

AMERICAN PATRIOT.

"To speak his thoughts, Is every freeman's right."

BELLEVILLE, JUNE 16, 1817.

MARRIED—On Wednesday the 4th of this inst. by the Rev. Mr. Linn, Mr. Wm. C. STEWART, to Miss JANE DUNLOP, eldest daughter of the late John Dunlop, Esq. both of this borough.

"She's mine, And I'm as rich, in having such a treasure, As thirty seas, if all their sands were pearl, Their waters nectar and their rocks pure gold."

At Birmingham, on Friday evening, by Charles Cadwalader, Esq. Mr. JAMES HEMPHILL, of Belleville, to Miss CATHARINE MOORE.

In justice to Mr. Heister, we deem it proper to state, that the story which we copied from the Carlisle Volunteer, charging him with cowardice, & with running off at the battle of Brandywine, turns out, if the Reading Journal is to be believed, to be wholly groundless; as he was, it appears, at that time, secure from danger and undisturbed by the shrill blasts of war's rude relation, enjoying the comforts of home, in Reading. It is to be regretted that the indiscreet zeal of some men should carry them to such unjust and dishonorable extremes. This, however, says nothing in favor of the oldschool and federal party. The story originally published in Carlisle, and which has been copied into every old-school paper in the state, of Mr. Findlay having kicked a "poor Dutchman out of his house," who had called in to have a little chat with Gov. Snyder, is a full match for it, as nothing of the kind ever happened. It may be, and there are plausible reasons for believing it, that this Brandywine story is a trick of some wag belonging to the oldschool party.

From the Lancaster Intelligencer.

Mr. Dickson—I have seen, with regret, a statement of a Meeting held in Lancaster by some persons calling themselves Independent Republicans, with a view of promoting the Election of Joseph Heister, and with still more regret, that they have taken upon them the trouble of nominating me, as one of their Committee of Vigilance, for the aforesaid purpose: I therefore wish to inform the Public, through the medium of your press, that I hope my political Friends will find me so straight, as to lean a little the other way.

MICHAEL SILKNITTER. Churchtown May 27. 1817.

It is stated in a Harrisburg paper by way of an extract of a letter from Chambersburg, that all the avenues to correct information in Franklin county, are closed.—What motives the writer had for using such language, is best known to himself; but he certainly is mistaken, which time will develop. The avenues are not so easily closed as his fertile imagination may induce him to believe. The sorry attempt at the perversion of truth and principle are frequent and this is one among the number.

A nother extract of a letter has appeared in a Carlisle paper, in which it is stated that Mr. Findlay will be in the minority in Franklin county. This assertion is incorrect. Practices like these are necessary to keep up the appearance of opposition—but the writer and printer will be convinced they were for once at least MISTAKEN. The manufacturing of letters has become so extensive with some gentlemen, that we often feel doubtful as to their genuineness.

From the American Centinel.

Since the nomination of Mr. Findlay, as the democratic candidate for the office of governor, it has been frequently asserted by the Aurora, Chronicle, and other federal papers, that Mr. Findlay has not been a consistent democrat; that he is destitute of talents, or if he possesses any that they never have been discovered. The following extracts from the Aurora and the Lancaster Journal of 1816 will, we think, serve to show, that he was at that time considered both by democrats and

federalists, as the leading member of the democratic party in the state legislature. As such, he received a full share of abuse from the federal, and of applause from the republican newspapers. The Aurora must either have been guilty of falsehood then, or is guilty of it now.

Extract from the Aurora of May 5, 1816.

"A friend sent me Mr Hamilton's 'Lancaster Journal' of March 31st, containing the arbitration act. It also contains the following strictures:—

"On the side of the constitutionalists are some of the ablest the most intelligent and upright men in Pennsylvania, a number of them, as speakers would do honour to any public body.

"On the side of the Jacobins there is not a single man who can speak good english or sound sense publicly for five minutes together. A ranting declaimer, by the name of Findlay takes the lead what he lacks in sense he supplies with impudence, and professing a large stock of candor and a great love for the people keeps his men pretty well drilled.

"Holgate and Engle have both more solid sense than Findlay. But neither of them can spout or declaim to advantage. The former in our opinion, is the most candid and most honest of all the Jacobins.

"Abner Leacock has spoken a great deal this winter. Both Holgate and Leacock sometimes show a disposition to throw off the yoke of Findlay. So much for the great men among the Jacobins' to sketch the automata would employ a volume.

"We have some times in the session had lodge podge legislation but much good has been done, and much evil prevented—for five years together the people have been crying out for a reform in the judiciary system; for justice "without sale, denial, or delay." The Jacobins who ruled during that period were deaf to their prayers and wishes. They endeavoured to cajole the people into a belief that the error was solely in the constitution, and this was made the pretext to attempt a destruction of the ark of our political safety.

