

Annapolis:

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 8, 1809.

COMMUNICATED.

REPUBLICAN MEETING.

GREABLY to a notice which had appeared in the Maryland Gazette, relating the attendance of the republican citizens of Annapolis and Anne-Arundel county at the State-House, on Saturday the 4th there was a numerous assemblage; the meeting was opened by Chancellor Kilty, who moved that his Excellency Governor Light should be appointed chairman, which was unanimously approved; Col. John Gassaway, an old revolutionary officer, was unanimously chosen secretary; the Governor, in an able and eloquent speech, of about an hour's length, informed the citizens that the object of the meeting was to express their sentiments of the measures adopted by the Federal Government at this awful and eventful crisis; he dwelt, in a very feeling manner, upon the necessity of union at a time when the best hopes of our country were menaced by the two great belligerent nations of the world, and endeavoured to be destroyed by internal enemies; he read such parts of General Washington's farewell address as particularly pointed to the necessity of harmony, and reminded them of the noble and disinterested conduct of that great man, who at a few years past, in that very house, had signed the command of the army, and retired to the peaceful shades of domestic happiness; in a spirited manner he defended the measures of the government, pointed out the advantages which might have resulted if the embargo had received a fair experiment, and that it had been violated by the vile and the worthless, who preferred private emolument to public honour and advantage. The Governor having concluded, on motion, a committee, consisting of William Kilty, (the Chancellor,) John Johnson, (the attorney general,) Lewis Duvall and Thomas W. Hall, (members of the executive council,) John Kilty, (register of the land-office,) and James Boyle, (one of the city members,) were appointed, who having retired to the council chamber, after some time returned, and Mr. Boyle, from the committee, reported the following resolutions, which were read by the secretary.

Resolved, That it appears to this meeting, that a system of measures has been organized and carried into action by a portion of the citizens of the United States, conjointly with a band of foreign emissaries, and with the government itself of a foreign country, the immediate object of which is to destroy the confidence of the people in those whom they have intrusted with the administration of their public affairs, and the direct tendency of which is to prostrate the independence and liberties of this country at the feet of a foreign power.

Resolved, That this design appears to be executed in a particular manner by certain declarations and resolutions lately adopted and made public by a part of the inhabitants of one of our principal cities, in which the measures of the present administration, and of the signature of the United States, in reference to the external concerns of the country, are grossly misrepresented, the views of the administration in the adoption or recommendation of those measures violently calumniated, their characters and their proceedings insulted by malignant comparisons, and affirmations of the people recommended, which, notwithstanding an assumed veil of moderation, and a self-affected profession of patriotism, are evidently designed by the instigators of them to incite and coerce the government to the premature abandonment of the principal measure which has been adopted for the safety and honour of the country.

Resolved, That when the system of opposition to this prudent and necessary measure, which has for a space of twelve months past been industriously fomented by the enemies of the government, is at length ripened into a kind of insurrection against the constituted authorities, and the laws themselves of the country, it becomes the duty of the friends of American independence, and of that obedience to the constitution and laws of the United States, without which neither independence, union or government, can subsist, to meet and repel those daring proceedings by declarations and engagements as decisive and as solemn as those of their opponents; it is therefore by this meeting further

Resolved, That the administration immediately preceding that which has for the last eight years directed the affairs of the United States, lost the confidence of the people by a continued train of political iniquities, obvious to the sense and feelings of the community, and by the development of principles opposite to the simplicity of republican government, and hostile to civil liberty and equal rights; that the party who supported that administration have given conclusive proofs of a conscious and irreconcilable enmity to the

principles of government, sanctioned and consecrated by the American people in three successive instances, and that they have given no proofs or indications whatever that the public interests would be promoted by their return to power.

Resolved, That the administration of President Jefferson has produced and realized the most solid advantages to this country, in the relief of the people from unnecessary taxes, the redemption of a great part of the public debt, the extension of territory and national power, and in the increasing prosperity of the country, so long as the envy and hostility of foreign nations, excited by that prosperity, continued to be in any degree restrained.

Resolved, That the aggressions and injuries of those nations, which have interrupted the commerce, and which threaten the peace of the United States, cannot, with a shadow of justice, be attributed to any want of care, foresight or energy, in the American government; but are to be ascribed only to the ambitious and grasping views of those enemies of human repose, the two great belligerent powers of Europe, and to the encouragement given to such aggressions by the violent party efforts which embarrass and distract our public councils.

Resolved, That the law laying an embargo on the vessels and merchandise of the United States, was a wise, salutary and indispensable measure; that the expediency of it was never questioned until the infamous production of Timothy Pickering taught the enemies of the government the use that might be made of it to their advantage; that the supplements to this law, as being found absolutely necessary to secure its observance and due effect, were likewise wise and salutary, and that the violent opposition made to those laws, does, in the opinion of this meeting, take its rise, not in a spirit of patriotism, but in an ardent desire to perplex, embarrass and destroy the administration, at whose instance they are alleged to have been framed, and by exaggerated pictures of distress, and by fordid and base appeals to considerations of immediate convenience, in disregard of national honour and permanent advantages, to subvert in the minds of the people those sentiments and principles which have so long secured their confidence in that administration.

