

of experience, attend to the sentiments he utters, for they are founded on truth, which is as stable as the everlasting hills.

WHY ARE WE AT WAR?

I am feeble and old, and as you will perceive, without my telling you, not much gifted with the power of fine writing, being a plain farmer like most of my neighbours, who live round me in the country, can only express my opinion in a plain simple way, such as may suit a brother farmer's taste, and I do not expect or wish that people better educated should either read or admire my writings.

Perhaps I may be asked, why I write at all on subjects beyond my reach? I answer, my sufferings and my fears will not permit me to be silent, and as to going beyond my depth, I shall take care to say only what I know, and to reason only upon what I fully understand. Even an Old Farmer may sometimes give good advice, which much more learned men would do well to follow; and as to a farmer's honesty, as he has no interest in the misfortune of his country, but both his farm and his labour must rise, stand and fall, with the prosperity of the nation, he is a much more fit counsellor in times of peril and adversity, than soldiers or other military men; than army contractors, public officers, and the thousand other leeches who feed upon the blood of the nation, when it is once set flowing by war.

I intend to give my opinions to my fellow-citizens and fellow-sufferers, on the subject most intimately connected with the present unhappy condition of our beloved country—I mean the war. As age has served to cool my passions, so I hope, experience, its offspring, has enlightened my understanding. While I intend that my remarks shall be plain and clear, I mean also to be cool and self-collected. I therefore give warning beforehand, to every man who is a warm, obstinate, passionate partizan, whether he calls himself federalist or democrat, or republican, (I don't care for names)—to every man who wants an office more than he wants peace and prosperity, that he had better lay aside my addresses—he will find nothing in them to suit him. I write to the moderate, the dispassionate, the honest of all parties.

THE SUBJECT OF THIS ADDRESS IS,

WHY ARE WE AT WAR?

This is a question which I am often asked by my neighbours, and they think because I take the newspapers and read a good deal, and because I have been a delegate to the general assembly four or five years, I must know. Now I have no objection to letting any body hear or see what I do know about it, and though it may not be new to many it may be to some.

I always think it a bad sign of a man's honesty when I find him shifting his ground of argument or complaint against his neighbours. Before the war began, after the settlement of that old affair of the Chesapeake, I never used to hear of any thing but the British Orders in Council, as the grand cause of complaint. I remember well, when Mr. Madison made a settlement with the British minister Erskine, there was not a word said about any complaint but the Orders in Council; and I recollect still better than that, Mr. Monroe, our Secretary, by order of Mr. Madison, told Mr. Foster, the very last British minister who was here, that Great-Britain would repeal her Orders in Council, she should have full and free trade as she ever had.

Now, my brother farmers, why should we change our language? It is now said we are at war on account of the impressment of our seamen.

The British repealed their orders in council fourteen months ago, and ask, whether the practice of impressing British seamen out of our vessels, is not as old as the hills? I am told—yes. I ask again, were not as many mistakes committed twenty years ago in taking our few Americans instead of English men as there have been of late? I have been told many more. I ask farther, did not Mr. Foster, the British minister, fairly offer, if any American had been taken in that mistake, to get them clear and let them at liberty, if our government would give him a list of them? I read in the National Intelligencer, published at Washington, and which is considered the government paper, yet so little in reality did Mr. Madison or Mr. Monroe care about these Americans, who they say

are numerous, and about whom they make so much noise to inflame the minds of the people to the proper pitch for war, that they refused to give Mr. Foster any such list.

It being then settled that this war is continued, and all its evils sustained, merely because Great-Britain insists upon taking her own seamen when they runaway and get into our service, and because a very few instances of mistakes, or abuse in exercising this right have occurred (which as far as I can learn are corrected when proved) I sat down, after looking as deep as a plain farmer could do into the question, and gave my neighbours the reasons why I was opposed to shedding one drop of our true native American blood, or expending even one million of dollars, instead of forty millions a year, in such a cause. My reasons were,

1. I never could see why nations ought not to be as honest towards one another as men in their private dealings. Now if my neighbour's son, or his bound apprentice, runs away, the law allows him to enter my farm, and even my house, and to take him away, if he takes shelter there, and allows him moreover to sue me for damages, if I harbour him. Now I never could see any good reason why Britain should not take her own sailors out of our merchant ships, when her very existence depends upon her sailors being kept at home. If we were in the same situation, we should not like it much, I reckon, if we were prevented from taking up our seamen, who had runaway from our country in time of danger.

