

THE MARYLAND REPUBLICAN.

"FREEDOM IS THE BRILLIANT GIFT OF HEAVEN; 'TIS REASON'S SELF,—THE KIN OF DEITY."

Vol. I.]

ANNAPOLIS, SATURDAY, JULY 8, 1809.

[No. 3.]

PROSPECTUS

OF THE MARYLAND REPUBLICAN.

THE patronage of the Republican citizens of the State of Maryland is now solicited to aid the progress of political truth. Too long has the false glare of deception induced the unwary to lend their support to men who are pursuing measures directly calculated to prostrate our Country's dear-bought and inestimable liberties. Delusive principles and false assertions have been so often urged, with all the seeming ardor and sincerity of truth, that, by their constant repetition, many have been induced to accept spurious dogmas as matters of right, which on their first appearance they received with hesitancy and distrust. The great mass of the people, honest in their views, and having no interests separate from the general prosperity, want nothing but correct information to direct their minds to its true and legitimate source.

To promote this important and interesting object,—to preserve unimpaired our Republican institutions—to inculcate a love of those principles for which the best blood of America has flowed, and to the establishment of which the best men in America have contributed their labours;—in fine, to secure to ourselves, and to our posterity, the blessings of the present excellent system of civil government, shall be the grand object of the Editor of the Maryland Republican.

The utility—nay, the necessity, of a Republican paper at the Seat of Government, must be too obvious to need any remark. Placed at the source of correct information in respect to the concerns of the State,—situated at a short and nearly equal distance from our chief commercial city, and the Seat of the Federal Government,—and well calculated, from its immediate vicinity to the Chesapeake, to receive the latest intelligence from Europe sooner than any other paper in the State;—the Maryland Republican, if the efforts of the Editor, and the countenance of the Public, should bear any proportion to the striking advantages which have just been pointed out, cannot fail to become, either in respect of foreign or domestic information, a paper of general and extensive utility.

In commencing a work of this nature, it is usual for the Editor to make known to the Public the leading features of his political creed. These would be sufficiently apparent from the title of the proposed gazette, if there were not counterfeits abroad. But, since those, who in other particulars, support their doctrines by the perversion of facts and of terms, have made the word "Republican" to mean what is most opposite to its genuine import, the Editor will comply with the custom, and declare himself unreservedly a disciple of the Jefferson school, and that his whole efforts shall be directed to support those great principles of political truth which have rendered the late President's name so deservedly dear to his countrymen, and extended his fame as a statesman throughout the world.

While personal altercations and invective will be carefully avoided, the Editor will not suffer misrepresentation to walk abroad unrepented; he will, on the contrary, make it a particular point of duty to expose and counteract those delusions which have, in a serious and alarming manner, threatened the subversion of Republican principles in this State; and for the purpose of checking that torrent of misrepresentation which produced, and is labouring to increase these impressions, he will use the necessary means, without being restrained by any considerations but those of decency, and of that regard for truth which is congenial with the cause he supports.

The Maryland Republican is intended to form a journal of the present times, and to become a record of the State. Whatever concerns Maryland particularly, shall immediately be laid before its citizens; and those subjects which interest our country

generally, shall be carefully detailed for common information. It will contain all public documents of general interest;—a particular account of the proceedings of the Legislature and Government of Maryland; a faithful detail of foreign events, with such literary and political essays, and agricultural and miscellaneous articles, as shall be deemed best calculated to strengthen correct principles, amuse the mind, improve the understanding, and promote the interest of society at large.

Having every reason to expect, that in this arduous undertaking, he will not be left without frequent aid from gentlemen of political knowledge and literary abilities residing where the paper is to be conducted, or drawn thither at intervals for the discharge of public trusts or professional avocations, the Editor flatters himself that the Maryland Republican will be deemed well worthy the fostering care of the enlightened Citizens of this State.

CONDITIONS.

