

# The Maryland Republican.

PRINTED AND PUBLISHED BY

JOHN W. BUTLER,

NEARLY OPPOSITE THE JARVIS' BARS, ANNAPOLIS.

SATURDAY, AUGUST 5, 1809.

[The following is an extract of a letter from a correspondent in Washington to his friend in Annapolis. We invite an attentive perusal by the enemies of General S. Smith—they are facts incontrovertible. What would not the defamers of this man do? Human invention is racked indeed, to fabricate tales, blasting his private character, hoping thereby to sink him politically. General Samuel Smith, is however, a republican, and a man of '76; he undeviatingly advocates the cause and principles for which he so nobly hazarded life, liberty and property; and a strict scrutiny of character, public and private, will, we are satisfied, raise him in the estimation of all well disposed persons.]

Washington, 22d July, 1809.

DEAR SIR:—

Since my last, in answer to your letter relative to the charges in the public prints against Smith and Buchanan, information has been received, which enables me to be more particular.

Without doubt, you have seen the statement by William Y. Purviance, a partner of the firm of Degan, Purviance and Co. published in the American of the 27th of June. It removes every ground of imputation against the integrity and fairness of the conduct of Smith and Buchanan, in drawing the bills mentioned on Degan, Purviance and Co. which were purchased by the agent of the Navy Department on account of the United States. The facts are these;—bills to the amount of 256,000 dollars were purchased at different times, and remitted to Degan, Purviance and Co. navy agents at Leghorn; of these, bills to the amount of 160,000 dollars, were purchased of Smith and Buchanan; that is to say, in the year 1805, 90,000 dollars; in 1806, 60,000 dollars, and in 1807, (20th of February) 10,000 dollars. The residue of the bills, to the amount of 96,000 dollars, was purchased of other merchants; and all of them subsequent to the purchase of Smith and Buchanan, except the two last, one of which, for 30,000 dollars, bears date the 15th of September, 1806; the other for 10,000 dollars, the 20th of February, 1807.—When the last account was settled between the United States and Degan, Purviance and Co. their disbursements on account of the United States exceeded 90,000 dollars, and they remitted by the Hornet, as stated by Mr. Purviance, to the Navy Department, 60,000 dollars, or thereabouts. This remittance, together with other disbursements and supplies furnished by them at Leghorn, there is reason to believe, will reduce the balance due to the United States, to about 70,000 dollars.

It should be observed further, that no bills, the two last excepted, were purchased of Smith and Buchanan subsequent to the 8th of February, 1805: they were all regularly endorsed and passed to the credit of the United States. The first of the two last was bottomed on the consignment of their brig, the Polly and Nancy, to the drawers, and the last on the cargo of the Adriana. The Polly and Nancy was lost, and the destination of the Adriana, with the consent of Mr. Purviance, changed. But these circumstances could not alter the nature and complexion of the transaction. The house sustained their credit during the continuance of the partnership, which was not dissolved until some time in the year 1807, and Degan was not declared a bankrupt until the 25th of February, 1809. Where then, it may be asked, is the evidence of an unworthy motive on the part of Smith and Buchanan? The bills could not have been drawn, as alleged, to secure a debt due from a tottering house to Smith and Buchanan, because the house appears to have been in full credit, and they were not the debtors of Smith and Buchanan. For the same reason, and for the circumstances stated, they could not have been drawn with an intention to impose on the United States.

The clamor seems to have arisen from the circumstance of the bills having been drawn on Degan, Purviance and Co.—But why? If the bills had been drawn on other persons, and the money paid by

them to Degan, Purviance and Co. where would have been the difference? The result would have been precisely the same. It could not have effected the transaction in any shape whatever. There is not the semblance of a reason to impeach the integrity of Smith and Buchanan.

The far greater part of the remittances to Europe to answer the purposes of government, is made in bills of exchange.—They are purchased from time to time by the agents of the different departments, according to the instructions given by the departments respectively. Bills have been occasionally purchased (by the agents of the Treasury and Navy Departments) of Smith and Buchanan, and they have been duly answered without exception.

