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By PECHIN & FRAILEY.

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From the AMERICAN JOURNAL.

Mr. ELLIOT,
TO HIS CONSTITUENTS,
LETTER VIII.

The constitution of the United States is the most glorious monument of human wisdom that has existed in any age or nation. It contains energy with liberty; the great literature of the most celebrated nations of ancient and modern times. The provision of the constitution which renders attainable such amendments as time and experience may require, is one of its most estimable characteristics. But an instrument so sacred should be touched with a gentle hand. It is time for every theorist, and few have been more ardent theorists than myself, to sacrifice the visions of his imagination upon the altar of national union.

Many of the greatest and best men of Virginia were opposed to the adoption of the constitution. Could this circumstance be considered as a reproach, it will not be applicable to Virginia alone; it was the case in a large majority of the states.—Opposition, generally speaking, proceeded from the following causes, from an attachment to liberty, and from a fear that, were the constitution adopted, "liberty would be but a name to all the illustrious page of the history of America."—But there were peculiar features in the constitution which rendered it peculiarly obnoxious to Virginia. The states were to be equally represented in the senate, an important branch of the government, a two-edged sword, placed in the avenue to the sovereign rights of the individual states, and checking equally the president and the representatives of the people, should they attempt to exceed their constitutional limits. Many of the greatest men in Virginia thought it radically wrong that the small state of Rhode Island should have an equal voice in the senate with the largest state; and at that idea still prevails in Virginia, and that state possesses a great and increasing influence over the small states, it is reasonable to conclude that those who think the constitution wrong will endeavor to make it right, as soon as they obtain the power. Nothing can be expected as long as "nisi in mea." Although jealousy has been considered by many as a republican virtue of the first order, we ought not, however to induce a republican party; nor ought we to accuse any portion of the nation of a design to change the constitution, without unquestionable evidence. Up to this subject my mind has been perfectly convinced, and I always express with due repugnance, and strong opinion of the consequences of which I feel a perfect conviction.

The sentiments of the celebrated Patrick Henry, of Edmund Randolph, of Mason, and many other distinguished Virginians, respecting the constitution, are on record, and the record cannot be obliterated. The equity of suffrage in the senate was a prominent objection. The mind even of the great Washington harbored a strong preposition in favor of the large states. I have been told by a venerable member of the convention, which formed the constitution, that Washington was decidedly of opinion that the small states took too high ground, and that nothing but the indispensable necessity of forming a constitution previously to the dissolution of the convention induced him to support what he considered as too great a concession on the part of the large states.—

Various publications of a recent date, under the signature of the venerable patriot, Edmund Pendleton, indicated the propriety of several important alterations of the constitution; and there is every reason to believe that those publications were correct indications of the general sentiment in Virginia. Mr. Eppes, a member of congress from that state, in the address to his constituents, in consequence of which he obtained his election, announced his determination to advocate several very important alterations of the constitution, one of which should have for its object the reduction of the time for which the senators are elected, and also, if my recollection be correct, to render them liable to be recalled by the late legislature. Mr. Breckinridge, a native Virginian and a distinguished member of the senate declared in the debate upon the amendment, that nothing could be more disastrous, in his opinion, than the election of the senators for six years: but that he wished not to connive at an alteration of the constitution in that respect, with the amendment then under consideration.—

Another able member of the senate declared in my presence, that nothing could be clearer than that it is totally wrong to have a senate at all in a republican government. MANY REPUBLICANS of other states as well as Virginia, have declared to me that very important amendments of the constitution must and will take place in a few years. One member from Virginia, in the presence of several members of both political parties, told me, that the time for which the senators are elected must be reduced to two years; that this alteration

would serve to rouse the republicans; and that no member could be considered as a true friend to our country and oppose it. I have ascertained that a very great proportion of the read in the congress are of opinion that the constitution is too aristocratic, that the small states' policy too great weight, that the judiciary is by far too independent, and that the following alterations of the constitution must be made, as soon as the public mind can be prepared for them.

1. To reduce the time for which the senators are elected to two years. This would soon render the senators from the small states the mere tools of the large states, and would lead to the total destruction of the senate.

2. To carry the election of president to the people at large. This would destroy all the remaining weight of the small states, as it does, in the election of the president. The weight of Vermont relatively to Pennsylvania, in that election, is now in the ratio of 6 to 25; it would then be as 4 to 18.