2. My second reason against continuing the war on account of the impressment of British sailors is, that I find that G. Britain, six years ago, offered to place this matter on such a footing as appeared to our own two ministers, Mr. Monroe and Mr. Pinkney, to be both honourable and advantageous to the U. S. I learn that one of these men is now our Secretary of State, and the other our Attorney-General, and I cannot perceive why the people should not be satisfied with what was considered so advantageous and honourable to two great and learned men of Mr. Madison's party.

I cannot see that there can be any justice in continuing a war, when such honourable and advantageous offers have been made and may now be obtained.

3. I find, also upon examination, that the number of seamen taken, is by no means so great as has been represented; and that in the lists of names that have been published, names are frequently repeated five times, more frequently four times, and very often indeed three times and twice; that many others that were bona fide Americans have voluntarily engaged to serve on board British ships, thereby deserting their own country, like the British sailors who have come to this; that a great many of the number were foreigners, with false American pretensions; and that by far the greater number of the real Americans, that had been taken, have been delivered up, on its being proved they were real Americans. When I look round in my own neighbourhood, I cannot hear of a single person ever having been impressed; and I intimate all honest farmers to make the same inquiry. I read also the other day the deposition of William Gray, whom I am told is the greatest merchant in the U. States, who is more of a democrat, and a supporter of Mr. Madison, and he swears, that tho' he has been in business from forty to fifty years, and has for the last 15 or 20 years employed upon an average three hundred seamen, he has had only two men impressed by the British, and three by the French—and that the two impressed by the British escaped very soon after.

From all these circumstances, I think my brother farmers will be ready to conclude, that on this subject there has been "much cry but little wool."

4. I think it important for us in this country, who are liable to be called for want of information, to inquire whether we shall not probably lose more than we shall gain, if G. Britain should agree, that our ships shall protect her seamen against her search and impressment. This will be certain loss to her and no gain to us; because in proportion to the number of British seamen we employ, will be the diminution of our own, or the reduction of their wages—Now we ought to fight for that which if obtained will injure those for whom the war is pretended to be prosecuted. Besides, the glory and success of our country depend almost entirely upon

the kind of men who fight in it; and I ask if it is not natural to suppose that true native born Americans will fight harder and braver for us than your runaway Englishmen, who having deserted their own country in time of her need, would be still more likely to desert ours when hard times came, and danger was at the door.

5. Now, brother farmers, G. Britain does not pretend to say she has a right to our seamen—She only says we shall not harbour her runaways; and if we do, she will take them wherever she can find them. Now I ask: you, whether if any of our sailors, now we are at war and in need of them, should run away from our glorious Hull, or Decatur, or Bainbridge, or Jones, or Morris, and another nation, say Spain, should say to them come here into our vessels we will give you higher wages and protect you; I ask now all honest people, whether you would not be these base deserters if you could catch them with the Spaniards, who had seduced them away, & compelled them to fight for their country which had protected them in the days of prosperity? If so, I say take the good old rule for your conduct, and "Do unto others as you would have them do to you."

But if people think we shall succeed, I should like to have them begin by raising the blockade of the Chesapeake Bay, for as I understand it, all our great and small frigates are in port but two, and yet our President, some short time ago, could not go a fishing from the seat of government without asking leave of the British Admiral. This way of mind does not look like forcing G. Britain to give up her claim to her own seamen.

On the whole, therefore, I conclude, that we are at war for the right to employ British seamen, and to protect her deserters under our flag—that we have very little chance of success in the object; and if we had full success, it would do us more harm than good; and it is what our merchants and our seamen, I mean native American seamen, do not want; and who amongst you, my friends, is willing, after toiling, and tugging, and sweating, to raise a little wheat or corn, or other produce, to take his pay in British sailors' rights instead of bank bills and dollars.

I am, therefore, against a war of which this is the sole object.

THE OLD FARMER.

For the Maryland Gazette.

