

only until the first of September next; within which time it behoved the people of this country to make up their minds and give an answer, that the government might know what to expect.

On the part of the Commissioners from the Executive of Pennsylvania, it was stated, that it was in like manner with great pain that it had been heard, by the state government, that a resistance to the laws of the Union, and a violation of public peace, had taken place within this particular jurisdiction; violations of so flagrant a nature as the invasion of personal security in a domestic habitation of an officer of government; the burning down his mansion house; reducing him to the necessity of relinquishing the country by a flight at an unseasonable hour, and by a circuitous route of many hundred miles through a wilderness; the attacking the marshal; expelling an associate judge, the Prothonotary of the county, &c. and above all invading the cabinet of government, in the intercepting the public mail, and violating the right of the citizen by breaking the repository of his private thoughts, which ought to have been considered as sacred as in his scrutory; that the laws of the union were a part of the laws of Pennsylvania, and the state government on principles of delicacy and honor, could not avoid taking a very sensible part in defending them, independent of that obligation under which it was by the constitution; but that these outrages were breaches of the municipal law, and as such the state government was under an indispensable necessity of taking notice of them; and by every necessary coercion repressing them; that for this purpose, the governor had determined to give the most prompt and decided assistance to the general government, in the requisition of militia, & had thought it proper to call the assembly, in order to make provision for any further force, that the exigency of repressing the insurrection might require; but that it must be peculiarly distressing to be under the necessity of arming against a country always heretofore respectable for its obedience to the laws; a country which had been peculiarly an object of attention with the present state executive; nevertheless, it was impossible to avoid it, unless order by the voluntary act of the citizens could be restored; that to effect this object the governor had commissioned them to cooperate in their good offices with the commissioners on the part of the union, and for this purpose, inasmuch, as the consciousness of having violated the laws might lead to a farther violation as a means of impunity, they have authorized, on an accommodation with commissioners of the United States, and an assurance of a disposition to preserve peace, to stipulate and engage a free and full indemnity for what was past; so far as regarded the commonwealth of Pennsylvania, and that it would give them personally great pleasure indeed, if by these a return could be facilitated to this country to the bosom of peace and happiness.

On the part of the committee, a narrative was given of the grounds of that uneasiness and discontent which have existed in this country, and have grown up at length to that popular fury which has shewn itself in the late transactions.

To this the commissioners replied, and then proceeded to state more particularly the nature of their powers, and that certain assurances were necessary previous to their exercise, all which having been since reduced to writing, the documents will speak for themselves. They also declared their expectations that the committee would declare their sense on this subject.

It was answered by the committee that it was their duty to hear, and report, for to this purpose were they appointed; but no power lay with them to stipulate for the people.

It was then stated on the part of the commissioners that such was their situation, that they could not dispense with requiring from the committee, at least to recommend what opinion they themselves should form on the subject of the propositions made, as otherwise they could have no encouragement to go on, and wait the result of the opinion of the people of the country.

This was thought reasonable, and it was agreed on the part of the committee that it should be so.

It was then agreed that the propositions of the commissioners should be received in writing, and the conference was adjourned.

The following letter was now received from the commissioners on the part of the union.

Pittsburgh, August 21, 1794.  
Gentlemen,  
Having had a conference with you on

the important subject that calls us into this part of Pennsylvania, we shall now state to you in writing, agreeably to your request, the nature and object of our mission hither. Considering this as a crisis infinitely interesting to our fellow citizens who have authorized you to confer with us, we shall explain ourselves to you with that frankness and sincerity which the solemnity of the occasion demands.

You well know that the President of the United States is charged with the execution of the laws. Obedience to the national will being indispensable in a republican government, the people of the United States have strictly enjoined it as his duty "to see that the laws are faithfully executed;"—and when the ordinary authorities of the government are incompetent for that end he is bound to exert those high powers with which the nation has invested him for extraordinary occasions.

It is but too evident that the insurrections which have lately prevailed in some of these western counties have suppressed the usual exercise of the national authority; & it has been formally notified to the President by one of the associate judges, in the manner the law prescribes, that in the counties of Washington and Allegheny, in Pennsylvania, laws of the United States are opposed and the execution thereof obstructed by combinations too powerful to be suppressed by the ordinary course of judicial proceeding; or the powers vested in the marshal of that district." He therefore perceives with the deepest regret, the necessity to which he may be reduced for calling forth the national force in order to support the national authority, and to cause the laws to be executed;—but he has determined, previously, to address himself to the patriotism and reason of the people of the western counties, and to try the moderation of government in hopes that he may not be compelled to resort to its strength. But, we must not conceal from you, that it is also his fixed determination if these hopes should be disappointed, to employ the force—and if it be necessary, the whole force of the union to secure the execution of the laws. He has, therefore, authorized us to repair hither, and by free conferences and the powers vested in us, to endeavour to put an end to the present disturbances and the opposition to the execution of the laws in a manner that may be finally satisfactory to all our fellow citizens.

We hope that this moderation in the government will not be misconstrued by the citizens to whom we are sent. The President, who feels a paternal solicitude for their welfare, wishes to prevent the calamities that are impending over them—to state to them clearly the inevitable consequences of further resistance—to recall them to their duty—and to prove to the whole world, that if military coercion must be employed it is their choice and not his.

The powers vested in us will enable us so to arrange the execution of the acts for raising a revenue on distilled spirits and stills that little inconvenience will arise therefrom to the people; to prevent as far as is consistent with the public interests the commencing prosecutions under those acts at a distance from the places where the delinquents reside; to suspend prosecutions for the late offences against the United States; and, even, to engage for a general pardon and oblivion of them.

But, gentlemen, we explicitly declare to you that the exercise of these powers must be preceded by full and satisfactory assurances of a sincere determination in the people to obey the laws of the United States, and their eventual operation must depend upon a correspondent acquiescence in the execution of the acts which have been opposed. We have not, and coming from the executive you well know that we cannot have, any authority to suspend the laws or to offer the most distant hopes that the acts, the execution of which has been obstructed, will be repealed. On the contrary, we are free to declare to you our private opinions, that the national councils, while they consult the general interests of the republic, and endeavour to conciliate every part by local accommodations to citizens who respect the laws, will sternly refuse every indulgence to men who accompany their requests with threats, and resist by force the public authority.

Upon these principles we are ready to enter with you into the detail necessary for exercise of our powers; to learn what local accommodations are yet wanting to render the execution of the laws convenient to the people; to concert with you the measures for restoring harmony and order, and for burying the past in oblivion; and to unite our endeavours with yours to secure the