

"Virtue, Liberty, and Independence."

## SECEDING MASONS' DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE

When men attempt to dissolve a system which has influenced and governed a part of community, and by its pretensions to anequity, esclulness, and virtue, would demand the respect of all, it is proper to submit to the consideration of a candid and impartial world, the causes which impel hem to such a course. We, seceders from the Masonic institution, availing ourselves of our natural and unalienable rights, and the privileges guaranteed to us by our constitution freely to discuss the principles of our government and laws, and to expose whatever may endanger the one or impede the due administration of the other, do offer the following reasons endeavoring to abolish the order of Freemasonry, and destroy its influence in our government.

In all arbitrary governments free inquiry

has been restricted as fatal to the principles

upon which they were based. In all ages

of the world tyrants have found it necessary

to shackle the minds of their subjects, to enable them to control their actions; for experience ever taught that the free mind ever exerts a moral power that resists all attempts to enslave it. However forms of government heretofore have varied, the right to act and speak without a controlling ower has never been permitted. Our ancestors who imbibed principles of civil and religious liberty, fled to America to escape persecution; and when Britain attempted to encroach upon the free exercise of those principles, our fathers hesitated not to disolve their oaths of allegiance to the mother country, and declare themselves free and independent; and exulting millions of freemen yet bless their memories for the deed. A new theory of government was reduced to practice in the formation of the American republic. It involved in its structure principles of equal rights and equal privileges; and was based on the eternal foundation of public good. It protects the weak, restrains the powerful, and extends its honors and emoluments to the meritorious of every condition. It should have been the pride of every citizen to preserve this noble strucfure in all its beautiful symmetry and proportions. But the principle of self aggranunhappily still inhabits the human breast. been met by the irresistible power of public pinion and indignation, and crushed. In he mean time the Masonic society has been try. It was lost amid the change and confusion of the conflicting nations; and was wind and insinuate itself into every department of government, and influence the result of almost every proceeding. Like maand destroy the liberties of the people, it has chosen a time when the suspicions of men were asleep; and with a noiseless tread, in the drakness and silence of the night, has its original powers and influence, it has of late received the aid of foreign and more arditary systems. With this accumulation of strength, it arrived at that formidable of an unoffending citizen of the republication So wicked was this transaction, so extensive its preparation, and so openly justified, that it aroused the energies of an insulted people, whose exertions have opened the hidden recesses of this abode of darkness and myste ry; and mankind may now view its power.

its wickedness, and folly. That it is opposed to the genius and de ign of this government, the spirit and precepts of our holy religion and the welfare of society generally, will appear from the following considerations: It exercises jurisdiction over the persons and lives of citizens

of the republic. It arrogates to itself the right of punish ing its members for offences unknown

the laws of this or any other nation. It requires the concealment of crime, and

protects the guilty from punishment.

It encourages the commission of crime by affording to the guilty facilities of escape. It affords opportunities for the corrupt and designing to form plans against the government, and the lives and characters of

It assumes titles and dignities incompatible with a republican form of government, and enjoing an obedience to them derogatory to republican principles.

It destroys all principles of equality, by bestowing favors on its own members to the exclusion of others equally meritorious and

It creates odious aristocracies by its ob gations to support the interests of its mem-, in preference to others of equal quali-

ersonification of the Great Jehovah.

It prostitutes the Sacred Scriptures to unoly purposes, to subserve its own secular nd trifling concerns.

It weakens the sanctions of morality and religion, by the multiplication of profune ouths, and an immoral familiarity with reliious forms and ceremônies.

It discovers in its cereinonies an unholy ommingling of divide truth with impious uman inventions.

It destroys a veneration for religion and eligion's ordinances, by the profane use of eligious forms.

It substitutes the self rightcousness, and ceremonies of Masonry for the vital religion

and ordinances of the Gospel. It promotes habits of idleness and intemperance, by its members neglecting their ousiness to attend its meetings and drink ts libations.

It accumulates funds at the expense of indigent persons, and to the distress of their families, too often to be dissipated in rioting and pleasure and its senseless ceremonies and exhibitions.

It contracts the sympathies of the human heart for all the unfortunate, by confining its charities to its own members; and promotes the interests of a few at the expense of the many.