The MARYLAND REPUBLICAN is intended to be issued TWICE a week during the annual sessions of Assembly, and ONCE a week during the remainder of the year. Its regular day of weekly publication will be Saturday; and, during the Session of Assembly, Tuesday and Saturday. It will be printed on a large super-royal paper, (the size of the Baltimore newspapers) and on a handsome type, and great care shall be taken of its typographical accuracy.

The terms are three dollars per annum; the first year payable six months from the date of subscription—to continue half-yearly in advance. The Editor confidently trusts that Subscribers will be particularly attentive to punctuality in their payments, as that can alone enable him to meet those necessary and unavoidable expenses naturally resulting from such an establishment.

All communications (post-paid) from literary gentlemen, will be thankfully received: and, if admissible, shall receive immediate attention.

(The Editor acknowledges with pleasure the receipt of the following neat and judicious remarks from an unknown Friend in Charles County. From this handsome specimen of his abilities as an able writer, we flatter ourselves with the hope that our columns will be often graced with the effusions of his pen on political and literary subjects.)

To the Editor of the Maryland Republican;—

Sir, The establishment of a republican newspaper at the seat of the state government, may be regarded by the friends of equal rights, as an auspicious event. Viewed in that light, it ought to be fostered and encouraged by every means in their power; more particularly at this perilous period, when we find an alarming breach of our excellent Constitution effected by the unlawful proceedings of the federal delegates in the General Assembly.

Notwithstanding a breach has been made in the constitution, a brave and unanimous resistance to the assaults of the enemy may preserve the citadel, the sacred sanctum of our precious rights, and finally enable us to repair the outward; but so long as the archives of the government of Maryland remain to bear solemn testimony against the federal delegates, the stain upon their political reputations will remain shiningly black. No ingenuity, no talents, no apology can justify or atone for the unholy violence done to the Constitution.

In the governments of Europe, where the elective principle does not prevail, such proceedings as we have just witnessed, would justify an insurrection of the people, and no one could lament to see the unworthy delegates expelled from a station they had disgraced. The wisdom and courage of our fathers have prevented the necessity of recurring to so violent a remedy. The right of election, the freedom of suffrage, is the source employed by an enlightened and humane people; and was bestowed to those who have abused their confidence.

The Republicans, sir, certainly possess the talents of the state, and most unquestionably they are a majority exceeding their opponents by upwards of four thousand. When I speak of talents, I am not so illiberal as to claim for my friends the whole; but they have, beyond a doubt, the preponderating weight of capacity on their side; all that is necessary to keep them at the head of affairs, is the discreet and energetic exercise of the faculties which they inherit from nature, and the privileges guaranteed to them by the constitution. Their superiority of numbers was established by the result of the last October elections.

It is indisputably true, that every enlightened man, every man of genius and ability, is naturally

friendly to free government. The idea asserts so well with the noble qualities of a good understanding, that no one will deny it. False education, or ambition, or avarice, may make him knavish, and induce him to entertain a different doctrine; but in his heart he feels the force of those principles upon which the rights of man are formed.

May we not, therefore, hope, since the best of human causes is also the most agreeable to our feelings, the most rational and consonant to every sentiment which elevates the condition of the human race, that your newspaper, furnished with the lights which our vigilant and well informed politicians can produce, will ameliorate the situation of our Republican brethren of the lower counties of the Western Shore, by sending forth a volume of light which shall chase far away the shadows of ignorance. That such may be the happy result of your undertaking, is, sir, the sincere wish of

A Republican of Charles County.

June 20th, 1809.

[The Editor of the Maryland Republican having never yet thought that the glorious Declaration of the Independence of these United States was "a wicked thing, and ought never to have been published!" but, on the contrary, that it contains a memento of facts that should never be forgotten, thinks proper to present it conspicuously and entire to his readers, that it may tend to remind us of what we once were under British thralldom, and what we now are under the smiles of Heaven and our own free elective government. It will remind us that we are AMERICANS—it will remind us that we are FREE, and teach us to spurn with detestation and horror the insidious or open wiles of those who would reduce us again to foreign vassalage, and dash from our lips the overflowing cup of our present political blessings.]