Mr. Editor,

There can be no motive for answering the observations of a writer, who uses the signature of "Franklin," in the last Maryland Republican, but to guard the uninformed against the errors into which his misrepresentations may lead them. This writer is either unacquainted with the law of nations in regard to flags of truce, and the cases in which they may be used, or has wilfully attempted to deceive the people. The governor of the state, fortunately for its citizens, is infinitely above such attacks, or our defence: non eget talibus defensoribus—but it may be proper to remark, on the highest authority upon national law, Vattel, "that a flag of truce can only be sent from a commander in chief to a commander in chief;" that is, in the cases and on the consideration, from the Governor of Maryland to Sir John Borlase Warren. As the admiral's ship was then lying in the Bay, the governor had no power to grant a flag to a boat proceeding from Annapolis to Kent-Island, nor would a flag, "for such a purpose," if it had been granted contrary to law, from motives of feeling and humanity, have entitled the bearer to protection. For the same reason the flag was unlawful which went from the British fleet to some part of Herring Bay, where the pigs, noted by "Franklin" in italics, were taken. It was therefore highly proper, that the governor should send even one of the executive council, to admiral Warren, to remonstrate against an abuse which, if persisted in, would have put an end to the use of flags of truce, so beneficial, when legally employed in alleviating and diminishing the evils of war. (See Vattel, book 4, chap. 7 591.)

To put the other subjects mentioned by this writer upon the true footing, you will please to state, that the flag of truce, said to have been granted to a federal young gentleman, was granted by the governor, at the request of the Secretary of War, General Armstrong, to a French lady, and directed by her desire, to a young gentleman of her acquaintance, that he might be authorised to go with her to the fleet as an attendant and protector. You are further authorised to state, that the flag of truce to admiral Warren, for the recovery of runaway negroes, was granted by the governor, not to federalists, as intimated by this writer, but to Mr. John Watkins, a known democrat; at whose request it

was directed to Captain Franklin, who commanded a company of militia stationed in Mr. Watkins' vicinity, opposite at that time to the fleet. The other gentleman who accompanied them, went with a view to identify one of the negroes, and with the hope of regaining the property of his two nearest neighbours, who were absent at the Springs, on account of their health.

LAW & JUSTICE.

Mr. Green,

A few days since was put into my hands, by a friend, the Maryland Republican, wherein I discovered a notice of Jehu Chandler, calling on me to retract, as he says "an infamous falsehood." My friends have advised me to pass him by unnoticed. But for the sake of truth, I will state the circumstance, I suppose he alludes to. Sometime in the summer of 1812, when I was a candidate for A. A. county, I sent political numbers for publication in the Maryland Republican; two numbers were published; the third he refused insertion. On those published there were editorial and other comments and observations, replete with false charges and lies. I called on Mr. Chandler for explanation, and to know from what authority those charges were made; he gave me no other satisfaction than acknowledging he had no authority for his charges and assertions; he equivocated at first, by saying he was induced to think so, he thought he had heard some one say so, he believed so, &c. &c. I told him I had always treated him respectfully, & had been a subscriber to the paper since its establishment, and tho' his conduct strange and unwarrantable; he finally agreed, if I would suspend further publications on the subject of the then approaching election, he would stop all remarks, charges, or publications against me; this was mutually agreed on. Mr. Wm. H. Marriott went into the office with me, and I do suppose recollects some of the conversation.—Mr. Marriott was not constantly in the office during my stay, he sometimes walked to the door, and in the passage, and frequently said to me, in our familiar way, "Come Doctor let's go, Come let's go; the business is settled now; I think you need not be the least uneasy about your election." Mr. Marriott was in a hurry, and anxious to go down street, I think to the Clerk's office, to do some business for me as my attorney, and had actually stepped from the door; and when I came out, was on the other side the street, next the Church, waiting. It was during this time a further conversation took place between Mr. Chandler and myself. I observed how very unpleasant it was to be a candidate, and engaged in a warm contest for an election; a man hardly knew his friends—& at the same moment I observed, (having been recently so abused by lies and false charges) what a damn dog's life his must be vilifying and abusing people in a newspaper; in which he acquiesced by saying, "he could not help it; he was employed to advocate the policy and measures of the then administration, by which he got his living; had he any other way by which he could get a maintenance, he would not follow it; that he would not suffer anything to appear in the columns of his paper, that was not in accordance or union with the policy then adopted;" Giving me to understand, that my impression and inference was, that he was paid by some person or persons, for such services. At the meeting in July on Mr. Lusby's farm, Mr. Chandler said he wished to speak to me, and I remarked the above circumstances to him in the presence of Mr. Jas. Williamson; at the time we were talking Mr. Williamson came up, and I requested him to bear witness to the conversation. After we had conversed awhile, I observed Mr. Tuck near us; and do suppose he may recollect part of the conversation, for we were frequently interrupted during the time. Mr. Bowie or Maxey was addressing the people, and the attention of all of us was occasionally directed that way in listening to arguments. Some other remarks were made by me respecting his continued and unwarrantable abuse of Doctor Dorsey, Col. Mercer, Governor Winder, and his unpardonable imposition on Lieut. Chauncey, together with a few animadversions on the liberty and licentiousness of the press.—Mr. Chandler said he had a certificate from Mr. Marriott, to which I replied, when I went to Annapolis I would call on Mr. Marriott, but have since thought it quite unnecessary to trouble him about what he is not interested in, in fact, Mr. Chandler mentioned this circumstance to me at September Term 1812, and asked me for a certificate in some measure to do away the report, as he was fearful it would injure him—I gave him no satisfaction. If he was a man of truth he would not deny it; but he now denies the whole circumstance, and says it is false I then asked him who told him what I had said, he replied Mr. Lane and Mr. Estep, jun. in the presence of Mr. Williamson. I declared I had no recollection of mentioning it to those gentlemen, nor do I remember it now; but it is probable they may have heard me say so, for I uniformly mentioned it at different meetings of the people in the county. If Messrs. Estep & Lane say I mentioned it to them individually, I am not sensible of the time or place—But I have mentioned it as stated above, to perhaps an