"Now that we have men of sense in the legislature, now that the friends of the constitution have the power for the first time in five years to serve the people what is the result?

"We have a judiciary law, not to be sure calculated to quiet the clamours of noisy demagogues, but a judiciary law calculated to provide an immediate remedy for material defects which can be immediately remedied and offering a gradual and certain reform of all abuses and delays of justice, has been passed in spite of all the efforts of the pretended friends of the people."

"I have omitted a great deal of Mr. Hamilton's low scurrility, such as calling the Jacobin leader, Gander Findlay, and his crying couk, and flying off at a tangent, and all his flock of geese following with no other sounds, than couk, couk, &c. Language much in unison with the governor's "clodhoppers, ignoramuses and gees" of last session. I say I have omitted much of the unimportant matter with which Mr. H. introduces the arbitration bill passed by these geese."

"But must not neglect the tribute due to these 'geese' and 'ganders,' who have with invincible intrepidity overcome the enemies of reform. Findlay, Holgate, Engle, and Leacock are named only to be abused, but 'the villain's censure is extorted praise,' says Pope.

"To these men therefore, and their compatriots, is due the just tribute of a peoples gratitude! They have done a service not only of present usefulness, but of growing importance to mankind! They have laid the corner stone of a superstructure, which will in time cover innocence from the sharks and vultures of society and which will extend as far, and last as long as men's rights are respected. All men whose eyes become opened, and whose right to self government is acknowledged, will sooner or later, break the fetters and dispel the mystery with which they have been surrounded, and thereby lead captives heretofore of a professional craft under the pretence of their being the priesthood of justice; though ready of justice, sale, denial and delay."

"It will be recollected, that in the preface to the commentaries, it was denied

by Hamilton (editor of the Lancaster Journal) that there was one single man among the friends of reform "who could speak good english or sound sense publicly for five minutes together"

"But here are three laws which united, combine a systematic establishment of a plan of reform, which laws evidence a degree of wisdom and foresight which do honour both to the hearts and heads of the projectors and supporters, and would, in language and structure do great credit to a Franklin, a Washington, or a Jefferson.

"If indeed, 'Gander Findlay' and 'geese Holgate, Engle, Leacock,' and the rest of the friends of reform, are capable of constructing such laws; what must we say of judges, governors and learned legislators, and such as have sat so long looking at grievances and absurdities which disgrace either the heart or the head of every advocate or even indifferent beholder of such a system of justice, as mocks our most common sense.

"What must we think of these wise men, who have so obstinately opposed reform: was it ignorance? If not ignorance, then it must be wickedness and the wickedness of the heart, to try to prevent a relief which a people found out and was ready to apply to their own oppressions. They have not the sin of omission only but the sin of commission also to expiate, for they have hindered the people to do what they wished. Hence may well be written against them what is written of the lawyers, Scribes and Pharisees in the new Testament. "Wo unto you hypocrites, for ye shut up the kingdom of Heaven against men: Ye will not go in yourselves neither will ye suffer them that are willing to enter in," &c."

THE PATRICIANS AND PLEBELANS.

Every thoughtful man who values the happiness of society and the permanence of our admirable political institutions, must near with alarm the great arguments which Mr. Heister is recommended to support as Governor of this commonwealth. It is said that he is a man of immense wealth, and that he will consequently come into power with a disposition to maintain that quiet stability in every thing around him, which consciousness of having a great deal at stake is supposed to produce. On this ground, men of property are emphatically summoned to rally round the standard of General Heister, and it is plain that his friends are desirous of having the contest fairly brought to this issue as the only aspect in which it can be viewed to their advantage.

This is the first time that sentiments like these have been openly uttered and avowed. They have hitherto been permitted silently to influence the conduct of that wretched aristocratic spirit which must always exist, while human nature continues as it is, and which delights in a morose opposition to every Republican feeling and sentiment. It is reserved for the present day to hear *soldisant* democrats avow, that instead of nominating for office a man most honest and most capable, they have looked merely to the rent-rolls of the several pretenders, and from their lengths have estimated the claim of each individual to public support. The federalists, it is calculated will readily countenance such a procedure, on a supposition not very flattering surely to the honorable men amongst them, that in the spirit of the old gentleman who instructed his children to respect the crown though it should hang upon a bush, they would acknowledge the magical influence of property, though in the hands of an individual every way worthless and contemptible. This toad, they say, ugly and venomous, wears yet a precious jewel about it, though not in its head; and we will take it into our bosoms.

