The National Intelligencer,

AND

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For the National Intelligencer.

The malevolent mind is ever intent on mischief. To convict men of such disposition, by proving the foulness of their guilt, is but to stimulate them to more private attacks. Ever fruitful in resources which tend to diminish the peace and harmony of society, they let flip no occasion of disseminating their baneful purposes. What they cannot accomplish by open and manly means, they attempt by subterfuge and cunning. To gain the confidence of an enlightened public, our conduct must be correct, our motives lawful.

It is astonishing that after the many defeats which the federalists have received; that having been convicted of principles & purposes disapproved of by their fellow citizens; that having been degraded from a respectable majority to a minority; they will still continue to unfold their tinsaled ol arithocracy, and rally in its support. They have long imposed on the easy and unsuspecting credulity of the public, by the plausible pretext of a name. The support of the constitution the object, federalists the agent! But when these exclusive pretensions, to this distinction, came to be duly investigated, the thinly filament was soon broken, and it appeared evident to every impartial mind, that the republicans had the only legitimate claim to the title. They were the sole advocates of the constitution as it now stands, the federalists only as it stood before the amendments were added to it. The republicans were always in favour of a federal government, and of supporting the state governments. The federalists, on the contrary, were for having a national government, and for abolishing the state governments. A titled chief magistrate invested with all the trappings and insignia of royalty, was also proposed by them, to consummate the plan. So far from being opposed to the constitution, even in its infant state, the republicans cherished it with paternal kindness. They acknowledged it as legitimate; to be pufficient of all the vital functions necessary to its existence; but still, they looked upon it, in some degree, as an abortion, which wanted certain members and parts of members to make it complete. This was what first introduced the idea, that the republicans were adverse to the constitution; when in reality they were only for adding to it to make it more perfect. As all their honest endeavours have been crowned with success, so likewise this has been, and those additions, in the form of amendments, having been ratified by the individual states, and annexed to the constitution, continue to receive the approbation of every friend to liberty, security, and equal justice.

But though the federalists were thus more closely circumscribed, by those amendments to the constitution, from effecting any measure that might be subversive of liberty, liberty, or property; yet they were determined to overleap all bounds and reflections. To accomplish this they cast about, and calmly reflecting, that certain operating causes will, eventually, produce certain operating effects, which would turn evince the necessity of adopting certain measures, adequate to the exigency, for the purpose of opposing those operating effects. This plan, after mature deliberation, was adopted and put into practise by the federalists; and from that period we may date the commencement of all our misunderstandings abroad, and all our dissentions at home. The infurrections in Pennsylvania, were made the pretext for establishing a standing army; and our disputes with France, in like manner, were made life of in order to procure a navy. Both were the only instruments that were wanting to effect the subjugation of the country; and for establishing those instruments of tyranny, the federalists have exerted every nerve, and stretched every tendon. A foreign enemy was to be combated at sea, to save our commerce, and the agents of this pestilent enemy and a vile democracy who rankled in the bosom of the nation, were to be put down by force. Forts were built and repaired at an enormous expence, and paths of communication were to be opened throughout the union. Alien and Sedition laws were passed, constructive treasons, trials and transportations without jury or any judicial proceeding whatever, were adopted and strictly enjoined by all good federalists. To countenance and give sufficient plausibility to their measures, tales of tuns and tales of pitchers, and tales of a French invasion, with herds of united Irishmen, to join the vile democrats assuming ourselves, were industriously handed about, and even the truth of them asserted and sanctioned by the federalists, in the house of representatives of the United States. Those violent and unconstitutional measures were, as might be expected, firmly opposed and completely refuted by the republicans, but still the federalists were determined not to give up the grand point. The government wanted despotic energy, and there was no other expedient so efficient for the purpose as a navy and a standing army. They flattered themselves that a majority of the people were ready to function and support those measures, and they, in consequence, were eager to avail themselves of the supposed opportunity—But in this they were most egregiously disappointed. The discerning public, seriously considering the state of things, were not at a loss how to analize the crisis. Gathering causes from effects, they soon perceived whence the malady lay, and what the proper remedy was. Hence, with that promptitude and energy which is peculiar to republicans, they put their shoulders to the great work, and by a bold effort, produced the happy revolution in our affairs, which has been the salvation of the constitution, and the peace, security, and prosperity of the country.