3. That the judges shall be appointed for a few years only. Committee is here unnecessary.

Possibly these may be no just grounds for my alarm up in this country; but although I owe no man credences, I am constantly sincere in my fears. Should no attempt be made to alter the constitution, I shall be willing to be considered, not only a weak alarmist, but a silly visionary.

Much is said of a plot to divide the union. It is imputed chiefly to the federalists, but at any rate has not been wanting to implicate the northern republicans. I have examined myself in favor of a union of the people in the northern states as general sentiment, for the purpose of according to us our due weight in the council's of the nation, and for preventing a coalition of destroying the constitution; but I wish the union to take place upon the following principles and no others, upon no genuine principles of the confederacy alone. When the northern states are used as the Southern, we should never be inclined to exceed more than one degree of political weight, and that the southern states would be willing to allow us, to have a due and sufficient weight in the union, by our own efforts. No person in the United States ever entertained a desire to separate from the union, as far as I am aware. I had always no scruples about the last day of my blood, in my bosom, I but yet the only way to prevent a coalition is to preserve the constitution. Men have been propound'd. But the consequence is, that the union is secured.

James Eppes, of Georgia, is at \$120 per head, and slaves cheap. Rich, and expensive articles of commerce, is at \$150. Landed slaves, \$120. They are very likely to be considerably increased, as the slaves are daily becoming more numerous. Slave trade, and importation of commercial articles, is very much suspended, and our market being now very considerably supplied with it, the demand is at present almost suspended, and the prices are likely to be lower.

Amherst in the article of Lumber, is the following rate. (C) There having been but few importations of Timber this year from the United States, the prices are increased, as they are likely to be supported, at least a little better than before.

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On the 7th May, an embargo was laid upon all British shipping in Great Britain, and a heavy prize took place in the river, and at the port.

A very general alarm proceeded. The British fleet was stated to be at sea. All the volunteer regiments were at a hurriedly to their armaments; and the greatest efforts were making to fit out every ship of force, to ordinary.

Some very important dispatches were said to have been received from the North of Europe on the 7th May; which were immediately laid before a full Cabinet Council, and the Admiralty Board; and messages were ordered to hold themselves in readiness to start for the continent.

On the 5th May, Mr. Pitt informed Parliament, that he had advised His Britannic Majesty to create Lord Melville's name from the list of Privy Counsellors; which His Majesty had acceded to; and that His Lordship held no places, excepting such as were for life. At the same time, Mr. Whitbread said, "he disclaimed any intention positively to charge Lord Melville, with participating the plots with Trottier."

FROM LIVERPOOL—May 11.

The annual price current contains, as near as possible, the rates of produce in this place, but the market, generally speaking, and many of the articles nominal.

The alarming accounts from the W. Indies, and the fears of still further mischiefs, have thrown a general damp upon our mercantile, and adds to the depression of many articles. Some little advance has taken place in sugar, but whatever effect the temporary influence of speculation may have upon this market, we are decidedly of opinion that no commercial speculation can be founded on these grounds from America to this country, and that the general stagnation of pecuniary matters, which would attend the delay of remittances from the W. Indies, would tend materially to counteract any attempts at increase in articles of produce. An embargo is laid

upon vessels, except sailers with grain and coals, and neutral vessels.

The state of our cotton market is deplorable, and every probability exists of its falling. In other words, it is to be hoped that cotton, in conjunction with the habits of cool reflection and profound investigation, will ever be considered as forming superior pretensions to the presidency, to genius and eloquence above

upon vessels, except sailers with grain and coals, and neutral vessels.

