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ADDRESS

OF THE

Republican Corresponding Committee of Dauphin county, and others,

TO THE

Republican Citizens of Dauphin County.

Fellow Citizens,

THE democratic corresponding committee of Dauphin county and others, citizens of the same county, beg leave to address you on the subject of the approaching election for governor of the state. As in 1799 and as in 1808, the people have now again to decide, whether the state is to be governed on the principles of republicanism, or on the principles of federalism. The federal party, united with a few disappointed men who formerly called themselves republicans, have agreed to support and vote for Joseph Heister; and the candidate of the republican party being William Findlay, it is the duty of every friend of republicanism and equal rights to support his election with zeal and energy. In order to enable you to judge and decide honestly and fairly between the two candidates, we will give you some information which we possess relative to their respective characters and claims upon the public suffrage.

For full information of the character and political principles and conduct of Joseph Heister, we refer you to the address of the corresponding committee of Berks county, which was published the 20th July last. That address was signed by fourteen highly respectable citizens of Berks county, (viz. David Hottenstein, Daniel Udree, Peter Eischberger, Gabriel Heister, sen. Jacob Epler, Charles Shoemaker, jun. Jeremiah Schappell, Rhoads, John Waiser, Jacob L. van, Daniel Winer, Abraham Hill, Jonathan Hudson, and Samuel D. Franks,) who have long, very long, known Joseph Heister, and who faithfully and plainly state what they themselves know of his character and principles. We need not repeat what they have so fully exposed to the public; and it will be sufficient for us briefly to mention a few of the reasons why Joseph Heister should be opposed by every friend to democratic principles and republican government. Every real republican we believe ought to oppose the election of Joseph Heister:

- 1st. Because he was nominated by a small meeting at Carlisle, which originated with the "most persevering and intriguing office hunters in the state or perhaps in the United States," and the most virulent traducers of "the administration of both the state and the United States." (See the letter of Wm. Findlay of Westmoreland county.)
- 2d. Because in the convention which formed the state constitution, he wanted and tried to prevent all young men between 24 and 22 years of age who had not paid taxes, from voting at elections, unless their fathers were freeholders. (See minutes of the convention, page 94.)
- 3d. Because in the same convention he voted to give the governor a double negative, the power of negating all laws passed by the legislature. (See minutes, page 132.)
- 4th. Because in congress at the session of 1815-16, he voted uniformly and repeatedly against the encouragement of domestic manufactures. (See pages 572, 578, & 590, of the journals of the house of representatives.)
- 5th. Because in congress at the session of 1815-16, he voted against, and was opposed to giving compensation to the brave officers and soldiers who had protected and saved their country in the late war with Great Britain. (See journals, page 583.)
- 6th. Because last session in congress, he voted against repealing the heavy internal taxes which the people have to pay. (See Journals, page 400 & 442.)
- 7th. Because he did not vote against the \$1500 law, and took the whole salary, more than 12 dollars a day, in the spring of 1816; and then last fall when he was again a candidate for congress, he induced the people to believe that he had taken only 6 dollars a day. (See journals, page 456 & 7.)
- 8th. Because after he had kept his whole

salary in his pocket nearly a year, and after he was nominated a candidate for governor, he put 1364 dollars in the treasuries of Berks and Schuylkill counties in order to make and gain friends.

9th. Because his political principles were always aristocratic, and since the year 1804 he has always at every election acted with the federalists and opposed the democratic candidates for governor and president.

In 1805, he opposed the German republican candidate, SIMON SNYDER, and defeated his election by circulating the story that the friends of Snyder were in favor of "an equal distribution of property."

In 1808, he again opposed the election of Simon Snyder, the republican candidate.

In 1812, he opposed the election of MADISON, the republican candidate for president of the United States.

In 1814, he again opposed the election of Simon Snyder, the republican candidate for governor.

And last fall he opposed the election of MONROE, the old revolutionary candidate for the office of president of the United States.

10th. Because he is opposed to internal improvements and appropriations.