Declaration of Independence,

BY THE REPRESENTATIVES OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, IN CONGRESS ASSEMBLED, JULY 4th, 1776.

WHEN, in the course of human events, it becomes necessary for one people to dissolve the political bands which have connected them with another, and to assume among the powers of the earth, the separate and equal station to which the laws of nature and of nature's God, entitle them, a decent respect to the opinions of mankind, requires that they should declare the causes which impel them to the separation.

We hold these truths to be self-evident—that all men are created equal; that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable rights; that among these are life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. That, to secure these rights, governments are instituted among men, deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed; that, whenever any form of government becomes destructive of these ends, it is the right of the people to alter or abolish it, and to institute a new government, laying its foundation on such principles, and organizing its powers in such form, as to them shall seem most likely to effect their safety and happiness. Prudence, indeed, will dictate that governments long established should not be changed for light and transient causes; and accordingly all experience hath shewn, that mankind are more disposed to suffer, while evils are sufferable, than to right themselves, by abolishing the forms to which they are accustomed. But, when a long train of abuses and usurpations, pursuing invariably the same object, evinces a design to reduce them under absolute despotism, it is their right, it is their duty to throw off such government, and to provide new guards for their future security. Such has been the patient sufferance of these Colonies, and such is now the necessity which constrains them to alter their former systems of government. The history of the present king of Great Britain, is a history of repeated injuries and usurpations, all having in direct object the establishment of an absolute tyranny over these States. To prove this, let facts be submitted to a candid world.

He has refused his assent to laws the most wholesome and necessary for the public good.

He has forbidden his Governors to pass laws of immediate and pressing

importance, unless suspended in their operation, until his assent should be obtained: and, when so suspended, he has utterly neglected to attend to them.

He has refused to pass other laws, for the accommodation of large districts of people, unless those people would relinquish the right of representation in the Legislature—a right inestimable to them, and formidable to tyrants only.

He has called together legislative bodies, at places unusual, uncomfortable, and distant from the depository of their public records, for the sole purpose of fatiguing them into compliance with his measures.

He has dissolved Representative Houses repeatedly, for opposing, with manly firmness, his invasions on the rights of the people.

He has refused, for a long time after such dissolutions, to cause others to be elected, whereby the legislative powers, incapable of annihilation, have returned to the people at large, for their exercise; the state remaining in the mean time, exposed to all the danger of invasion from without, and convulsions within.

He has endeavoured to prevent the population of these States; for that purpose, obstructing the laws for naturalization of foreigners; refusing to pass others to encourage their migration hither, and raising the conditions of new appropriations of land.

He has obstructed the administration of justice, by refusing his assent to laws for establishing Judiciary Powers.

He has made Judges dependent on his will alone, for the tenure of their offices, and the amount and payment of their salaries.

He has erected a multitude of new offices, and sent hither swarms of officers, to harass our people, and eat out their substance.

He has kept among us, in time of peace, standing armies, without the consent of our Legislatures.

He has affected to render the military independent of, and superior to the civil power.

He has combined with others to subject us to a jurisdiction, foreign to our Constitution, and unacknowledged by our laws; giving his assent to their acts of pretended legislation:—

For quartering large bodies of armed troops amongst us:—

For protecting them, by a mock trial from punishment, for any murders which they should commit on the inhabitants of these States:—

For cutting off our trade with all parts of the world:—

For imposing taxes on us without our consent:—

For depriving us, in many cases, of the benefits of trial by jury:—

For transporting us beyond seas, to be tried for pretended offences:—

For abolishing the free system of English laws in a neighbouring province, establishing therein an arbitrary government, and enlarging its boundaries, so as to render it at once an example and fit instrument for introducing the same absolute rule into these colonies:—

For taking away our charters, abolishing our most valuable laws, and altering fundamentally, the forms of our governments:—

For suspending our own Legislatures, and declaring themselves invested with power to legislate for us in all cases whatsoever.

