

For the Maryland Gazette.

For some weeks past we have seen it announced in the democratic prints, that the hon. Samuel Dexter, a distinguished federalist, was selected as the democratic governor of Massachusetts. Upon the occasion of his nomination, the most sincere congratulations were expressed by the democratic printers. If such a man as Mr. Dexter could be chosen governor of such a state as Massachusetts, then every thing was to be well, because Mr. Dexter, as the republican convention at Boston told us, was a man of unrivalled talents, "inflexible integrity," incapable of being influenced of "dishonourable motives;" a man who "would maintain the honour and defend the rights of the U. States."

All this is very handsome, and if true, as we must believe when we are so told by the real patriots of the land, then the opinions of this gentleman must be entitled to great weight. Now it so happens, that this gentleman with his unrivalled talents, inflexible integrity, &c. &c. does not chuse to be the democratic candidate, and has published his political creed, simply because, as he says, he chuses that they (the democrats) should know it. He begins by assuring them, that with respect to the whole system of commercial restrictions, the embargo, non-intercourse and non-importation laws, he "differs radically from them;" and assigns for this radical difference, seven different reasons; and, as he tells them too, no man will deny that they are sufficient—And what may it be supposed are these seven reasons? 1st. *These laws were a violation of the constitution.* 2d. They could not be executed. 3d. Such laws have a tendency to corrupt the nation, and render perfidy familiar. 4th. They can have no effect upon foreign nations. 5th. Unjust and oppressive to the commercial part of the community. 6th. They sacrifice our principal source of revenue and reduce us to the necessity of laying taxes, borrowing money, accumulating debt, &c. &c. and 7th. They aim a fatal blow at our unexampled progress, wealth, &c. Now, as Mr. Dexter tells the democrats, these are reasons enough in all conscience, and after the fulsome compliments which he has been accustomed to receive lately, it was rather unkind in this gentleman to say so many harsh things of the favourite system of administration and its friends. And after this, is Mr. Dexter really a patriot, and a true friend to his country, as the democrats say? If so, why abuse other federalists? Surely none have been more violent in their abuse of Madison and his party than this gentleman. In a few lines he tells us, that they have been guilty of perjury themselves, and encourage others to commit the same crime; that their whole policy was calculated to produce ruin at home, and nothing but derision and contempt abroad. If there be a man in the nation who has spoken of the men in power too indelicately to be endured, it is this Mr. Dexter; and yet, be it remembered, that Mr. Dexter is a man of unrivalled talents, of the purest views, the most inflexible integrity, and the friend to the interests and honour of his country.

Having thus outrageously abused the system of commercial restrictions, he proceeds to tell us what he thinks "the government was rick'd," and for which he manifests as little fondness as for the commercial restrictions. He condemns it to be an "indiscriminate opposition," which he says the federalists have made to the war, but we shall presently see whether any federalist of the land can have been more indiscriminate in his opposition to this war, and all the measures which have grown out of it, as well as preceded it, than this same Mr. Dexter—the honourable Mr. Dexter himself. In the first place we are told by this gentleman, that war might have been avoided, if "a wise policy" had been pursued, and in order that he may be better understood, he reprobates a resort "to an untried theory so ruinous and inadequate for redress of the serious aggressions we have suffered from the belligerent powers of Europe in full view of the success which had crowned more magnanimous efforts;" and in order to avoid the possibility of being misunderstood, he mentions the "wise policy," and magnanimous efforts, of Washington and Adams,

to a departure from which all our miseries and disasters are ascribed by him.

"It is a fundamental law of every civil society," says Mr. Dexter, "that when a question is settled by the constituted authority, every individual is bound to respect the decision." This no doubt is true; if properly understood. A man is not to refuse obedience to a law because of that law he disapproves. The friends of peace are not to refuse payment of the taxes, which congress have laid, because they conscientiously believe that the money, thus to be obtained, will be improperly expended, and the people ought not to be taxed in order to continue a wasteful, ruinous and unnecessary war. It is not to be presumed that Mr. Dexter designed in this place to deny the right of the people, in all possible events, to change the government; or when the great objects for which all governments are established cannot be obtained, to take measures necessary for their safety, prosperity and happiness." To say this, would be not only to deny our right to throw off allegiance to the British government, but would be at war with what are called the fundamental rights of every people, as explained in the several declarations of rights prefixed to our state constitutions. For the constitution of Maryland, and indeed in almost every other state constitution, we are told, that "the doctrine of non-resistance against arbitrary oppression is absurd, slavish, and destructive of the good and happiness of mankind." So too in our declaration of independence, which our best patriots so passionately admire, we learn, that "Prudence, indeed, will dictate, that governments long established shall not be changed for light and transient causes; and accordingly all experience hath shown, 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."

