

For the Gazette of the United States.

Mr. FENNOL.

INCLOSED, are several extracts from a Sermon preached in Litchfield, in Connecticut, to the FREE MASONS, on the 27th of September, 1794, by a Clergyman of reputation: If they shall appear worthy of publication, please to insert them in your Gazette.

February 9th. 1795.

### EXTRACTS

From Mr. Barker's SERMON.

"THE generality of men cultivate friendship, on the same ground that Herod and Pilate became friends, in opposing Jesus.

"Men herd, instead of associating together, by that spirit which Christ reproaches as repugnant to true and virtuous. Such combinations may answer political, and worldly prudential purposes; but they disgrace the name of friendship, as they have not a spark of that disinterested and noble Christian virtue, which seeketh not her own.

"This stipulated commerce of friendship acts; this mock benevolence, for evanescent, chills the growth of the affections of humanity, friendship, and philanthropy, and all that is generous in the soul. A man who exercises it makes himself a centre, and wishes to gravitate towards himself; he is not his friend, and even his brother, as the tools by which he brings about his final ends."

"GENTLEMEN,

"IN obedience to your polite request, I appear in the desk. As I am conscious that you did not invite me with an expectation that I would offer you the fulsome incense of flattery, I wish to meet you on the ground of that blunt honest man, who speaks right on, and whose words are the unequivocal index of his heart.

"I pretend to none of your secrets. So far as the principles of your Society lead you to visit the sick, and in prison; to perform the duties of hospitality to the stranger; to comfort the afflicted, to feed the hungry, clothe the naked, to relieve the widow and the fatherless, and to dry the orphan's tear, I revere it, as I revere every thing that secures the cause of humanity.

"I acknowledge, also, that I despise, equally with you, those narrow spirits who confine you for your particular secrets, and slander the order for the disorderly walk of some of its members. It is a disgrace to the rational part of the creation, that so many centuries have elapsed, and that they have but just learned to distinguish principles from men, who professedly embrace them.

"Our holy religion suffers on the same score from the contracted liberality of ignorant, superficial sectaries, and the obliquity of sneering buffoons. But I am not ashamed to plead the cause of religion still; though it has its enemies, and many of its professors despise it. Disgrace it, did I say? They cannot disgrace it; it will hew its way through all its enemies, and defeat the wisdom of all its foes, though millions of painted hypocrites, by presuming to meddle with the holy and awful Ark of the Covenant, shall perish with the touch."

"The rage of the present times is for general disorganization, and the dissolution of all that has the marks of antiquity. Nothing will stand against the general wreck, but real truth and real virtue. Not that the greatest disorganizers think so, nor doth their heart mean so. Many who have boasted of conquering liberty, have set their feet on the neck of real morality.

"Whether your Institutions be feudal, patriarchal, or antideluvian, it matters not; just so far as real benevolence enters into its principles it will stand, and no farther."

"Unless a spirit of misrepresentation has belied your Institution, an immoral mason is as great an inconsistency as an immoral Christian. It is believed that it has not made good men worse; would to God it had made bad men better."

"The world has its prescriptible demands on your every-day conduct, as much as it has on the professors of religion. As you profess benevolence, it is important that you let your light shine as well as they. There is one material difference, however, between us. If Masons do not live agreeably to their benevolent laws, they will sink into contempt; in spite of all their external parade. But religion will make its way through holes of false professors, as it is founded on the word of God."

"While the Jesuits have been long

habituated, to their merited obnoxiousness, their officiousness in the policy of the nation that embosomed them—The Masons have, hitherto, maintained character harmless in this respect. I need not tell you, that your glory and defence depends on keeping this character inviolable. The spirit of liberty has the eyes of an Argus. Clubs cannot rule among a free people. Should you convert your Society into a political Club, the jealousy of a free and enlightened people will search it out, and evil will return on your own heads; you will be viewed and treated with the same contempt as has befallen Democratic Clubs, Clerical Influence, and Aristocratic Combinations. Should you convert your festivals into Bacchanals, you will set yourselves in the same point of light that the Church of Corinth was set, by St. Paul; when they perverted their eucharist and love feasts to scenes of inebriation and revelry. Would you bring your Society into general repute, it can only be done by each member of the Fraternity, exhibiting in his own life a speaking proof of the Excellence of the Institution."

From the BOSTON CHRONICLE.

Messrs. Adams and Larkin,  
Please to give the following copy of a letter a conspicuous place in your useful papers, and you'll oblige  
A CUSTOMER.

