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## THE DYING GROANS OF DEMOCRACY.

In proportion as the Democrats receive their cause to be despised, their rage and virulence increase. They scold and upbraid their leaders of weakness and their people of incapacity, while every nerve is strained and every wile is practised to sink the cause; and all their calumnies, newly seasoned with fresh venom, are squirted into their lurking holes into the ears of the Federalists.

Thus the polcat, when detected pursued, confesses his fear and labours to aid his flight, by turning his stench into the face of his pursuer. The vile animal, in this case and the other, may render his pursuit disagreeable, but he cannot defeat it; unless the pursuer be weak enough to be deterred from their just purpose, by filth and noisome smell.

These ideas have frequently been brought to our minds of late, by the conduct of the Democrats, but never so fully and forcibly as on reading the democratic handbill, signed "An American of '76," and dated "August 15th, 1815," which fell by accident into our hands. For this last squirt the sensitive little animal seems to be condensed, or as the Chymists would say, "concentrated," into filth. It appears to be a stinging effort, in which the powers of the creature are exhausted.

As this handbill contains, in a condensed form, all the old stand-birds of the party newly vampt up, with as many new ones as they are able to invent, we have thought it worth while to notice and expose it; not for fear of any harm that it might do, but to subject to merited indignation and contempt its authors, and the rotten and falling fabric which it was intended to prop.

To refute, however, all its lies in detail, would lead us into too wide a field, and would be a labour equal to useless and disgusting. They are very numerous, and for the greater part of them, are so preposterous and absurd, as to refute themselves. Such, for instance, as these:

"The federalists have invariably supported Great Britain, in opposition to their own government." By what means, when and how? "By zealously defending the orders in council, which cut up our commerce by the roots." They excused, palliated and justified the use of the tomahawk and scalping knife, to which defenceless men and helpless women, and even infancy itself, fell victims."

"They justified the pillage and were committed at Hampton, and the excesses and confiscations at Bayre de-Grace." &c. &c.

These are lies which stare every man in the face. No one, not even the most ignorant, is unacquainted with their falsehood. Every body knows that no federalist ever justified, or excused or palliated the British orders in council, or the use of the tomahawk and scalping knife, or the excesses and barbarities committed at Hampton, Bayre de-Grace, or elsewhere. The folly of these lies, which every man in the state knows to be such, would create as much surprise as their barefaced and shameless prolixity and malice does abhorrence.

It were possible to be surprised at any folly or wickedness, springing from democracy. They are a specimen of the handbill, and of the system. Three fourths of it are composed of materials, exactly similar, the falsehood of which is so glaring, that he who reads may

But there are some, the falsehood and malignity of which are not quite so obvious, and which cannot be understood without some explanations and details not familiar to every body. We will proceed to select and expose a few of this description, by way of sample, from which a judgment may be formed of all the rest. Even this, we fear, will carry us beyond the limits to which a piece of this nature ought to be confined. We shall therefore make our selection as short as possible; taking care to omit none of the most venomous and artful calumnies.

We will begin with their first fact, which, in order to support their general charges, they submit, as they say, "to a candid public."

"The federalists of this state, in the Senate of Maryland, attempted in 1799 and 1800, to make the possession of considerable property requisite to entitle a citizen to vote at elections."

This fact, like all the others, is a wilful lie. We might in charity suppose it to be a mistake, if the handbill did not shew its authors to be men of education and knowledge. The truth of the matter is this, as the authors well know.

The constitution of this state, adopted with great unanimity by the patriots who conducted us to independence through our revolutionary struggle, provided that no person should vote in elections for members of the legislature, unless he possessed property to the value of thirty pounds, or eighty dollars. It was thought that a man who had not industry and frugality enough to acquire eighty dollars, could not have independence, intelligence, and discretion enough to be trusted with so important a concern as the choice of fit persons to govern the state. This opinion, whether right or wrong, was at that time almost universal.

But while the framers and adopters of our constitution, under the influence of this opinion, provided a property qualification for voters, to the amount of eighty dollars, they provided no mode of proving but the oath of the party himself. If he would swear that he was worth thirty pounds, he was admitted to vote.

This answered very well at first; but as soon as the democratic party was formed, and began to struggle for power, it was soon found that all the worthless vagabonds of the party, and every worthless vagabond attached himself to it as a matter of course, evaded the law by tricks or direct perjury, and thus voted in spite of the constitution. One had a gold watch lent to him, which he put into his pocket as he went to the polls, and there swore that he possessed thirty pounds. After he had voted, he returned the watch, which was lent to others in their turn, and sometimes served to qualify fifty voters in a day. A hundred dollar bank note often answered the same purpose, though not so frequently; for it was sometimes found that the rogue who had received a bank note, refused to return it. Thus the timid were furnished with an excuse, which, as they were made to whine, took away the guilt of perjury. The more hardy and resolute rogues swore through thick and thin, without wanting any excuse. Between them both it resulted, that any worthless vagabond in the country voted for the democratic candidates. An honest and conscientious poor man, who in nine cases out of ten, would be a federalist, was excluded from voting, because he would not take a false oath, or fraudulently evade the constitution.