hundred others, and this Mr. Chandler has well known since September 1812. He spoke to me in court about it, and Mr. Key came to me immediately after and observed, "what was Chandler whispering in your ear about?" Since the unfounded attack he made on Governor Winder, I have withdrawn myself as a subscriber to his paper, and he now thinks proper to recommence his abuse. The above are facts truly stated—and I am of opinion, a life of many years of unsullied reputation, in various stations public and private, cannot be injured by malicious publications in the Maryland Republican.

AND WARFIELD.

Albanore, Sept. 10, 1813.

From the Boston Centinel of Sept. 2.

SIXTH NAVAL ACHIEVEMENT.

An express arrived here yesterday bringing a despatch from the Navy Agent in Portland, and forwarded by com. Hull, from Portsmouth, containing the following particulars of the capture of the British brig of war Boxer, of 18 guns, captain Samuel Blyth—to wit:

"The United States' brig Enterprize, Lieut. WILLIAM BURROWS, on Friday last, between Seguin and Cape Elizabeth, fell in with his Britannic Majesty's brig Boxer, captain Blyth, rating fourteen and mounting 18 guns to wit—16 18 pound carronades, and two long 9 pounders; which she captured after an action of 45 minutes. On board the Enterprize, her Commander Lt. Burrows, and one man killed, and seven wounded; on board the Boxer, her Commander, Captain Blyth, was killed, and between 40 and 50 killed and wounded.—both vessels were much cut up, and have both arrived in Portland.

The above is the substance of the despatch. In addition, it is stated that the Enterprize, rates 14 but mounts 16 guns, viz. fourteen 18 pound carronades, and 2 long nines; and had on board, when she sailed from Portsmouth 102 persons, including officers, seamen and marines. The Boxer is stated to be nearly a third heavier tonnage than the Enterprize.

The despatch from Com. Hull states, that the officers who fell on board the Enterprize and Boxer were to be buried, with martial honors this day, in Portland; and requested that all naval officers who could conveniently, would attend the funeral.

While the tribute of praise and gratitude is so eminently due to the gallant and lamented Commander, whose achievement has encircled his country's Naval Column with another bright wreath of renown, and who has died in the arms of victory; it is due to justice to state, that until within these few days, the Enterprize has been commanded by Captain Blakely; and that to the skill and attention of this able and experienced naval officer in disciplining his crew, in a good degree is attributed the execution which has dealt such destruction to the enemy, and which has added a respectable vessel to our infant navy. The deeply lamented lieutenant Burrows, was son of the deceased col. Burrows, of the marine corps.

Captain Blakely, who formerly commanded the U. S. brig Enterprize, has lately been ordered to take command of the Wasp sloop of war now building at Newburyport.

In addition to the above, we have it from unquestionable authority that the Enterprize rates 14, but mounts 16 guns, viz.—fourteen eighteen pounders, and two long 9's, and that the Boxer is one third more tonnage than the Enterprize, whose tonnage by the carpenter's measurement is 163 tons. She had on board 102 persons including officers, seamen and marines. The crew of the Boxer we understand, consisted of 75 men.