My motive for publishing is not to puff off the *Emission* bills, though I think much cannot be said in praise of his philanthropy; but that others, who have ends in this or any other government, might be incited to like acts of greatness. These things are good and profitable to men, in my belief; and as we act in this world, thus we shall share the good or evil here; the man who adds a *stipend* to the necessities, feels more agreeable sensations than the receiver; and the man who takes unprofitable pleasure, who lays a foundation for the good of generations unborn.

Wiscasset, August 20, 1794.

JOHN LUCAS, Esq.

SIR,  
GOOD government and well-regulated societies, is one of the greatest happinesses of mankind.

It is one of the greatest blessings of Providence, that in this and the latter ages of the world, there are men of such shining characters and generous minds, who are patrons of learning and of true republican principles; and one of the first institutions for those purposes, is the education of young children.

It is with pleasure, we rank you one of the first in number of those patrons in this part of the commonwealth, for your disinterested donation to the East Parish in Pownalborough, of one hundred and eleven acres of land (or the income thereof forever) in the town of Edgcomb, for the sole purpose of supporting a School Mistress or Mistresses, for teaching poor children on Wiscasset point, the alphabet, and to spell and read English.—We the subscribers being the committee for the East Parish of said Pownalborough, do, in the name and behalf of said Parish, return you their hearty and sincere thanks, for your generous and disinterested Present as aforesaid.

We are, sir, with esteem,  
Your most humble servants,  
JOSEPH CHRISTOPHERS,  
DAVID SYLVESTER,  
WILLIAM BARKER.

P. S. Inclosed is the vote of the parish.

At the annual meeting of the East Parish in Pownalborough, Voted, That the Parish Committee write to JOHN LUCAS, Esq. in the name of the Parish, thanking him for his donation to Wiscasset, and that the said Committee rent the land given Wiscasset, to the best advantage, and apply the same for the purposes intended.

Copy of the records.  
Attest—  
WM. BARKER,  
Parish Clerk.

☞ If the other printers in the Commonwealth would reprint the above, it might do good.

[Republished by request.]

From the Philadelphia Gazette.  
Mr. BROWN,  
By giving the following a place in your paper, you will oblige a number of  
OLD SOLDIERS.

THE following remarks on the faith of government pledged to pay the interest on the *New Emission Bills*, (mentioned in the secretary's report) are respectfully submitted to the wise men who are to decide upon the subject.

I. Every one who looks into the act of Congress for issuing these bills, will

agree with the Secretary, that the faith of the Union is absolutely pledged to pay the interest on them annually until the principal shall be paid.

II. That no scale of depreciation now existing can affect them. That the *Loan-Officers* calculated both interest and principal as specie, in the payments they made with these bills.

III. That the act of any state for reducing their value, cannot avail to make void the act of Congress.

IV. The states which by an act attempted to depreciate them, issued the bills as they received them from Congress, without any alteration on the face of them.—If they did not mean to redeem them according to the original promise, justice certainly required that they should have written on the face of the bills the sum they meant to pay. This omission precludes all just pretension to any depreciation on account of their acts: for how were the soldiers and citizens to know the acts of the different states which were never promulgated to them?—We judge by the face of the bills, (as of a private negotiable note of hand) and had no reason for suspicion that any acts whatever could make void the public obligation which we held in our hands.—And in fact we never heard of any such acts until many a year after we received the bills.

V. If particular states can make void the act of Congress, it will at once annihilate all public faith, and render all written obligations, both state and national, a phantom.

VI. The state of New-York, (and we suppose many others) many years since paid the whole sum of the new emission bills the issued, in specie, both interest and principal, without ever attempting to deviate in the smallest degree from the promise on the face of the bills—the high principle of perfect faith directed her councils;—and shall we not rely with perfect confidence on the same purity of faith in Congress?

VII. We presented our bills to the treasury for payment, according to act of Congress;—we have waited until every other description of public obligations have been provided for;—we might years ago have exchanged our bills for an equal sum in other certificates, which have long since been paid or funded; but as our bills contained the double obligation of state and Congress, we thought they were the best security—and moreover they bear the promise of the Union to pay the interest in *sterling bills of exchange*, which is generally better than money.—It is a fact no part of the domestic debt is secured by greater, if by equal obligations—and public faith was never more strongly pledged on paper—therefore we justly expect the interest now due will be paid to us, or the principal and interest funded on equal terms with the final settlement certificates.