Now, very unlike to these good, & wholesome principles of '76, are the base, sordid, and servile doctrines of the present day! But it would be doing great injustice to Mr. Dexter to suppose that in his publication he designs to impute the duty of blind submission to the constituted authorities, or to say that their acts are not to be boldly and fearlessly examined, and when wrong, to be openly condemned; or that he is contending for anything more, than that so long as a law is in force, it ought to be suffered to be executed. To suppose this, would be to charge him with the strangest inconsistency, because, be it remembered, that this fundamental principle of every society would apply as well to the system of commercial restrictions as to the declaration of war, and Mr. Dexter's seven reasons for reprobating that system must be sufficient at least to prove, that altho' the question, whether the nation should be subjected to the miseries of that system, was "settled by the constituted authority"—this gentleman has not considered himself bound to feel any very great respect for that decision. Mr. Dexter was right when he did not consider himself at liberty, as a good citizen, "to degrade the resources and magnanimity of our country;" but neither he nor any other man of truth, will say, that this has been any part of the federal policy. When our gallant little navy had gained to itself, and to the nation, immortal honour, by its signal victories, was it attempted by the federalists either to underrate its merits or to destroy its usefulness? On the contrary, have not the federal men both in and out of Congress, urged the administration to increase the navy, to rely upon it for protection? and were they not told upon the floor of congress that if they would ask for a loan of money to be expended on the navy the federalists would cheerfully vote the law and afterwards loan the money? When disaster has befallen our armies, although to this species of defence federalists had been opposed, because it was useless for any valuable purpose, and might in time be employed by some ambitious chieftain to enslave the country, yet nobody has heard federal men undertake to depreciate the valour of their countrymen, or to ascribe our defeats to the cowardice of the men—On the

contrary, our defeats have been uniformly ascribed to other and very different causes. The men have uniformly proved themselves to be brave and with proper officers, and properly supplied, would have been successful. On the land we have been defeated and disgraced, because our officers were not fit to command, and our troops were perishing with hunger. And was it not the right, was it not the duty, of every real patriot, to let this be known to the world; to show that if we have been defeated it was not owing to the want of valour in our countrymen, but that in a righteous cause, and under such officers as the nation could furnish, if real merit was sought after, our successes on land would be equally brilliant with those on the ocean.

But although Mr. Dexter admits it to be the duty of every citizen, when a question is settled by the constituted authority, to respect that decision, yet he is careful to let us know, that he means to surrender none of his rights—he does not mean to forego the privilege of freely examining and freely censuring all the acts of administration. As a proof of it, he tells us immediately that he censures the administration not merely for its system of commercial restrictions, but also because the war, if to be declared at all, was declared at the wrong time, and when declared was conducted in a wrong manner; he even ventures to ascribe the declaration of war to "the retractory principle in our nature, which scatters thro' nations the miseries, crimes and desolation of war," and "which rend the bosom of the benevolent man."

Having declared his decided opposition to all the measures adopted previous to the war, to the declaration of war, and to the manner in which it has been conducted, Mr. Dexter next called upon himself to answer the question, "what is to be done when we conscientiously believe that a ruinous course of measures is pursued by our national rulers, and the dearest rights and interests of a great part of the United States disregarded and sacrificed?" The answer of Mr. Dexter is, "Examine the conduct and expose the errors of government—without preaching sedition. Give liberal support to their measures, when right, that you may be credited when you show that they are wrong." Mr. Dexter then is evidently not one of those who tell us, that as soon as war was declared all opposition to it was to cease, and even those who opposed it, and who continue to believe it wrong, are equally bound with its friends to unite in its support. He is for exposing the errors of government, and one would suppose that if they are to be exposed at all it must be after they are committed. He warns us, however, in exercising these unquestionable rights, not to preach sedition, and he might have added, that we ought not to all sedition and treason as did, on several occasions, the patriots of Pennsylvania. Again, we are to give liberal support to the administration when its acts are right; and here too he might have added, forbear to censure too harshly even the errors of administration, if springing from correct and pure motives. Mr. Dexter himself, however, we are bound to suppose, is little inclined to give his liberal support to any measure which has yet been sanctioned by the ruling party.