The state of our cotton market is deplorable, and every probability exists of its falling. We have made some sales of prime New Orleans at £25, but cannot get out at that price, or in fact obtain an offer, though we would make some sacrifice for the sake of clearing our stocks. United Georgia are in the same situation, and some of the dealers decline pure cotton at £30. The imports from America, the last week have been considerable, and the account from Maine, etc., shows the former to be pure, but a new lot of cotton cannot be sold, and we are still in receipt of exports from continental countries. Upon reference to our advices you will perceive we have already decided the month and next will check the cotton market, but the want of demand for manufactured cloth has rather accelerated this event, and to an unsupposed extent, the only instance for any movement is in the fall of the price, and till that period we can expect no amendment. The manufacturers are considering their buildings as mere a political, and growing number than is necessary necessary to keep them in use. The spinning trade has been overdone, and the stocks of twist and wool have accumulated, and will require a time to be liquidated; though the importers are anxious on the present rate of dividend and the stocks are increasing in the hands of the importers; they were to complete at the commencement of this year, that we should not consider them on any more in the case of a regular lease, but the manufacturers, in their judgment, require the greatest circumspection in the sale of their goods, much greater, it is believed, than is generally supposed. Gentlemen at the board are allowed, it is said, to take \$300 per week, and a compensation reaches us that in 12 days this sum will amount to \$3,600, and that at the whole direction of 19 individuals, the president and the two directors, on the part of the company, take each \$2700, the sum total in their hands, will be the enormous sum of \$111,600. In the whole board, the president and company, to be changed in three years, as by law, they may be, and it is said, the directors are now worth a compensation, amount of \$7000, then at the expiration of the period, with nearly all the present board of the bank bear in their hands, this money be still in the same condition, that the executive committee, and the directors, will be doing nothing. But even if the directors account after paying their compensation, it will be left in the hands of the company, half of what they receive, and the rest is still bad enough to show that a greatest degree of circumspection may be used, just the bank will be in a clear state. Still it is not a trifling consideration.

You will find by our quotations that the premiums to New Orleans are, as well as those to the Atlantic states, reduced to their former rates.

Grain is dull and the stocks heavy. Flour continues to arrive from America. We have quoted a price proportionate to the wheat, but more is asked by some of the sellers; it is almost entirely confined to export, and the demand flat, those of the importers are, for want of sailing ships, unable to supply themselves to Spain; and there is no probability of prices being higher, indeed rather the reverse.

Dye woods are in general heavy, and nearly nominal. We again beg leave to caution our admirers of the greatest caution, as we cannot recommend shipments in this case of demand, which will add to the difficulty of controlling the force of the importers.

The wood is in general heavy, and nearly nominal. We again beg leave to caution our admirers of the greatest caution, as we cannot recommend shipments in this case of demand, which will add to the difficulty of controlling the force of the importers.

On the 21st May, 1803, a bill was laid upon all British shipping in Great Britain, and a heavy prize took place in the river, and at the port.

A bill enacting London ports to the 8th May, were put into our possession by a gentleman possessed in the island, bound to New York, who got on board a sailing vessel off our coast, and was landed at Cape Cod.

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GRACE MCDURDY, Exec't,

THOS. MCLELLERY, Exec'r.

N. B. The books remain at the old stand, sign of the Fan, Calvert-street.

April 3. wks

This is to give Notice,

THAT the Subscribers, of the city of Baltimore, have obtained from the Orphans' Court, letters testarary on the personal estate of HENRY McCURDY, late of the said city, Merchant, deceased—all persons having claims against the said estate, are hereby warned to exhibit the same, with the vouchers thereof to the subscribers, on or before the 20th day of June next, they may otherwise by law be excluded from all benefit of said estate;—and all those indebted to said estate, are desired to make payment, without delay, or suits will be commenced against them without respect to persons.

GRACE MCDURDY, Exec't,

THOS. MCLELLERY, Exec'r.

N. B. The books remain at the old stand, sign of the Fan, Calvert-street.

April 3. wks

Literature.

Der Leipziger und Frankfurter Buch und Commissions Handlung, No. 96;

Worckhoffstrasse, Baltimore, sind für die, händen werden allezeit einge-

führt werden:

Bücher aller Art und aus allen Ländern, welche in Deutschland herausgekommen sind und werden.

Aufträge für über oder aus Europa, Amerika, Ost oder West-Indien sollen stets pünktlich befohlen werden.

Die Verfasser und Eigentümer der Englischen und Deutschen Zeitungen in Amerika sind höchst ersucht, diese Anzeige in ihre Blätter einzurücken, und die Nummern davon an die befohlene Buch-Handlung gelangen zu lassen:

Ein gute Deutsche Zeitung wird in einem Buch-Handlung herausgegeben, sobald die dazu erforderliche Anzahl von Lesern sind ihre Namen und Wohnorte eingetragen werden müssen. Die Verfasser desselben und die nähliche Nachbars, welche in Brüssel die mit ihnen und Beifall getreute Zeitung:

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