At this triumphant period, when the United States are the admiration of the world, while prosperity spreads over our country, and the inestimable benefits resulting from our growing credit are the theme of all people, can it be possible that the rising fame of America should be clouded by a violation of faith to the holders of these bills, only to save a paltry sum to delinquent creditor states? It would save nothing to the Union. We will not, we cannot, entertain the unworthy idea of those who "rule the free."

OLD SOLDIERS.

## CONGRESS.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

FRIDAY, January 30.

Debate concluded.

Mr. McDowell spoke a few words.—We understood that he was indisposed to the resolution.

Mr. Dayton said, that the gentleman had laid down wrong premises, and thence it was no wonder if he made wrong conclusions. He had said that there was a chain of garrisons from the Ohio to the lakes. "Now," said Mr. Dayton, "there is no such chain." He said, that the present army had done the business.—"Now," said Mr. Dayton, "the army alone did not do the business. There were 1800 mounted volunteers from Kentucky, four or five hundred militia in Georgia, and several independent companies in Pennsylvania, so that altogether the militia were as numerous as the regular army. The gentleman asks the object of members who advocated this resolution. It was expressed yesterday. The object is, an economical and effectual defence of the frontiers."

Mr. McDowell said that Mr. Dayton had misquoted him. This Mr. Dayton denied.

Mr. Madison, after all that had been said, was still of opinion that there had been a change in our situation, and so there might be a possibility that a reduction was proper. By the arrangements

made in this session, it might be practicable to reduce the numbers *nominally*, and yet have a real augmentation, because the new regulations would actually bring more into the field.

Mr. Scott said, that the way to finish war was to make it continue offensive, and pursue the Indians from one place to another, and let them know they should have no rest till they fled for peace.—To reduce the forces back to a defensive war would be the most ruinous thing imaginable. There could not be a more wretched policy, in his opinion. The rumour of an intended reduction would induce other tribes to join those already at war with us. The British, who had blown the coals, who had done every thing in their power to excite the Indians to hostilities, would do so still. It should be remembered, that though the Indians had been defeated by General Wayne, the house were in possession of private information, that the British had attempted to rally them for another attack, and though British influence had failed for one time, there was no assurance that it would always fail. A great deal had been said about a change of circumstances. Mr. Scott thought then changed for the worse.—The ground only had been changed. It was for keeping up the army at its full force. The mounted volunteers from Kentucky had cost as much to the public in four months, as an equal number of regular troops did in twelve months. It would give Mr. Scott the greatest pain, and make him amazingly sorry, if the resolution on the table miscarried.

Mr. Findley explained the proposition which he had laid should be afforded to the frontiers, not to consist in scouting parties dispersed all over the frontier. He believed the militia were fitted for this purpose. He only meant that the force should be such as to overawe the Indians where they were most formidable, and to carry out offensive operations when it was necessary. With respect to the amount of force necessary for the defence of the chain of posts and other necessary purposes, want of competent knowledge rendered variety of opinions unavoidable. In cases where he was himself a competent judge, he was always against asking for or leaning on the opinion of the Executive. If the question was about the wages of the army, he thought he was a competent judge, but with respect to the number of troops necessary for objects which actually existed, or probably might exist, he thought himself in a degree incompetent. He said that if he was a general to command an army, he would not undertake it unless he judged the force competent; that the Executive in the present instance appeared to him in the same point of view, and would not be responsible for the consequences, if the force judged adequate was not granted. In point of expense or convenience, he thought little would be gained by the proposed reduction. It would not lessen the number of generals, nor of the staff, nor of the stores and equipments of the army, but only the pay of the number of officers and privates, which would be an inconsiderable saving, compared with the danger of wanting a sufficient force. He said that he knew the President was not hasty in filling the vacancies of officers, where the privates were wanting; therefore if privates could not be got, officers would not be unnecessarily appointed. He contemplated a day not far hence, when in making a peace establishment, a beneficial selection would be made of the best officers for that service; that if the army was reduced now, and a selection of officers made for the remaining regiments, under the impression of another disorganization shortly to take place, it would probably produce fatal discontents in the army. This, he thought, ought to be avoided, unless it became absolute necessary.

Mr. Rutherford said that the American people had an insuperable aversion to regular military service. He did not mean, that, when there was occasion for it, they were unwilling to fight, but that they were averse to entering into regular service for a term of years. It was next to impossible to keep men who enlisted from deserting. They always ran away from their officers. He did not by this mean to cast any reflection on the army. He had long been a military man himself, and that from a very early period, and had the highest respect for the profession. He was understood to be unfavourable to the resolution.