From the foregoing flatement of facts, one might be led to hope that the federalists, after they had been the foils of confounding for what they were nevery likely to accomplish, would at last silently acquiesce in the present measures of administration, nor tempt a further investigation of their conduct, by subjecting themselves to be once more arraigned at the bar of public opinion. But how inconsiderate are the clamours and outcries which they have raised against the present executive of the United States, for removing certain characters from office. It was been well ascertained that they themselves have heretofore not only functioned, but solicited similar proceedings. Did not the late President remove numbers of gentlemen from office? Yes. Was he invested with any constitutional powers for that purpose, which have been withholden from the present Chief Magistrate? No. Are appointments to continue during life? Certainly not; for the late President has been himself removed from office. By whom? A majority of the citizens of the United States. Wherefore? For what they deemed antirepublican and unconstitutional measures. But is the present chief magistrate responsible to the majority, for his conduct in the superintendance of their public affairs? Undoubtedly, inasmuch as he is their chief agent. Then how is he to know their wills and wishes with respect to measures and men? The constitution and existing laws point out the one, *the irown example* in the removal of the late president, for his *political principles and conduct*, point out the other. Consequently as the president is responsible for the due execution of the laws, it is a duty he owes himself, as well as a respect due to the example left him, to nominate to office, such characters which as are most friendly to his own political sentiments, and those of the majority of the citizens of the United States. Consider this matter in any other point of view and what security would the president have for his responsibility. Is it to be supposed, that men who are his declared political enemies, would faithfully and diligently execute his commands. Is it not rather to be supposed, that they would moll indufriously exert themselves to perplex and evade the due execution of them. In order to bring both himself and his administration to disgrace. Have they not asserted, and do they not continue to assert, that there should be no communion held with republicans. That being the fowers of the land of atheists and infidelity, and the emissaries and patronizers of publications expressly written for the purpose; their baneful principles should be avoided as a destroying pestilence. But as these, like all the rest of their assertions, have been proved to be unfounded, they are treated, by every liberal mind, with that indignation, which they deserve. It is curious enough to imagine, how it happens, that the immaculate federalists are so alarmed at such doctrines and publications. Surely the purity of their minds and morals are in no danger of being polluted by them; and as to the depravity of republicans (agreeable to the federal text) what can make them more depraved!!!

Cease then your reproaches against the measures and morals of republicans, until you have just cause of complaint. For until the executive violates the constitution, by giving his assent to unconstitutional laws and proceedings; until republicans become immoral or less virtuous than you! then you have no reason to complain.

But you, fellow-citizens, who are more discreet, and who have the love of your country more indelibly stamped at heart, you we invite, to join us in the support of the present administration in its distribution of equal justice;—and also, in returning thanks to the Benificent Providence, who has vouchsafed to steer our political vessel, clear of the rocks and shoals, on which, so lately, the bad like to have been foundered.

PLAIN SENSE.

Letter from his Excellency John Sevier, to the Honorable William C. C. Claiborne.

Sir,

I have the pleasure of announcing to you, that I have been officially informed and notified by the speakers of both houses of the assembly, that you are again elected by the free citizens of Tennessee, to represent them in the House of Representatives of the Congress of the United States.—Permit me, sir, to congratulate you on experiencing, once more, the confidence of a free and independent people: while on the other hand I am sorry to add, that from the nature and dignity of another office recently conferred on you by the President of the United States, I fear it will not be in your power to serve your constituents agreeably to their wishes and expectations.

Adieu, my dear sir, and
Believe me to be,
Most entirely and
Sincerely your's,
JOHN SEVIER.

Knoxville, Sept. 22, 1801.

THE REPLY.

Knoxville, Sept. 22, 1801.