An institution thus fraught with so many and great evils, is dangerous to our government and the safety of our citizens, and is unfit to exist among a free people: We herefore, believing it a duty we owe to God, our country and to posterity, resolve to expose its mystery, wickedness, and tendency, to public view—and we exhort all citizens who have a love of country, and a veneration for its laws, a spirit of our holy religion, and a regard for the welfare of mankind, to aid us in the cause which we have espousedand appealing to Almighty God for the rectitude of our motives, we solemnly absolve ourselves from all allegiance to the Masonic institution, and declare ourselves free and independent: and in support of these resolutions, our government and laws, and the safety of individuals against the usurpations of all secret societies and open force, and against the "vengeance" of the Masonic institution, "with a firm reliance on the protection of Divine Providence, we mutually pledge to each other, our lives, or fortunes and our sacred honour."

Signed by 103 Seceding Masons.

## DR. WATERHOUSE'S LETTER.

CAMBRIDGE, 18th May, 1832. To the Anti-Masonic Committee convened this day at Merchant's Hall, preparatory to the

GENTLEMEN. -- When I received last month a letter signed N. Adams, and Ardizement-the desire to control the desti-Temas Ward, notifying me that I was elecntes of others, and luxuriate in their spoils, ted Delegate to your State Convention, I told the bearer of it that I should decline a seat Many attempts have already been made to in it, from a consciousness that my presence impair the freedom of our institution and would do the cause no good, for that I never thing contained in Masonry. It recognizes overt our government. But they have could rise up in a large assembly and speak

sation. My declining the last year has given ris silently growing among us, whose principles to a report industriously propagated that I and operations are calculated to subvert and had changed my sentiments respecting the It contends that all men are born free and destroy the great and important principles serious evils of masonry, and that I have of the commonwealth. Before and during turned my back in disgust upon the efforts he revolutionary struggle, Masonry was of the Anti-masons to abolish that danger-founded alone on private virtue, intelligence but little known and practiced in this coun-lous institution. I cannot rest easy that such an opimon should prevail. If any believe me to be changed in my sentiments or weak reserved for a time of profound peace, to ened in my zeal for the total abolition of an alarming institution, which is already stronger than the Law, and which actually holds the Press in claims, he errs grossly. On ny other attempts to overturn government the contrary, my fearful apprehensions increase at every fresh perusal of the Morgan Trials in the State of New York, lest we also in New England should witness the undermining of the Temple of Justice, and see increased its power. Not yet content with men cutting away its pillars. I consider the trials for the murder of William Morgan as recently reported, a scandal to trials by jury, a disgrace to the Nation, and a deep reproach to our boasted constitution of crisis when it bid open defiance to the laws Laws. The first and most important link of of our country in the abduction and murder associations in the human family is TRUTH, and our masons generally conspired to de stroy it, not only secretly in their conclaves, but openly in courts of justice, as appears beyond contradiction in the official reports

very lately made to the Governor of N.York. As it regards the possible—nay probable evils of masonry, I consider the people of Massachusetts sleeping in the dark, while nearly all the Printing Presses dare not rouse them up to a sense of their thraldom. Shake them and tell them that the inestimable trial by jury, and the sanctity of an oath on the stand has been destroyed, and that the Temple of the Laws is cracking and tumbling down, and they rub their eyes and yawn, and go to sleep again. Nothing but a political earthquake can rouse such a The deplorable part of their business is, that the most respectable portion of the masons are themselves blinded to the evils in prospect, because they mean nothing but good will towards men, even beyond the sworn associates of the fraternity. Others of different cast of mind rejoice even to boasting, that they belong to a craft sufficiently strong to obstruct the legal course of justice, and to hold its hands from inflicting punishment upon murderers.

I rejoice that the son of my old friend and fellow-laborer, Dr. Rusn, has, with hereditary benevolence, exerted himself to rouse his countrymen in support of the Laws, and that he feels a portion of his father's spirit in dragging forth into light and punishment the noble State of New York by a never to by the use of superior cunning and con BINbe forgotten deed of bloodshed and cruelty. En EFFORTS;" to control government by

It blasphemes the name, and attempts as I venerate the Press as one of the strongest means of an Aristocracy composed of an bulwarks of liberty, but if the conductors of enlightened and educated few." Such is them continue to exclude the free discussion the true purpose of their institution. Disof the conduct of the masons in the abducconsequences to the American family. I appellation by which the cabletowed combidream so long as we have a numerous body of citizens trained and taught to conceal truth, and protect crime; as clearly evinced in the fruitless attempts to bring dark vilany to conviction.

While declining to make one among you, for reasons already suggested, I never will vithhold my sentiments upon a subject of vital importance to the liberty and happiness of our country, and remain with respect and good wishes, your steady friend,

BENJAMIN WATERHOUSE.