For the Maryland Republican.

TO THE PEOPLE OF MARYLAND.  
Thoughts on the late conduct of the Legislature of Maryland respecting the choice of a Senator.

## No. V.

It would require more of your time and patience than I am willing to intrude upon, were I to point out the various inconveniences and innumerable evils which will result from the precedent established by the federal majority. I shall be satisfied with only three more, and then I will leave this subject to the serious reflection of the independent voters of my native State. You all know the importance of the Orphan's Courts, and the necessity of having a Register to them. The Constitution of this State, in the 41st. Sect. says, "there shall be a Register of Wills appointed for each county, who shall be commissioned by the Governor, on the joint recommendation of the Senate and House of Delegates." A joint ballot is not mentioned here. Instead, then, first of balloting jointly for a Register, and then jointly recommending him as has always been the case; suppose the House of Delegates should act as they have respecting the Senator? what would be the consequence? why, there is not a county in the State that might not be deprived for several years of the services of a Register and without that officer the Orphan's Court cannot transact business, for he is indispensable to their administration of justice, and the defenceless orphan might be despoiled of his fortune, and submitted (without a prospect of redress) to the avarice and injustice of his wicked guardian. I know the good sense of my fellow citizens will never submit to this; and I trust they will discard from the councils of the State those men who have established a precedent from which may result such an extensive evil. But let us suppose that many of the States (and the supposition is certainly not an improbable one) should be placed in the same situation with Maryland. The upper and lower house differing about the choice of a Senator. By this disagreement, the Senate of the United States might be so weakened in numbers that no business could be done, or if there should be a majority, yet the confidence in the decisions of Congress would be greatly diminished, while several of the States were unrepresented in the Senate. But the most dangerous circumstance attending this conduct, is, that powers are given to the State Senate, wholly incompatible with the rights of freemen, and which the Senate, with a laudable sense of patriotism, and a strict eye upon the people's welfare, most honourably resisted. It is this. The House of Delegates, consisting of 80 members, might, to a man, wish to appoint one person as a Senator—and eight, a majority in the Senate, might wish to support another; those eight would mar the wishes of all the others and would possess more power than has ever yet been delegated to any legislative branch in the United States. Yet this power was offered them by the federalists, which they nobly refused; they preferred a joint ballot, although it diminished their powers, and wished to place themselves on an equality with the representatives of the people. Let me ask you, my fellow citizens, could any measure tend more to the establishment of an aristocracy? What? to give to a few individuals, elected for a long term of years, the power of destroying at once the wishes and desires of the immediate representatives of the people. Never did a body act more correctly; with a generous self-denial they refused the offer. The following extract from the message, sent by the Senate on the 9th of June, 1809, shews the

patriotic spirit of the democratic Senate of Maryland, and exhibits a striking contrast between that body and the majority of the other house. "After the hue and cry which has been raised against the Senate of Maryland, we were not a little surprised at the new and momentous power offered us by the other branch of the Legislature, by which, in one of the most important subjects on which the Legislature can be called to act, eight members of the Senate are enabled to defeat or control the united voices of eighty members of the House of Delegates, the immediate representatives of the people at large, and by which eight members of the Senate, may, during a term of five years, prevent the election of a Senator of the United States, in opposition to the unanimous voice of the people of Maryland. The adoption of such a principle, the possession of such a power by the Senate, we view as repugnant to the genius and spirit of our republican constitution, and an alarming infringement on the rights of the people." I pause in astonishment. You are like a lion surrounded by the toils of the hunter, and yet you fear to make the desperate leap. Republicans of Maryland why are you so inert? will you let the enemy enter into the citadel of your liberties before you rouse him from your inactivity. A few months will revive the sleeping insect from his torpor; the first thunder-storm will rouse him from his wintry slumber; but you can see the storm approach without one exertion to shun the whirlwind or the tempest. Freemen of America! can you look on quietly and see the Constitution inviolated by men who will sacrifice the best rights of the country? Blinded by party spirit, and an intemperate zeal, they madden by opposition, and coalesce by defeat, while you look on and view the rising tempest as if it were a passing shower whose gentle drops would scarcely wet the earth on which it fell. Whether has fled the proud spirit of your fathers? At what disastrous moment did you sink succumb to a party over which you have so often triumphed. You see the opening which leads to victory, and yet you dread to seize it. If any man should read this number who feels as I do, I beg him to pass it by, as not even glancing at his bosom; but, if it should chance to fall into the hands of one who shrinks from the contest, I request him to lay it by, for he is almost unworthy of its perusal. Fellow Citizens, I have now scanned this question to its utmost. If I have thrown one single atom to the general benefit, I feel myself most amply compensated. If I have taken from the eyes of hoary-headed ignorance or boyish forwardness the film which overspreads them, I feel that I have done what my duty required. If I have given offence to those daring violators of the Constitution who have perched themselves up in the people's confidence, I know I am a man and feel as such; more than that, I am a freeman, and have much at stake in common with my country. My countrymen either native or adopted, I give this business into your hands. Let no delusion, no political falsehood fasten on your minds, but come to the hustings with the courage of conscientious rectitude, and impressed with the first great principle of self-preservation.