Resolved, That it appears to this meeting that the system of opposition here described is of a character altogether new and unexampled in this country; that it operates to the encouragement and support of the most injurious and inadmissible pretensions against the commercial rights of the United States; that it strikes at the root of our national existence, and that the audacious and treasonable form which it has at length assumed calls upon the good people of these states to determine, explicitly, whether their affairs shall be directed by a discontented and ambitious faction, or by their government regularly chosen and constituted.

Resolved, That this meeting cannot hesitate upon the question here presented, and that if it were true that those who administer the government were justly chargeable with the imbecility or even with the partialities falsely imputed to them, a system of opposition which includes an avowed and practical refusal to the laws of the country, could on no principle be entitled to any thing but the severest reprobation.

Resolved, That the charge made against the administration of partiality towards a foreign power is a false, malignant and scandalous accusation, not countenanced by a single fact, or by the slightest appearance of such partiality.

Resolved, That the public affairs of this country, in every department thereof, have been administered during the last eight years with ability and integrity, and with the purest regard and devotion to the interests of the people and the national safety and honour, and that the present administration is therefore justly entitled to the applause and confidence of the people.

Resolved, That the individuals composing this meeting, will, by all the means in their power, discountenance and oppose the virulent and dangerous attack made on the government and laws of the country, and that they will, at every hazard, and every sacrifice, be ready to contribute their assistance to the protection and support of both.

Resolved, That although it is the decided opinion of this meeting, not only that the embargo was a wise and necessary measure, but that it has produced a most beneficial effect, in drawing the attention of the community to domestic pursuits essential to the real and complete independence of these states, they deny and repel with indignation the charge made against the advocates of this measure, of intending to abandon foreign commerce, and to surrender the right of navigating the ocean; on the contrary, whenever it shall appear that the embargo cannot be persisted in with a reasonable prospect of recovering the rights of commerce by pacific adjustments, they will be ready to approve of a resort to war for that purpose, against any

power that may continue to infringe those rights; that, on this point, they confide in the wisdom, resolution and patriotism, of the government, and in the event of such appeal to arms, they confide also in the virtue, fortitude and patriotism, of the American people for a happy and glorious issue to the struggle, and pledge themselves to encounter cheerfully every risk of life or fortune that may be required of them for the accomplishment of that object.

Resolved, That this meeting will hold correspondence with other republican associations, and that Robert Wright, William Kilty, John Johnson, Lewis Duvall, James Boyle, John Kilty and Thomas W. Hall, be a committee for that purpose, and be authorized to reconvene the said meeting whenever they shall find it expedient.

Resolved, That the proceedings of this meeting be published in the Maryland Gazette and all the republican papers within this state, and that the republican printers in other states be requested also to publish them, so far as they may find it convenient.

The resolutions being read through, on motion of Mr. Boyle, the governor, as chairman of the meeting, was requested to fill up the blank left for the names of the committee of correspondence, to which the meeting assenting, William Kilty, John Johnson, Lewis Duvall, James Boyle, John Kilty and Thomas W. Hall, were chosen. The governor was then requested to act as chairman of the committee of correspondence by the unanimous voice of those present. The question was then put upon the passage of the resolutions, and no one answering in the negative, his excellency observed that as there appeared to be no dissenting voices he would put the question whether the resolutions should be entered as being passed unanimously, which was also assented to.

It was with heartfelt gratification we observed some respectable federalists present, who appeared disposed to cooperate with the friends of government in the joint support of their common country. The governor then returned his thanks to the meeting for their prompt attention to the summons, and for their orderly deportment, during the continuance of the meeting. His excellency and the secretary of the meeting having retired, the following resolve was proposed, and unanimously adopted.

Resolved, That the thanks of this meeting be presented to his Excellency Gov. Wright, as chairman, and Col. John Gassaway, as secretary of this meeting.

For the MARYLAND GAZETTE.

To the Citizens of Anne-Arundel County.