PARTY NAMES. The efforts of the masonic party to appropriate to itself a designation to which it has no manner of claim, is ridiculous in itself and only shows how strongly the members calculate on the efficacy of the leading principles of their policy—secreev and sub-TERFUGE. Every man not wilfully blind or particularly prejudiced, must be convinced that all the landmarks of the old parties have long since been thoroughly broken down, and that the distinguishing features of each, so far as they were traits of opposition, have vanished. There is no question now agitated about which they could contend on the old grounds; all the matters formerly controverted between them have been finally passed upon by the people, and put at rest. And despite of the assertions or exertions of an interested few, men mingle on the political arena, and discuss the events of the day, without reference to distinctions which existed in times that have passed Hence if the name of either of these parties be used in the party disputes of the present day, it cannot imply a strict indentity of the party so designated, with that which once bore a similar name; and if the name be assumed by men whose principles are totally variant from those of the party formerly so called, or utterly inconsistent with the name itself, the assumption is not only absurd, but contemptible. Such is the case, at present of the masonic party, which strives to hide its crowns and mitres, its croziers and casques, from public view, under the mantle of DEMOCRACY. How very consistent indeed does it appear, in a party that approves of an order of Grand Kings! Grand High Priests!! Most Excellent Sir Knights!! Most Reverend Grand Prelates!!!! Mos Puissant Sovereigns!!!!! Princes of the Royal Secret!!!!!! &c. &c. to affect to call itself democratic or republican! Such perversion or prostitution of language could be thought of or attempted only by profligate intriguers, who blindly imagine that the "arte of wunderwerckynge" has descended upon them -for nothing short of such folly could play off so pulpable a trick DEMOCRACY is the very reverse of every neither Kings, nor crowns, nor royal secrets; and it utterly abominates and abhors the doctrine of unconditional submission and unlimited control, as contained in Grand Master Randall's letter to the Lancaster Lodge. equal, entitled to equal rights and privileges and enjoying equal claims to public honors, and capacity. Such are the principles of genuine and pure democracy; and such are the principles of Anti-masonry. Hence the essentially democratic, in the original, simple, unconnected and unperverted sense of the word. It aims at securing the permanency of the free institutions of the country in the purity of their origination. It aims at inculcating and perpetuating an attachment to liberty and equality, in the spirit of the Declaration of Independence. It labors to disenthral the government from the grasp and dominion of a despotic power, that has usurped the direction of its constitutional functions, and warped them from their legitimate ends. Such is Anti-masonry: and

strict harmony with pure democracy... The masonic party, on the other hand has nothing in common with pure democracy. Its element is concealment; its means are intrigue and trick; and its object is dominion and authority, avowedly for its "own profit and praise." It has a fondness for parade and show, for the gaudy trappings

as such it is, in all its parts and relations, in

and vain distinctions that "Bulk largely in the filmy eye of Time." It admires long drawling epithets and huge

sounding titles-"Most high and mighty, most magnificent, Most potent, most august, most worshipful, Mostleminent-words of great pomp that please The ear of vanity, and make the worms

Of earth mistake themselves for gods." It has no confidence in the people; it has drowsy people to a sense of their danger. no affinity for popular institutions; it has no respect for popular rights. It introduces and sanctions anti-republican distinctions of rank; and exacts obligations inconsistent with the requirements of public duty, and conflicting with the speedy and impartial of justice. It seeks to control public opinion, to monopolize public office, and to muzzle the public press. In short its principles are utterly repugnant to every idea of a governsubversion of that equality which is characteristic of republican democracy. A German author, friendly to freemasonry, candidly admits, when speaking of secret societies, that the object of each and all of them that have ever existed, has been identically a gang of murderers who have disgraced the same-"Toobtain power and dominion

guise it as they may-power is the object, tion and murder of Morgan, I dread the and conspiracy the means; and there is no consider our proud independence but an idle ination has yet been designated, that suits it so well, and is in all respects so perfectly appropriate, as that of the "Aristocratic MASONIC PARTY."--Lancaster Examiner.

## ANTI-MASONIC MEETING At Hagerstown Maryland.

At a large and respectable meeting of the Antimasons of Washington county, Mary. land, held at the Court House, in Hagerstown, on Saturday the 4th of June last, JOHN McKEE, Ésq. was chosen President, MICHAEL TORY, Esq. Vice President, and Frederick Beyers and Ezra Slifer, Secre-

The following preamble and resolutions were unanimously adopted, after the meeting had been addressed by T. Stevens, Esq. of Gettysburg, Pa.