JUSTINIAN.

TO THE PEOPLE OF MARYLAND.

## No. I.

IN the year eighteen hundred; when the multiplied abuses in the administration of the general Government, and the disposition manifested by the federal party in this state, roused you to a sense of the perils of your situation, you dismissed from your confidence, in most of the counties, the men whom you so justly considered as hostile to your rights.

Your Democratic friends had been assimilated with the party that was to be humbled into dust and ashes by the federal administration, and had in your own state been vilified as a faction opposed to the Government of your choice.

But you arose with manliness and resolution in vindication of your rights, and your exertions were crowned with the triumph of republican principles in the General and State Governments.

The ascendancy thus obtained continued, with little variation, until the summer of eighteen hundred and

eight; and it is reasonable to conclude that if nothing had occurred to interrupt our harmony with foreign nations, and opposition to the republican cause, however kept alive in some remote counties, would scarcely have been attempted in others, where it appeared to be so firmly established. For, of what were our citizens to be induced to complain.—They enjoyed all the blessings of peace liberty and abundance;—They saw themselves protected in the enjoyment of equal rights; and it would have been difficult even for the ingenuity of federalism to have found a ground for discontent, or a pretext for change.

But, in the situation which we were placed in by the conduct of foreign nations, a pretext has been found, and eagerly pursued.

The unprecedented attack on the Chesapeake appeared, at first, to excite a general sentiment of indignation, and the opinions then expressed by the federalists encouraged a hope, too favourably indulged, that they would be zealous in support of measures to counteract it.

This hope has not been realized. The indignation which they expressed has cooled, either from their own reflection, or the watch word of their leaders; and a more rancorous opposition to the measures of the administration and the Legislative acts of the General Government, has succeeded.

To enter into a full investigation of those measures, or to revive the discussions on the merits of the embargo system, may appear at this time to be unnecessary; but I mean to consider those subjects, so far as they are embraced in the well known resolutions which were carried in the House of Delegates, in the session before the last, and which so fully shew the pitch to which the federalists were wrought by their sudden elevation to power, and the extent to which they would proceed if the people should unfortunately continue them in it.

An examination of these resolutions will form a part of the general plan of this address, which is made with a view of shewing you the danger of continuing those persons in the stations in which accident has placed them, and the necessity of union and vigilance at the ensuing elections, to wrest from them the power so incautiously confided to them, and to restore it to your tried friends and fellow republicans.

It will be recollected that in the session of eighteen hundred and seven the General Assembly passed a resolution declaring that the embargo was a measure strongly characteristic of the judgment and wisdom of our national councils, and well calculated to inspire confidence in the individuals of the nation they represent.

The small ascendancy which the federal party obtained in the House of Delegates, in the succeeding session, was eagerly caught at by their leaders as an occasion for the expression of their own sentiments as the result of the public will; and, in the preamble to their resolutions they stated that the public voice, expressed in the late elections, left no doubt of the real sentiments of the people of Maryland on this interesting subject.