Captain Blanchard, from Portland says the Boxer is much injured—topsails full of shot holes—mainsail masts with the yards shot away—staysails all gone, except the main one. Several boats went out from Portland to assist in getting them in. The day before the Boxer was at anchor off Seguin light—a boat which was boarded from her brought the intelligence into Portland; immediately after, the U. S. brig Enterprize, then in Portland harbour, got under weigh & went out to give her battle.

NEWPORT, Sept. 4.

FROM ENGLAND AND SPAIN.

Last evening arrived ship Dumfries, Captain Grosh, 30 days from Cadiz.

A passenger in the Dumfries who left England on the 5th July, informs us, that the Duke of Montrose Packet, taken by the frigate President, arrived at Falmouth about the last of June, as a cartel, with 80 prisoners, but the British government re-

fused to acknowledge them as such, and ordered that the officer having charge of the cartel, should be kept on board of the king's brig Mutine, to sail for Halifax in all July, and the packet was restored to the original owners. He also informed us that commodore Rodgers had taken and destroyed 14 sail of British merchant vessels.

Nothing was known in England as to the determination of the British government respecting the Russian mediation—although the arrival of our ministers at Gottenburgh was known. The object of their mission appeared to excite but very little conversation. We do not observe a single article on the subject in our London papers.

Mr. Madison's Message at the opening of Congress had reached London. The "Star" describes it as "abounding more in rancorous denunciations of animosity against G. B. than any former production, and might be called a new manifesto against G. Britain."

Mr. Addington, a British agent has arrived at Prague. But this cannot be a Plenipo.

THE CHANCERY COURT

Will sit at Annapolis for the hearing of causes on Tuesday the 28th of Sept. 1813.

By order, JAMES P. HEATH, Reg. Cur. Can.

September 16. 2w.

This is to give notice,

That the subscriber hath obtained from the Orphans Court of Anne-Arundel County, letters of administration de bonis non, on the personal estate of John Wastenays, late of Anne Arundel county, deceased. All persons having claims against said estate are requested to bring them in legally authenticated, and those indebted to make payment to THOMAS SELLMAN, Adm'r. de bonis non with the w. a. September 16. 3w.

Public Sale.

Pursuant to an order of the orphans court of Anne-Arundel county, will be offered at Public Sale, on Tuesday the 12th day of October next, at Thomas Morton's on Herring Creek, all the personal property of John Wastenays, late of said county, deceased, to wit:

Several valuable Negro Men, one Woman and four Children; one Horse, and Household Furniture, or so much of said property as will pay the claims against said estate. The above property will be sold on a credit of 3 months; the purchasers to give bond with approved security, with interest from the day of sale. Sale to commence at 11 o'clock.

THOMAS SELLMAN Adm'r. D. N. W. A.

Sept. 16.

A Bar Keeper Wanted.

A person qualified to discharge the duties of a Bar Keeper, will meet with an eligible situation at the City Tavern, Annapolis. Sept. 16. tf

An Overseer Wanted.

The subscriber wants a person who can be well recommended for his industry and good conduct, to take the management of a Farm, and a number of hands, on the south side of Severn river. For such an one liberal wages will be given.

FRANCIS T. CLEMENTS. Sept. 16.

NOTICE.

I hereby forwarn all persons from hunting with either dog or gun, or in any manner trespassing on my plantation in South River Neck, as I am determined to put the law in force against all such offenders, without any favour or affection.

RICHARD BATTEE. Sept. 16th, 1813. 3w

Anne-Arundel county, sc.

I hereby certify, that Andrew Parker brought before me, as a trespassing stray, a Black Horse, about sixteen hands high, much marked with the collar, no other perceivable mark.

NICHOLS WATKINS, of Thos.

The owner of the above Horse is requested to prove property, pay charges, and take him away.

ANDREW PARKER. Having on the Head of South River. Sept. 16. 3w.

NOTICE.

There will be a petition presented to the next General Assembly of this state for a road, to commence at a landing occupied by the Messieurs Boones, on a creek called Deep Creek, that makes out of Magothy river, in Anne-Arundel county, and to run from the said landing, along on the same tract of a large cart road, now used by the said Boones, and others, until it intersects the public main road, at the back of the Messieurs Boones peach orchard, that leads from Broad Neck up through the neighbourhood of Magothy river.

Sept. 16. 6w.

11/27/13 J. P. Co. 3