Whereas, We consider Free Masonry. morally and politically dangerous, since it refuses an investigation of its obligations and ceremonies-destroys republican equalitycovers crime, which could not be kept from the public eye, except through the abominable oaths, and the charity of Freemasons, which have often covered a multitude of sins. THEREFORE

Resolved, That Freemasonry is a secret, dark, and midnight conclave, whose votaries have stained their hands with Blood: may the unavenged blood of the Martyred Morgan excite to persevering inquiry until their bloody and abetting deeds are fully made known to our country.

Resolved, That we look with a jealous eye, on our Legislators, Judges, Jurors, Witnesses, and Teachers of the Divine Law, who are members and followers of Freemasonry, and have voluntarily separated themselves, under the most shocking penalties, from the rest of mankind.

Resolved, That we have frequently to vitness with pity and sorrow the Ministers and Labourers in the Vineyard of Repentance, who in the face of day teach Light and Knowledge:--but in secret conclave, guarded by a naked sword, bow before the Mysteryford niquity," and worship the 'Man of Sin."

Resolved, That we are ready to extend the right hand of fellowship to all those who have walked in this path of iniquity, if they will recant and follow the example of the inhabitants at Ephesus, who confessed and made known their secret arts, and burnt their books of darkness.

Resolved, That Masonic oaths are like the oath of Herod to hisdaughter:--to break such an oath harmless—to keep it has been

Resolved, That we will strictly adhere o the warning which Gen. Washington gave in his Farewell Address--"to guard againt secret combinations and associations." Resolved, That we invite all good citi- many it may appear a matter of surprise, ens to unite with us in rooting out all si ERET SOCIETIES from the face of our land. JOHN McKEE, President.

MICHAEL TOBY, Vice President. FREDERICK BEYERS, | Secretaries. EZRA SLIFER.

ST. JOHN'S DAY .-- The Masons celebrate this day, as the birth day of John the Baptist. We presume they do this on the ground that St. John was a mason. What is their evidence that he was cable-towed? Anti-masonic party is organized on grounds. Where is the proof that he was a mason? He was the victim of masonic principles, we admit, and it is evident that masons have got the wrong day and should celebrate his death, rather than his birth.

> HEROD, THE TETRARCH, was a genuine mason. He swore an unlawful oath to comply with any request the daughter of Herodias should make. In other words, he agreed to obey all her signs and summonses, if within the length of his cuble-tow, that is within his oath. Herod had no idea his oath would bind him to commit murder any more than an honest mason has that his oaths will compel him to violate the laws. But Herodias demanded of Herod that he should commit murder, and give her the head of John the Baptist in a charger.-Herod was shocked at the consequences of his oath. It grieved him, that this crime was required; nevertheless; for his oath's sake and the sake of those who were with him, he sent and beheaded John in prison.

Here was genuine masonry. Herod took in illegal oath, without being aware of its consequence, and when called upon to commit murder, in pursuance of that oath, he committed the crime, rather than violate is oath. The murderers of William Morgan acted on precisely the same principle. It is clear, therefore, that Herod and not St. John was the mason, and that the birthday of the former, ought to be celebrated by masons, rather than that of the latter. We should like to see as good-evidence that St. John was a mason, as we have given that Herod was a mason.—Prov. Am.

execution of law and the due administration of the masonic prints, stating the Antimasonic Convention which lately assembled at Trenton, New Jersey, had nominated Richard Rush for President, and Samuel L. Southerd for Vice President. This is not ment of the people, and tend pointedly to the so. No such nomination was made-nor were these gentlemen even recommended for nomination as above; though we should have had no objection, if our New Jersey friends had seen fit to express an opinion in favour of such a ticket, if Mr. S. is not a mason. We wish, however, that our mystic opponents would have patience for three ers by the late fire, making TEN THOUSAND months longer, and they will then know FIVE HUNDRED DOLLARS sent from this city