We have already seen in what terms he chuses to speak of the commercial restrictions, the war, and the manner in which it has been conducted. Another short extract from this address will enable us to discover yet more clearly, the opinion which Mr. Dexter entertains of the men now in power, their measures and their views; and why Mr. Dexter chuses they should know how radically he differs with them. "Magnanimous moderation, candid discussion, and experience of the evil consequences of Utopian projects, would do much to convince a majority of the community, that commerce is entitled to protection, that it is too valuable to the public to be sacrificed, that it is contradictory & unreasonable for the government to render great expenditures necessary by a declaration of war, at the same time to dry up the only productive source of revenues, and at the same moment destroy the confidence of the commercial parts of the country, where only capital stock exists; to lay taxes sufficient to produce popular odium, but the product of which will be inadequate to relieve the public necessity; and to prosecute, at an enormous expense, an useless and hopeless invasion, without

any of money or credit, and with a disguised people." These are the solemn declarations of a man, who for sometime has been eulogized in all the democratic papers on the continent; who has been pronounced "a star in the East," and of whom the republican convention at Boston, composed of the best and truest democratic blood, has said, "with a mind that is never influenced by local partialities or dishonourable motives; with unrivalled talents, and inflexible integrity; with a patriotism which appeals the enemies of his country's honour and peace, this gentleman is held up to the honest and virtuous for their support; the leaders of faction tremble at his rebuke—He is a friend to the government of the United States, and will maintain its honour and defend its rights." After this splendid if not somewhat extravagant eulogium, upon this gentleman, surely our democratic brethren will read with delight, and with profit also, this deliberate declaration of his opinion, with respect to the measures of administration, and will at length allow themselves to enquire, if all can be right when a man of such unrivalled talents, and unsullied purity, declares that "this is no party effusion, is not given with a design to justify the federalists, or to destroy the public confidence in the ruling party. Mr. Dexter chuses to find fault with the federalists and condemn an indiscriminate opposition to the administration—yet after reading his address to the electors of Massachusetts, will any man say, that the federalists have opposed any measure to which Mr. Dexter himself, entertaining the opinions which he has here expressed, could, as a conscientious man, have given his support. If the federalists in congress be reprehensible, then is this gentleman also; for in this short address he has proved that he goes all lengths with them in their opposition, and he has condensed into a small compass, all the grounds on which that opposition has been rested.

It would be easy, were it necessary, to show, that if the ruling party had been anxious to obtain any support from the friends of peace, it would not have been withholden. If the wise and patriotic council given to them by Mr. Bayard, in his speech upon the proposition to postpone the war bill until the nation had made some slight preparation for war, had been followed, and measures dictated by an imperious sense of duty to the nation had been adopted, the votes, as well as the purses, of the friends of peace, would have been offered to them; if the administration had asked for means of protection and security against the enemy, and had wished to comply with its first and greatest duty, "to provide for the common defence, and to protect each state against invasion," it could have encountered opposition only among its friends; but when instead of this it plunged the nation into a war without necessity and without preparation; when in place of affording to every section of the union complete and ample protection, it left almost every part of it utterly defenceless, and to be an unresisting prey to the enemy, and moreover, by an "useless and hopeless invasion" of a foreign territory, provoked the enemy to lay waste and destroy our homes and property; when in place of protecting them utterly annihilated trade, and then imposed enormous taxes, after taking from the people every means of paying them, it would have been treason against the nation not to have given to such a system of cruel oppression and injustice a fearless unceasing opposition. Of what then has this Mr. Dexter to complain? What cause of dissatisfaction has he with the federal party or any portion of it? He will surely grant to others the same privileges which he claims and exercises himself, and after having spread out his sentiments upon record, he cannot now complain of the nature or extent of their opposition. Evidently Mr. Dexter is dissatisfied, though he has torbornd to disclose the grounds of his dissatisfaction. It is not because of the opposition made by federalists to the commercial restrictions, to the declaration of war, to the manner in which it has been conducted, to the invasion of Canada, to the loan bills, the tax bills, and every other measure of administration for years past, because he chuses it should be known that he also is opposed to all these measures—More clearly Mr. Dexter is displeas'd because the federalists have not considered him quite as great a traitor, and so

pure a patriot as the democrats have discovered him to be, and have not bespoken him as much and such false eulogium. Mr. Dexter seems to have thought, that in this opposition he ought to have been invited to take the lead, and merely because they did not chuse to make him a leader, he chuse to stay behind, and not to follow. Mr. Dexter has convinced himself, that for all our diseases he has discovered a sovereign and complete cure; but, like other quacks, he is careful not to let us know of what it is made up; and since his friends resolve not to use it without knowing whether it will kill or cure, he chuses to be offended, and would lend no aid in the great and good work of rescuing the nation from its present deplorable and almost hopeless state, and restoring it, at least in part, to its former prosperity and happiness. Such patriots, at such a time as this, are worse than useless; of such patriotism the less a nation has, the wiser, the better, and the happier it is likely to be.

W. M. R.

COMMUNICATIONS.