Mr. Hillhouse thought that it would be the most unfortunate thing imaginable, if any idea were to get abroad that there was to be a reduction of the force. Even though there should be none in reality, yet the appearance of a reduction might be mistaken, and produce a wrong construction. He had no scruple in leaving the affair of dismissing the troops, when no longer wanted, to the discretion of the executive.

Mr. Carnes, Georgia and the fourth western territory have a frontier of at least eight hundred miles in extent. The number of troops proposed in the resolution is entirely inadequate to the defence of this frontier in general. We have had regulars in Georgia for several years, without the state receiving any benefit whatever from them. There is an antipathy between them and the regulars. At fort Mattocks (this was either the name, or a found very like it,) an officer was applied to for a family near that post, and whom the Indians were preparing to murder. He answered, that he had been directed by his superiors to defend the ground which he stood upon. He accordingly called in his men, and suffered the people to be murdered. For six or seven years we have been giving the Creeks presents, and this always makes them come back again, as if on as their presents are dispensed, in order to commit themselves, and this always will be the case. He urged a declaration of war against them as the only way to reduce them to reason. He appealed then to gentlemen, if the neglect shown by government to the safety of the fourth western frontier did not amount almost to a disgrace upon government. The people had published the account of their sufferings in the newspapers, in the hopes that they would reach Congress, and induce them to do something, but all in vain. "The number of troops proposed," said Mr. Carnes "is not by one twentieth part equal to the defence of your frontier." It had been said on this floor, that the troops were sent to the frontier of Georgia to protect the Indians against the white people, and it was the constant theme that the latter were always wronging the Indians. There was no evidence of this at all; and as there could be none, Mr. Carnes hoped that gentlemen would become more cautious in making such assertions. They do not care what kind of parade you make on your own side of the line, even with an hundred thousand men, if you please. They have said so. They know that declarations have been made of the garrisons being sent to protect them against the whites, and as long as they think so, there will never be any peace. You may give them presents, and make treaties with them as long as you please. It is time to give a decided stroke instead of such trifling. Experience is the best tutor that we can apply to, and if we look back for six years we shall find that the system of making presents has answered no good purpose. As to the charge of making encroachments on the Indians. Mr. Carnes knew of only two or three notorious characters at the mouth of Georgia, and these were mostly traders. People in general were perfectly disposed to peace. If fire and sword were once or twice carried into the Indian towns, and an assurance given that this would always be the case in future, when any murders were committed, they would soon learn to be quiet.

Mr. Murray would not believe this enormous story of an American officer permitting a family to be butchered before his eyes, unless Mr. Carnes would say, that he had been it himself. As to the militia of Georgia, six hundred of them had once been taken out in pursuit of a party of Indians, and, after coming on their trail, refused to go farther, and came home again. From this Mr. Murray inferred the necessity of having regular troops in the state to protect it.

Mr. Carnes rose again. He said that the story was true. He was not present, but he had it from an acquaintance in the militia, on whose veracity he could entirely depend. He could produce five or six affidavits on the affair. As to the men who returned from the Indian trail, the case was this. The Governor had entered into a correspondence with the executive at Philadelphia, and it having been understood or supposed that the marching of the militia would be disagreeable to him, they were recalled on their way to the Indian country.

Mr. S. Smith, and Mr. Dayton rose both at the same time, and preparing both to speak at once. Mr. W. Smith proposed that the Chairman should decide. "He has decided already," said Mr. Dayton, "and against that gentleman, who is very much in the habit of interrupting other members." Whenever he is Chairman of the Committee, or if he chuses to call for a special Committee on the case, then "I shall sit down for him and not till then." Mr. Dayton proceeded to explain the advantages which the army had been of on various occasions, in opposition to the opinion of the member from Georgia.

Mr. S. Smith. The commanding officer in Georgia is a particular friend of his; and the observations of Mr. Carnes have struck deeply at the character of that officer. If any officer had really acted so, he ought to have been disgraced. Mr. S. Smith gave a high character to the commander in Georgia Major Gaither. He read a letter from that gentleman which tended to refute the assertions of Mr. Carnes, made in his last session, relative to the defenceless state of the frontier. The major said that the member from Georgia had certainly for many things that he said in Congress, as well as many promises which he made when in Georgia. Mr.

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