11th. Because we deem him unfit (as he himself said in 1805) for the important duties of the office of governor; and believe that if elected he would be entirely directed by a few persons, who are described by Mr. Findlay, of Westmoreland county, as being the "most persevering and intriguing office hunters in the state or perhaps in the United States, and the most virulent traducers of both the state and the U. States."

12th. Because he has been nearly 40 years in office, and lived long enough on the public money, without rendering any public services in return.

These are some of the powerful reasons against Joseph Heister's being supported by any person who is a real friend to republican principles and republican government.

William Findlay, the democratic candidate, was nominated by a most respectable convention of 113 delegates from every part of the state. You will expect us to give some information relative to his public and private character, and his services in the cause of republicanism and the country at large. We will begin by quoting to you what was lately said of him and his family, by that old revolutionary worthy, William Findlay of Westmoreland county, who for more than forty years has been one of the most useful and distinguished citizens of Pennsylvania. "This old revolutionary character, in speaking of William Findlay, the democratic candidate for governor, makes the following remarks, viz.

"Though he is of the same name there is no family connection between him and me. His family were much earlier settled in the country than mine; but I was well acquainted with the family both of his father and mother, before he was born, and they were very respectable. He was too young to have been employed in the revolutionary war, and his father was disabled from marching by a rheumatism; but he was a good whig. Five of his uncles were actively employed during that war, either in the regular army or in the militia. Two of them served in the campaign of 1778, along with me, at the Crooked Billet, where the enemy burned some of our wounded in the buckwheat straw. One of them was my colonel, with whom, as well as two other of his uncles, I served long in the state legislature. As Wm. Findlay was not grown up to manhood, 35 years ago, when I moved to Westmoreland county, I had little acquaintance with him; but I always heard his character favorably spoken of. I never sat in a public body with him; but I sat in congress near him in Philadelphia, when he first sat in the assembly. I then observed, he possessed talents, and particularly noticed that he was very attentive to acquire information, and to understand the subjects treated of, either in the assembly or congress. But of his conduct through a long course of public services since that time, my information is received from different members of assembly, who sat with, and repeatedly vot-

ed for him for state treasurer, and whose duty it was to examine his care and fidelity in the discharge of that trust. It is to be observed, that, by the constitution, this office is rendered wholly independent of the governor; that the legislature itself appoints the treasurer; and that it is to it he is responsible, and not to the governor; yet, in the present attacks on his character, he is represented as equally dependent on, and the creature of the governor, as if he were the secretary of the commonwealth, who is appointed by the governor and necessarily acts under his direction. These sources of information, however, are equally accessible to others as to myself. He is in the meridian of life, and all agree that he has considerable talents, and must be well acquainted with the principles of the government, though he was not a member of the convention who made it as gen. Heister and myself were. I never heard a charge against his character before he was a candidate for governor."

William Findlay was born in Franklin county (then part of Cumberland county) in Pennsylvania, and was brought up a farmer, and has constantly followed that business until within a few years past. He is about fifty years of age, of plain manners and of free and easy access and conversation. In the year 1797 he was taken from the plough by the republican citizens of Franklin county, and elected to the legislature, which sat at that time in Philadelphia. In that legislature he joined the non-resistance firm republicans in support of the principles which have always actuated the republican party, and in opposition to the intolerant federalism of the disciples of John Adams.

In 1803, he was again elected to the legislature, and was successively re-elected by the republicans of Franklin county for four years. During all that period the journals show, and some of us know, that the house of representatives contained no member who was more useful and active in reforming the body of our laws than William Findlay.

At the session of 1803-4, the "act directing the mode of taking testimony against justices of the peace," was principally framed by him. (See journals, page 121.) He voted also and supported the bill to extend the powers of justices of the peace, which was negatived by governor McKean. (page 100); and particularly he took a very active and prominent part in framing and amending the \$100 law, which passed that session. (See pages 276, 455 to 471, and 474 to 481 inclusive, and 499.)

The session of 1804-5 was principally taken up with local business, and the trial of the judges of the supreme court, and the subject of calling a convention; still on the question of amending the county rate and levy act, and other important business, William Findlay took a leading part. (See journals, page 232-29.) And generally as the journals show, and against Findlay, some of us recollect, in all business of the legislature he was among the active and leading members of the republican side.