From the Baltimore Gazette. COMMENCEMENT AT MOUNT ST. MARY'S COLLEGE. At no period since the establishment of the In-

had more reason, than at present, to confide in

The writer of this notice having assistditution was not invested by the Legislature ith the power of conferring degrees in the Arts iid Sciences, could not suppress the admiration which he felt, in common with many perhaps qually interested visitors, at the new impulse hich this justly accorded privilege has lately iven to the exertions of its young and ardent faculty. It is well known that the Professors seek no emolument but the improvement of their students; and that their only ambition is to win by honorable and successful competition with the est Colleges of our country, a distinguished name for their own, by affording to youth the neans of literary acquirement and inspiring it vith solid and lasting principles of morality and The pledge rive, has been efficiently redeemed. A new and splendid apparatus of Natural Philosophy, lately procured from Paris, and the luminous, process and scientific lectures of the gentleman who presides at this department of popular science have reatly extended the advantages enjoyed by the ollege in former years. The facility and adress with which the interesting candidate for he first honor of the College went through the various experiments in Hydrostatics, Caloric, Pneumatics, and especially in Chemistry, were a source of much interest to a very select and delighted auditory-and the elegant oration afterwards delivered by the same young gentleman was not time but qualification, not success in nction conferred, after an admonitory address in Latin by the Principal. Few among his hearers could refrain from tears when his affecting valedictory to his Teachers and friends was spo ken, and every School Boy's heart responded to the prayer, the "semper vivas, floreas," with which he was presented with his Diploma. Scarcely interior to the "Oration on the Revi-

val of Letters," in beauty of style, elegance of The personal appearance, graceful elecution and modest excellence with which these two promisng aspirants to future renown in literature, acquitted themselves of their respective tasks, attracted universal applause.

merit of these compositions; but we do hope that

shortly submitted to the public. The exquisite Poetry on the fall of Grenada will likewise receive its best praise from the same tribunal, and assert for the Professors and Students of Mount St. Mary's College that claim to literary superioritory and excellence which she has made so many and it is hoped not unsuc-

cuted Paintings, Landscapes, Maps, &c. we of Joseph Precios. It was the copy of a large engraving from West's celebrated Painting of ense interest manifested by the visitors in examining this truly beautiful production was a faithwas held, and if we may venture an opinion, it was a successful effort of which even maturer years and experience might justly boast. To he musical Students of Mount St. Mary's, unai ed but by their talented and indefatigable direcor, Mr. Andre, executed in the most creditable tyle, the difficult and classical Overtures of Sarino, Don Juan, Clemenza de Tito, Il Turco in talia, La Damo Blanche and some extracts from Mozart, Weber and Kuffner. These young genlemen have given convincing proof of the zeal. industry and ability with which the music classes are conducted, and have left upon the minds of their auditors impressions the most favorable of the musical taste, knowledge and enterprize of the College. They compose the St. Cecilia Society, that owes its creation to Mr. Gegan; whose untiring and necessful exertions in elevating the musical character of the Institution, are gratefully remembered by his affectionate pupils and friends. The laudable endeavors of this Society have been sanctioned by the names and supported by the musical onations of the most distinguished professors in his country. Experience has abundantly proved tions ultimately tend to the improvement of its nembers, the entire body of the Students are choosed on in the laborious and monotonous course of a scholastic year by the ably sustained Concerts hat take place in the Study Room once in every month. One broad principle appears to govern it Mount St. Mary's College, that every branch o iterary, scientific and polite education proposed to be tunght, must share alike the active patron. age of a devoted and highly gifted Faculty. The advantages of location. The urbane and hospitable character of the Institution combined with the facilities afforded to aspiring merit will enhance the reputation of a College that has already secured the substantial approbation of the American community. A BALTIMORE VISITOR.

FRESHET .- We learn from the Chambersburg (Pa.) Repository, that in consequence of the heavy rains of Thursday week ast, the Conococheague and Falling Spring which pass through that town, were swelled up to an alarming and destructive height. About the middle of the night (says that paper) the latter stream overflowed its bed and the water formed currents through the tanneries and gardens situated along it, carry off the contents of the yard, garden fences, &c. and inundating the cellar and lower stories of a number of houses. Females and children were carried out of houses which were so inundated as a precautionary measure; and there can be no doubt that some of these tenements would have been A paragraph is now running the rounds swept away, with their inhabitants, had it not been for the fint grounds on each side of the stream. It was truly an awful scene to our citizens, and especially to those who were suddenly aroused from their beds amid the tolling of belleand the roar of the waters. No lives were lost, but the destruction toproperty both in the town and above, on both streams, is very considerable.—Balt. Pat.

> The committee of Superintendence of Philadelphia, yesterday transmitted to Fayetteville, one thousand dollars for the suffer-

who are to he our candidates .- Nia. Cou. and the district .- United States Gazette.