The federalists, whose principles did not permit them to bribe and suborn the rogues, thus found that the property qualification was perverted to the worst purposes; and to prevent this trying abuse, they attempted to get the constitution so altered, as that a person offering to vote, should be obliged to prove himself to be worth thirty pounds, not by his own oath, but by the tax collectors' books, or some other certain and easy mode. But they did not wish, much less attempt,

to increase the amount of the property qualification.

The democrats, however, having tasted the sweets of fraud and perjury, were unwilling to lose such advantages. They were unwilling that men should be required to prove their qualification by any other means than their own oaths. They therefore resisted and prevented the proposed alteration.

Great numbers of the federalists considered a qualification so proved, as worse than none; because it excluded none but honest conscientious men, and let in all the rogues. They therefore, joined the democrats afterwards in abolishing it altogether, and establishing universal suffrage. This is what the handbill calls an attempt "to make the possession of considerable property requisite to entitle a citizen to vote at elections."

Second fact.—They (the federalists) opposed, when in the minority, the establishment of "the right of universal suffrage, by ballot, without regard to property qualification."

This is not true. They did not all oppose it. Some of them did, as also did some of the democrats, because it was considered by them as a doubtful and hazardous change in the constitution. Some of them voted for it, and by their votes it was carried. The democratic leaders would have voted against it to a man, if they had dared, because they found it more advantageous to have a property qualification, proved by the bare oath of the party, which they could always elude, while it bound and excluded their conscientious opponents.

Third fact.—They opposed the "bringing of justice home to every man's door, by re-organizing the county courts, a measure which was adopted by the republicans."

Here again is a gross misrepresentation. The abolition of the general court, the measure here spoken of, was strenuously opposed by several of the most important of the democrats, and warmly supported by many of the federalists. It was not a party measure, but was supported and opposed upon grounds not connected with the political system of either party. Many democrats, no doubt, supported it most zealously, from the desire and hope of getting into office; because it included an abolition of the county courts, and consequently opened the way for a great many removals and new appointments. But many of both parties opposed it, because they or their constituents thought it wrong; and many of both supported it, because they or their constituents thought it right. It is a wilful calumny to ascribe the opposition solely to the federalists. But where shall we find any thing in this handbill that is not a wilful calumny.

Fourth fact.—The federalists also opposed the amelioration of "punishments for crimes, which the republicans proposed, by the establishment of a penitentiary system, in place of a more sanguinary code."

This is another shameless falsehood. The federalists did not oppose the establishment of the penitentiary system. Some of them voted against it, as some of the democrats also did; but some of its warmest supporters were always found among the federalists, and it is believed that it was first introduced by a federalist.

The three last articles may serve as a specimen of what may be called "the lesser lies." We come now to one of more importance.

Fifth fact.—They attempted "to re-establish the Episcopal religion as the religion of Maryland; thus connecting church and state, and conferring particular privileges upon the church of England, to the oppression and injury of all dissenting sects."

This, of all the democratic calumnies, is the most profligate and atrocious; and it is astonishing that there should be found, even in a party so corrupt and shameless, an individual corrupt and shameless enough to report this lie, as absurd as it is wicked.

The federalists wish to establish the Episcopal church as the religion of the state, to the oppression and injury of all the dissenting sects!!! The federalists wish this, a great majority of whom are themselves dissenters!!! They not only wish it, but have attempted to carry it into effect; although, as men of common sense, they must and do know, that nothing could be more revolting to the public feelings, opinions and habits, than such an attempt, or would more certainly bring ruin on its authors! Would it be believed, that there was a democrat in the state wicked and foolish enough to put such an accusation into print?

Our astonishment at the impudence and profligacy of this calumny is redoubled when we look at the fact on which it is founded.—This fact it is necessary to state. When contrasted with the accusation it affords a perfect specimen of democracy.

It has been customary in this state to incorporate such religious societies or congregations, of whatever denomination of Christians, as chose to apply to the legislature for acts of incorporation. This enabled such congregations, as they supposed, to conduct more conveniently and beneficially their church concerns, and better to administer their church property; and such incorporations, it is believed, have never been refused to congregations which applied for them.