At the session of 1805-6 he continued his efforts at reforming the abuses which existed in many departments of the government. "The act to regulate arbitrations and proceedings in courts of justice," is one of the most useful laws ever passed in the state. It was introduced and passed chiefly by the perseverance and activity of Wm. Findlay and other democratic members. It corrects the common law practice of the courts, and for the first time introduced the principles of trying suits by arbitration. (See journal of the house of representatives pages 156 and 191, 195, 197, 364, 170.) At this session was likewise passed the act regulating the powers of justices of the peace in case of assault and battery, which was supported and carried by Wm. Findlay and the democratic party. (Journals, page 462.)

And at the same session the important law regulating certioraries was passed. This law was very strongly opposed by the federal party. It entirely altered the common law on the subject of certioraries, and all its provisions have since been adopted by the legislature in the 100 law of 1810 and have given universal satisfaction to the people of the state.

The passing and supporting of these laws show the prudence and judicious zeal of Wm. Findlay and his political friends, in protecting the property and rights of the citizens, and in rendering

the administration of justice as simple, expeditious and cheap as possible.

At the session of 1806-7 he was again elected a member of the assembly, and shortly after the commencement of the session he was elected state treasurer by the members of both branches of the legislature. To the office of state treasurer he has been unanimously elected by the legislature, from that time to the present. All the heads of the other departments of government are appointed by the governor, but the state treasurer according to the constitution, is always appointed by the legislature, before whom he every year exhibited all the public money and accounts. His election to the office of treasurer was always by an unanimous vote of the whole legislature, until last winter; and last winter he got the votes of all the members, except a few who had determined to oppose him if he should be the democratic candidate for governor.

Such fellow citizens, is a brief sketch of the political life of the candidate for governor who has been nominated by the republican party. In every public situation he has always manifested great activity and talents, uniting industry and unimpeachable integrity. In every situation he has been the strong supporter of the principles of republican government, and the steady advocate of the equal rights of the people of every class. He is not rich, and he is not poor: he owns a plantation. In such a man the poor people and the people in middling circumstances may expect always to find a friend; and from such a man the rich have nothing to fear.

For twenty years, since William Findlay first entered public life, no man ever heard a single word whispered against his character or qualifications until he was nominated the republican candidate for governor. In 1808 Snyder was the democratic candidate for governor, and the same men who now propagate stories against Findlay, did the same towards Snyder. At that time they tried every way in their power to make the people believe that Snyder was a wicked abominable wretch, who ought to be sent to the work house instead of being elected governor. They accused him of cheating, stealing, robbing, and almost every crime that can disgrace human nature. They published these stories against Snyder in the newspapers and in pamphlets; they certified to them and they swore to them; but all was for nothing. The people would not believe them; the people believed Snyder to be an honest, intelligent and good man, and they voted for him; and for the nine years nearly expired he has proved to be as good a governor as Pennsylvania ever had.

It is the same enemies of democracy who so abused Snyder in 1808, who now abuse so William Findlay, and tell such ridiculous and silly stories. They know themselves that the stories are not true; but they think that many of the people are so ignorant that they will believe them at least until the election is over. But here they will be mistaken. The people of Pennsylvania have more honesty & knowledge than those federal electioneers think they have. The people will never believe that William Findlay can be a dishonest man, or else he would not have been elected five times to the assembly by the people of Franklin county, and eleven times appointed state treasurer by the legislature. The people know that the same men and the same party, which now oppose and abuse William Findlay did in 1808 equalize or in a worse manner, abuse Simon Snyder; and the people will not believe them now any more than they did in 1808. In this address we say nothing about either of the candidates except what we believe to be true. We do not repeat a great many things about Joseph Heister's private character and conduct which have been said of him because we are not sure that they are all true. Every thing which we have said about him & his political conduct has been taken from political documents and records, and the evidence of the Berks address before mentioned. From these facts and these statements you can fully understand the nature of the present political contest in Pennsylvania, and the qualifications of the two candidates. The contest is between federalism and Heister on the one part, and republicanism and Findlay on the other part.