This state of things is alarming, because if such distinctions are once established, the seeds of destruction are sown in our republic. Parties honestly differing in political sentiments are seldom dangerous—they may have a salutary effect: but when a division is avowedly made into rich and poor, when the line of demarcation is drawn between two masses in society, naturally jealous of each other, a fatal crisis must very soon arise. The Rom in history abounds with civil broils between the Patricians and the Plebeians; look at all the Grecian Republics of antiquity, and it will be found that by this sin they all fell; how can we then hope to profit by it? A conqueror who offers terms of security will be welcomed by that party which possesses exclusively the property of the country, wearied and alarmed as it is, or professes to be, at intestine commotions, and willing to get rid of a government so little congenial with those feelings and interests which an animated controversy has rendered so apparent. In the administration of such a Republic, it is obvious that the ruling party cannot be effectually restrained from the exercise of oppression, because burdens may here be so shaped as to fall exclusively on the minority. This cannot be done when the mass of the community, however divided in principle, are yet externally mix-

ed together, and have interests and pursuits essentially the same. Mr. Heister must be perfectly aware of the grounds which his partizans assume, and would, doubtless, enter on his administration with a temper accommodated to the dispositions to which he ascribes his elevation. Such of his prominent advocates as cannot yet be ranked among the rich would quickly be put in the way of becoming so; and thus would be produced a delightful good humoured approbation of the executive principle.

Are the people of Pennsylvania prepared to commit political suicide, by pursuing one course thus pointed out to them? They are indignant I am sure at the question. No, fellow citizens, you will not regard any man with more complacency because he is bloated with riches. Your reply to an appeal so insulting to the feelings of Republicans, will be "Go make your *bond-men tremble*" for we are not prepared to bow the knee to Mammon!

It is difficult to form a precise idea of what is meant by those wishes for stability which it is anticipated Mr. Heister will bring to the chair of state. Are we to understand that he feels like one conscious of having all his life acted within an inch of the law. Conscious, like some scoundrel attorney, of the indignation which surrounds him, and fearfully trembling at any danger, however remote, which seems, in his naked apprehension likely to distort for a moment the quiet course of those laws behind which he skulks? Surely these feelings cannot be desired—they would be ruinous and degrading—is a man called upon to assume a responsible public station where a tone of high spirited independence, upon questions of state and national policy are required for the interest and honor of Pennsylvania. Is there a man of honor in the state who will acknowledge a fellow-feeling on this subject?

William Findlay exceeds Mr. Heister in the riches of the mind as much as the latter has the superiority in point of pelf. Yet even the pecuniary circumstances of Mr. Findlay when considered in connection with his habits of Republican simplicity place him beyond suspicions. His public life and spirit however, offer us the best guarantees for his honorable deportment in office; and he has, moreover, already served the public for a considerable time with steadiness and ability. He has feelings perfectly congenial with those of men of independence around him, and the same temper which is anticipated in Heister, would no doubt actuate Mr. Findlay so far as consistent with honor. This exception is made because Mr. Findlay has no reason to be influenced by a blind and trembling timidity when decision is required by public emergencies. Dem. Press.

The great and traduced Algernon Sydney holds the following emphatic language as to the ruinous consequences of permitting wealth to have any weight in recommending an individual to office of trust and honor.

"In well governed states where a value is put upon virtue, and no one honored unless for such qualities as are beneficial to the public, men are from the tenderest years, brought up in a belief that nothing in this world deserves to be sought after but such honors as are acquired by virtuous actions. When no other advantage attended the greatest riches than the opportunity of living, more sumptuously or deliciously men of great spirits slighted them. Epaminondas, Aristides, Phocion, and even the Lacedaemonian Kings found no inconvenience in poverty, whilst their virtue was honored. It was not difficult for Curius, Fabricius, Quintus, Cincinnatus or Paulus Emilius to content themselves with the narrowest fortune when it was no obstacle to them in the pursuit of those honors which their virtues deserved. But when riches grew to be necessary, the desire of them, which is the spring of all mischief, followed. They who could not obtain honors by the noblest actions, were obliged to get wealth to purchase them from whores and villains who exposed them to sale; and when they were once entered into their track, they soon learned the vices of those from whom they had received their preferment, and to delight in the ways that had brought them to it. When they were come to this nothing could stop them; all thought and remembrance of good was extinguished. They who had bought the commands of armies, or provinces from Ictus or Narcissus, sought only how to draw money from them, to enable them to purchase higher dignities, or gain a more assured protection from those patrons. This brought the government of the world under a most infamous traffic, &c."

Discourses on Government, vol. 2. N. York edition, p. 291. Dem. Press.

The late United States schooner Spitfire armed and manned, bound from Havana for the Coast of Africa, has put into Charleston to refit!