He has abdicated government here, by declaring us out of his protection, and waging war against us.

He has plundered our seas, ravaged our coasts, burnt our towns, and destroyed the lives of our people.

He is, at this time, transporting large armies of foreign mercenaries, to complete the works of death, desolation and tyranny, already begun, with circumstances of cruelty and perfidy, scarcely paralleled in the most barbarous ages, and totally unworthy the head of a civilized nation.

He has constrained our fellow citizens, taken captive on the high seas, to bear arms against their country, to become the executioners of their friends and brethren, or to fall themselves by their hands.

He has excited domestic insurrections amongst us, and has endeavoured to bring on the inhabitants of our frontiers, the merciless Indian

savages, whose known rule of warfare is "an undistinguished destruction of all ages, sexes and conditions."

In every stage of these oppressions, we have petitioned for redress in the most humble terms; our repeated petitions have been answered only by repeated injury. A prince, whose character is thus marked by every act which may define a tyrant, is unfit to be a ruler of a free people.

Nor have we been wanting in attention to our British brethren. We have warned them from time to time, of attempts made by their Legislature, to extend an unwarrantable jurisdiction over us. We have reminded them of the circumstances of our emigration and settlement here. We have appealed to their native justice and magnanimity, and we have conjured them by the ties of our common kindred, to disavow these usurpations, which would inevitably interrupt our connections and correspondence. They, too, have been deaf to the voice of justice and of consanguinity. We must, therefore, acquiesce in the necessity which denounces our separation, and hold them as we hold the rest of mankind,—enemies in war;—in peace, friends.

We, therefore, the Representatives of the United States of America, in General Congress assembled, appealing to the SUPREME JUDGE of the world for the rectitude of our intentions,—do, in the name, and by the authority of the good people of these Colonies, solemnly publish and declare; that these United Colonies are, and of right ought to be, FREE AND INDEPENDENT STATES;—that they are absolved from all allegiance to the British crown, and that all political connexion between them and the state of Great Britain, is, and ought to be totally dissolved; and, that as free independent States, they have full power to levy war, conclude peace, contract alliances, establish commerce, and to do all other acts and things which Independent States may of right do. And for the support of this declaration, with a firm reliance on the protection of Divine Providence, we mutually pledge to each other, our lives our fortunes, and our sacred honour.

Signed by order, and in behalf of the Congress,

JOHN HANCOCK, Pres't.
CHARLES THOMPSON, Sec'y.

NEW-HAMPSHIRE.

Josiah Bartlett, William Whipple, Matthew Thornton.

MASACHUSETTS.

Sammuel Adams, John Adams, Robert Treat Paine, Elbridge Gerry.

RHODE-ISLAND.

Stephen Hopkins, William Ellery.

CONNECTICUT.

Roger Sherman, Samuel Huntington, William Williams, Oliver Wolcott.

NEW YORK.

William Floyd, Philip Livingston, Francis Lewis, Lewis Morris.

NEW-JERSEY.

Richard Stockton, John Witherspoon, Francis Hopkinson, John Hart, Abraham Clark.

PENNSYLVANIA.

Robert Morris, Benjamin Rush, Benjamin Franklin, John Morton, George Clymer, James Smith, George Taylor, James Wilson, George Ross.

DELAWARE.

Cesar Rodney, George Read.

MARYLAND.

Sammuel Chase, William Paca, Thomas Stone, Charles Carroll of Carrollton.

VIRGINIA.

George Wythe, Richard Henry Lee, Thomas Jefferson, Benjamin Harrison, Thomas Nelson, junr. Francis Lightfoot Lee, Carter Braxton.

NORTH-CAROLINA.

William Hooper, Joseph Hewes, John Peen.

SOUTH-CAROLINA.

Edward Rutledge, Thomas Heyward, junr. Thomas Lynch, junr. Arthur Middleton.

GEORGIA.

Button Gwinnett, Lyman Hall, George Walton.