To enable the administration to carry on this most glorious, just and righteous war, congress is under the necessity of offering a higher bounty for soldiers than any country ever before offered. In one year it is raised from sixteen to one hundred and twenty-four dollars. What does this prove to the enemy? That our war-gentry, notwithstanding their readiness to vote for the war, and their numerous pledges of life and fortune in support of it, cannot be prevailed upon, for love or money, to expose their dear persons, and though they have involved the nation in a war, they are determined to give no aid in its prosecution. Surely such conduct is utterly unworthy of patriots. When these resolves were passed, and life and fortune pledged, did these people really mean to deceive their good president, or were they serious, but have since found out that they were not quite so fierce and so ready to burn powder as they had suffered themselves to be? At all events, they have pledged their lives, and are now called upon to redeem those pledges. They ought now either to enlist or to go and hang themselves.

As the president is in great want of soldiers to carry on his war, would it not be well for him to send through the country to ascertain who pledged their lives and fortunes in support of the war, and order them immediately into service? It has been made a matter of great complaint, especially with the resolution gentry, that some of the governors would not agree that the militia generally should be forced from their homes and marched into Canada. Let it be remembered, however, that those governors have not contended that volunteers ought not to go, and surely the authors & approvers of those resolves were volunteers. Let the president order them into service, and there will be no opposition on the part of the state authorities to the execution of the order.

JEROME.

For the Maryland Gazette.

It is supposed that the determination of our president to treat with England upon her own terms, was produced by the conduct of those who pledged their lives and fortunes in support of the war. Finding that these people are the most backward to enter into the service, he has despaired of raising a sufficient army again to attempt the conquest of Canada. The president is aware, that town-meeting resolves are a little calculated as presidential proclamations to conquer the territory of the enemy, and he is sick of men who will support the war only by their votes, while the war can only be supported by hard fighting. The war is to be concluded, and the blame of its so speedy termination is to be thrown upon those who, by their resolves and pledges of life and fortune, induced the president to believe that they were eager for the war, and as soon as it was obtained, so shamefully abandoned him.

A CITIZEN.

For the Maryland Gazette.

When this just and necessary war was declared, it was said, from one end of the continent to the other, that it was the duty of every man to support it, at every sacrifice. When a few men who had the

audacity to believe that the national interest positively required the measure, censured the declaration of war, they were denounc'd, and every man was who would in any way oppose war. Now let me ask, why the war-men done in support of war?

When the government war-diers, they refused to enlist, was in want of money, they would loan it—Yes, the men who both life and fortune would neither, but left it to the peaple to supply them.

What was the language of peace party? we conscientiously believe that the war ought not to have been declared, and therefore not voluntarily support it. You men, and you want more of us you can pass laws raising the one, and lay taxes to get the other. We will make the laws, but when they obey them. This is all, a good citizen we are bound and it is all, that, as conscientious men, we can do. The administration then was not deceived, friends of peace. Upon the port it could not calculate, it was most solemnly assured, their support it would not get. They acted up to their professions. Not so with the war-party, promised to exert all the means their power; they pledged blood and fortune, and when called would offer neither. By the administration was deceived grossly deceived; and what administration can conduct a war when deceived and desert its friends.

But the friends of peace said if taxes were laid they would become good citizens, pay their portion of them; and congress in operation; and who are those people who are the readiest to gibe about them, ay, and are practising every artifice in order to avoid payment of them? Why the people who involved us in this war who clamoured for the measure which have rendered this necessary, who voted for the measure, and who continue to cate a continuance of the war will require a great increase of money. Many of these men borrowing with all their might, fraud the government of its resources, and unless strictly watched officers, will contrive to save money. They now think it very that they should be obliged to their portion of the expense, as it is owing to them that those were necessary, they ought not to be willing to bear the whole. They would much rather oblige friends of peace to bear all the thens, all the privations and losses of the war, and as for them they are willing to share all the profits, and to pocket all the profits.

A YOUNG MAN.

LAWS OF MARYLAND.
December Session.

AN ACT

Relating to Females Governed by their Husbands. Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Maryland, That any white female, born without parents or jurisdiction of the United States, who hath intermarried with a citizen of the United States, and doth actually reside therein after her marriage; such female shall enjoy within this state all immunities, rights and privileges a native born citizen, so far as such female to claim, and acquire in dower or by grant, purchase, descent or otherwise, any lands, tenements, or hereditaments, and to sell, convey, and transmit the same, according to the laws of this state, as fully and amply, as if such female had been born within the limits under the jurisdiction of the United States.

AN ACT

Authorising persons, to whose testaments or of administration have been or may be, in the District of Columbia, to prosecute and recover in this state.

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Maryland, That it be lawful for any person or persons to whom letters testamentary or administration have been granted, by the proper authority in the District of Columbia, to maintain any suit or action, to execute and recover any claim or debt, in the same manner as