AMIDST the conflicts of the times, fellow-citizens, it may not be improper, thus early, to call your attention towards proper characters to represent you in the next delegation of this state. In the organization and formation of the government of the state of Maryland, the framers of the constitution, who secured to you the right of annual election, no doubt concluded, that the same scrutiny, the same reasons would continue to influence the people in the choice of representatives, the proper guardians of life, liberty and property, and therefore made it a provisional expression in the constitution, that you should elect "the most discreet and sensible men." How far the people have unerringly adhered to this admonition, or how far they have respectfully attended to this important consideration, bequeathed and devolved to them by their ancestors, is too palpably to be seen, by turning for a moment to our legislative body! I will not to cast odium, imputation or reflection, on that honourable body; but I will most candidly, and solemnly to my God, I could see it at this momentous crisis composed of men whose talents and learning, whose habits and occupation, and whose intercourse, had enabled them to come under the class of "the most discreet and sensible men." I respect each member we have sent as good citizens; I revere them for their good attempts, (if any they have made,) to do good. At an eventful and important period like the present, pregnant with all the dangers which can threaten us from abroad, and too justly severed in opinions at home, it is just cause, it is sufficient grounds for citizens to awaken to a sense of their situation. Two great belligerent powers of Europe, engaged in an exterminating war, whose several interests and aggrandizements have swallowed in the vortex other powers of a minor importance, leaving us, the United States, as the only spot where liberty may be said to prevail. Fellow-citizens, when we look for a moment at the national government of the United States, and discover that the greatest schism and contrariety of opinion has prevailed in that body, is it not enough to rouse our republican spirit, and give it additional vigour, join hand and hand, each citizen of his country, bury all party spirit in oblivion, and as a band of brothers, united in the common cause, rally around the government of your country, and declare that these United States shall be free. Let union of opinion prevail; let firmness mark every footstep. Let foreign governments

and powers, and foreign empires see, that we are not a divided people. A great and important consideration, and an additional very essential step, at the present critical juncture, when the country is on the eve of being plunged into all the horrors of war, is to have men placed in your public councils of firmness, understanding and attachment to the country; men whose talents and activity in that situation may enable them to be of the most advantage, men whose opportunities, by either education or experience, and acquaintance with the history of nations and laws, may qualify them to meet the appointment with advantage to the state, and honor to themselves. Yes, fellow-citizens, we are men divested of all party prejudice, men calm, deliberate and independent judgment, men competent to decide upon and determine questions of magnitude that may arise, either in the general government or the governments of the individual states. Fellow-citizens, I had been ever so much engaged in party rancour, or had taken ever so active a part in electioneering schemes, the present situation of this our common country, threatened by transatlantic foes, threatened if we only persist from our ports with destruction and desolation; this is enough to rouse our American blood; this has set into accelerated circulation that portion of the blood of '76, which has been transmitted to me unsullied by my ancestors.

When war takes place, the energies of the nation are called into action, financial and fiscal arrangements must be dealt with, the raising the tender infant babe, just emerging from its embryo fount; this, the vital strength of your existence must be handled with delicacy and prudence, with judgment and knowledge, otherwise inextricable difficulties and ruin is the irretrievable consequence; but requires the aid of talents, this requires the labour of judgment, with industry and industry here is where your present legislators are deficient, here as public functionaries they must feel conscientiously inadequate. In this awful state of times, the statesman, the financier, the accountant, the historian and the philosopher, is wanted. Fellow-citizens, are there such men, if you have them; your liberty depends upon it. In viewing the subject of the embargo, it is perhaps the greatest national question that ever engaged the public councils of any country; I think its merit rest yet to be determined; the government voted it by a large majority; it is always the duty of every good citizen to submit and support his government in a constitutional way, for us to contend to force our way, to attempt by defiance, in opposition to the edicts and orders of the two great European powers, to carry on our accustomed trade over that road which Almighty God intended free to all mankind, is as feeble and as impotent, it would be an attempt to enact and execute laws to stop and counteract the rules of nature, or control the elements of Heaven. Placed by that Almighty disposer of events in a retired and remote quarter of the globe, free and unconnected in the disputes and controversies of foreign powers engaged in war, unprepared and disadvantageous for us to join in their conflicts, we must, with the majesty of an independent nation, withdraw into retirement, disdaining to share a part in either cause, but live and enjoy all the resources which bountiful nature has so abundantly bestowed.

This desirable state of tranquillity may be molested, therefore a jealous eye is a watchful guardian; the patriotic struggles of Spain attempting to emerge from the shackles of tyranny, is now overrun, and most unjustly by encroached upon, by that tyrant monarch who has demolished some of the fairest portions of Europe; to unlimited distances extends his conquests by land; every American heart should burn with patriotic fire, and pray that Spain may be able to save herself from the jaws of pollution; on the other hand every American breast should feel indignant at British outrage, she has insulted you at your own door, and murdered your citizens; she has impressed unlawfully into her ships of war your native seamen; she has plundered upon the high seas your merchant property, and compels you to pay her a tributary license to trade to the European continent and dependencies. These, and like like impolitions, fellow-citizens, from the powers of Europe, are the sufferings you endure, and the burthens and difficulties which you are bound to extricate yourselves. It is not the weak and feeble mind, the ignorant and unacquainted historian, that canathom the diplomatic machinations of the governments and relieve you; it must be men of erudition and science, men of learning and information, conversant in affairs of government, men of historical information and exultation, to commit the care of your property, the cares of your life, liberty and happiness; you may then be considered safe, you may then repose in security, and say to foreign emissaries, Depart ye workers of iniquity, I know ye not.

When we compare the happy state of our country with those who are amidst the storm