Many of the Episcopal congregations throughout the state, hold property, which had been formerly given to them, or they had purchased with funds raised by subscription among themselves. This property was vested in vestries, or held by trustees, except in a few instances, where congregations had been incorporated by special acts of assembly. Many of the members of this church thought it would be useful to the congregations to have them all incorporated, so as to enable each to hold and administer its property, and regulate its ecclesiastical affairs in a more certain and convenient manner; and for these purposes, and these alone, a bill was brought in by a member, who was an Episcopalian and a federalist, to authorize the incorporation, on the usual terms, of such Episcopal congregations as might apply for it, and conform to the conditions prescribed.

The object and effect of these incorporations was merely to put these congregations on a footing with others of various denominations, which had been before incorporated to enable them to hold property, to a limited amount, for church purposes, and to administer like other corporate bodies, their corporate concerns. Nobody dreamt of giving them privileges not enjoyed by other religious societies, much less entertained the preposterous idea of establishing their religion as the religion of the state. The sole motive for passing a general law, was to avoid the trouble of passing a particular act for each congregation.

The bill passed the House of Delegates, it is believed, without any opposition. It was rejected by the senate, wholly composed then as it now is of democrats, who probably foresaw and intended the use that might be and has been made of it, in future elections.

This is what the hand-bill calls an attempt "to re-establish the Episcopal religion, as the religion of Maryland; thus connecting church and state, and conferring peculiar privileges on the church of England, to the oppression and injury of all dissenting sects."

Shame where is thy blush?

Again.—The federal leaders, finding it impossible to prevail on the people to give up the freedom of suffrage, have commenced a system of bribery and corruption at elections unparalleled any where but in the rotten borough elections of England. It is a pretty well ascertained fact, that they have this season raised a large sum in Baltimore, for the express purpose of corrupting a sufficient number of voters in Maryland, to secure a majority in the

next House of Delegates.

This lie is quite as absurd and foolish as any of the rest. The federalists raise money, to purchase votes, in order to secure a majority in the next House of Delegates!!! Had they not last year a much larger majority than was necessary, last year when it is not pretended, even by the shameless authors of this handbill, that they bought votes! Has not their cause notoriously gained ground, since last year, in every part of the state, by the folly and wickedness of democratic rule? Why then buy votes, when they could spare more than two counties, and still have a majority large enough? Is it the democrats who have need of bribery, to regain the ground which they have lost by their incapacity and misconduct, and for which they are mistaking not the federalists, who are in possession of ground, who gained it by fair means, and have no fear of keeping it by the same.

But this accusation, so remarkable for its falsehood and folly, is still more remarkable for its impudence. By whom is it made?—Would any one believe that it is made by those same democrats whose bribery and corruption at elections have been so long notorious, and are almost openly avowed? Does any one doubt of their practices in this way, or of the sums which they have long been in the habit of expending, in corrupting the elections? Let him be informed by way of sample, that a single democratic merchant in Baltimore, and not the richest or the most liberal of the party, has been taxed 1500 dollars in one year, for the election fund, and paid the tax. Let him be informed that one of the head leaders of the party sometime ago said to a person who sat by him at dinner, "if I had that man's fortune, (looking at a rich federal merchant who sat at the table) I would buy the whole state of Maryland!" Such experience had he of bribing in the management of his party, and such confidence in its efficacy; a confidence however which we hope and believe was ill founded; for we think better of the people than this democratic leader was led to do, by his knowledge of his own party. Let him learn that a certain wealthy democrat in Baltimore, whose immediate connexions are also wealthy, and more attached to him than to the cause, as he is more attached to himself than to any cause, was lately coaxed and flattered by the leaders of the party, with the hope of a high office which they never intended to bestow on him, thereby to get their hands into the pockets of him, and his friends for electioneering purposes; and that he and his friends, not finding the promises specific enough, or not coniding in their sincerity, have kept their pockets closely shut, and thus produced an alarming detangement and deficiency in the department of finance; notwithstanding which, by extra exertions in other quarters, the sum of 30,000 dollars at least, some on good grounds think 50,000, has been remitted to the counties and is now actively employed in the purposes of bribing. Let him be informed of all this, and he will perceive why the democrats raise the cry of bribery and corruption; precisely as a herd of pick-pockets raise the cry of thieves! thieves! in a crowd.

It is time to return to the hand-bill, which informs us further, that the federalists of Maryland when they get into power, turn every honest republican out of office, and appoint the worst and most unprincipled men of their own party.

No man who is at all acquainted with the proceedings of this party, when in power, who knows whom they turned out of office and whom they appointed, can read this without laughter. Let us pass it by and listen again to the handbill.

They have sanctioned the plunder of the public treasury, of upwards of 1600 dollars, for the present governor of Maryland, for military services, which he ought to have performed without any other pay than that of governor, but which he never did perform at all, even for the additional money, which

[See last page.]