Sir,

Your polite letter of this day I have had the honor to receive, and sincerely thank you for the friendly manner in which you have communicated it to Congress.

To the freemen of Tennessee, I am greatly indebted for this renewed testimony of their esteem, and can only offer in return, assurances of my gratitude and devotion to their welfare.

I hatten, however, to acquaint your excellency, that having been appointed by the President of the United States, governor of the Mississippi Territory, and which appointment I have thought it a duty to accept, it is no longer in my power, to act as a Representative in Congress, and moll therefore request you, sir, to view this letter as evidence of my non-acceptance of that important truft.

In withdrawing my public services more immediately from this State, I am happy in the reflection, that my place may be much better fuppliied, and that no difficulty will arife in felecting a character of fuperior legislative talents, and in whole patriotic integrity, and fidelity, entire confidence may be repofed.

It is to me a matter of regret, that the people fhould be fubjected to the inconvenience of a fecond election—But I truft no cenfure will attach to me, on this account, when I affure my fellow-citizens, that information of my federal appointment did not reach me (otherwife than by vague report, in which there was no certainty) until the evening of the firft of Auguft, only four days before the congreffional election commenced; had I at fo late a period, withdrawn my name as a candidate, it could only have been partially communicated, and might poffibly have contributed to the election of fome perfon, who under other circumftances, would not have been fupported by the public voice.

The duties of the office, upon which I am about to enter, require, that I fhould refide in the Miffiffippi Territory; but here, great injuftice would be done my feelings, were I not to add, that in whatever fituation of life it may be my fortune to be placed, or however diftant from Tenneffee, her welfare will always be dear to my heart, and I fhall embrace every opportunity to manifeft my friendfhip for a people, to whom I am bound by every tie, which can influence a grateful breaft; a people who from my earlieft progrefs in life, have extended me their generous and uniform fupport, and amidft every change of the political hemifphere, have honored me, with their undiminifhed public confidence.

I fhall fet out in a few days for the town of Nachez—Upon leaving my old friends, I feel my fenfibility much oppreffed; but I indulge a hope, that it will ftill be in my power to be ufeful to them, and to Tenneffee; indeed the intereft of every part of United America, is fo intimately connected, that I could not better recommend myfelf to my country generally, than by the exercife of conftant efforts to promote the profperity of the Miffiffippi diftrict, and it is this confideration, which could alone reconcile me to a change of fituation.

I take this occafion, to renew to your excellency, affurances of my very fincere and refpectful attachment, and to pray an attendance of my beft wiftes, for your future happinefs and welfare in life.

I have the honor to be
Dear Sir,
Your moft obedient
Humble fervant,
WM. C. C. CLAIBORNE.

His Excellency Gov. Sevier, Knoxville.

A vote of thanks from the House of Representatives of this State, to our late Representative in Congress.

House of Representatives September 24th, 1801.

Sir,

I have the honor to inclofe to you a refolution of the Houfe of Reprefentatives, expreffive of their approbation of your conduct, while a Reprefentative in Congrefs.

Accept fir my beft wifhes,
and believe me to be,
with refpect,
Your moft
humble fervant,
WM. DICKSON, Spa
Hon. Mr. CLAIBORNE.

Resolved unanimouly, that the thanks of the houfe are due to William Charles Cole Claiborne, our late Reprefentative in Congrefs, for his faithful discharge of that important truft repofed in him by the citizens of Tenneffee; and more particularly for his firmnefs displayed in the Republican caufe, in the late contefl for the Prefidential Chair; In that glorious ftruggle, he fpoke the fentiments of his conftituents.

Resolved, That the fpeaker of this houfe, be entrufted to inclofe a copy of the above Refolution to the faid William Charles Cole Claiborne.

A Copy, (Teste.)
EDW. SCOTT, c. H. R.

Knoxville, Sept. 24th, 1801.

Sir,

I feel myfelf greatly honored by the approbation, which the Houfe of Reprefentatives, have been pleafed to express of my public conduct.