This change in the popular branch of the legislature, to which so much was attributed, and which was said to render it the indispensable duty of its members to counteract the proceedings of the preceding session, consisted of a majority of five or six at most!

And when it is considered that in addition to the misrepresentations on the subject of the embargo, the success of the election in several counties was influenced by discontents concerning the militia bill, and by other causes of a local nature, we are led to wonder at the confidence and apparent solemnity with which the outrageous sentiments expressed in the resolutions were proposed as those of the Independent freemen of Maryland.

They were carried in the House of Delegates by a majority of five members, and were unanimously rejected by the senate.

This obstacle to "the expression of the public will," was probably anticipated by the framers and supporters of the resolutions;—but their objects were accomplished;—an occasion was furnished to them of venting their opposition to the Republican administration of the General Government, and, by a partial legislative sanction of that opposition, to encourage their fellow labourers in other states.

It was with these views that they affected to fear the embargo would be considered abroad as a virtual abandonment of our rights and our

honour, and that they endeavored to convert the violations of the Law by many of their own side, so aptly termed "the most worthless part of the community," into real objections to its expediency.

The whole of the resolution indeed is nothing more than a string of high sounding invectives, and strained exaggerations of those inconveniences which the interruption of our trade must necessarily have occasioned; and the Senate, in their reply, very justly remarked that the effects portrayed as flowing from the embargo, might be with more correctness attributed to the specious misrepresentations and insidious exertions of the habitual opponents of the present administration.

It will be admitted that the federalists in the house of representatives, elated with their new power, did not pass over in silence this observation, which, together with some others in the answer of the Senate, glanced so near as to have the appearance of being aimed at them.

They did reply to them; but in a strain which, if a similar one had been adopted by the Senate, would have destroyed every vestige of decorum and respect, and put an end to the communications between the two branches which are essential to the transaction of the public business. Such a war of words would have been highly derogatory to the legislature of the state, and was happily prevented by the moderation of the Senate, who, according to the expression used by Mr. Jefferson to one of his assailants, considered the message in question as not meriting the civility of a reply.

SIDNEY.

THE EXAMINER.

To the Citizens of Maryland.

THE outrageous attack which the enemies of public liberty are now carrying on against the administration of our general government, makes it incumbent on every friend of that administration, who believes himself capable of offering useful explanation and advice, to contribute his aid towards repelling the audacious calumnies which form the main weapon of the assailants, and defending the principles and measures so grossly misrepresented. The desperate ambition of the federalists to recover that power from which, by the spontaneous indignation of the American people, they were a few years ago precipitated, has brought the political affairs of this country to a crisis which admits of no result but a final election between that republican form of government for the attainment of which so much blood and treasure were expended, and a system of domestic slavery, if not an actual return to that state of foreign dependence from which by a virtue and valour celebrated throughout the world, this rising nation has been emancipated. By a concurrence of circumstances the most trying to the public constancy and patriotism, by the most unceasing and base advantages taken of those circumstances, and by the most perfidious misrepresentation of the causes which produced them, the anti-American faction which you discarded from your confidence upon full proof of its deep conspiracy against your political welfare has been enabled once more to raise its head, and in this, as well as some other states, to obtain a share of power; which the leaders and partizans of that faction are now straining every nerve to improve into the absolute control of the State Administration, preparatory to the further design of grasping into their hands the authorities of the general Government, and re-seating themselves in that plenitude of power which was snatched from them but just in time to prevent the consummation of their nefarious designs. It is no common effort, fellow citizens, that this faction are now engaged in. They are driving to their object with a rage scarcely short of madness. They have embarrassed and staggered the government of the Union; they have exaggerated your inconveniences and fomented your dissatisfactions; they have practised upon whatever there is of inconstancy and credulity in your dispositions; they have matured their plans and wound their means to the height. They can go no further,—and they are convinced that the time is come for making their final effort. They know that the effect of their deceptions is already on the decline, and now, afraid of disturbing the great topics of detraction which formed their original system of attack, and leaving you to the impressions which they flatter themselves with the hope of having effected, but which they know that