

Indiana Palladium.

EQUALITY OF RIGHTS IS NATURE'S PLAN—AND FOLLOWING NATURE IS THE MARCH OF MAN.—BARLOW.

Volume III.]

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[Number 51.

From the Brookville Repository.

Pursuant to public notice, given some days since in the Franklin Repository, a meeting of the citizens of Franklin County friendly to the present administration, took place on the 29th inst. at the Court House in the Town of Brookville.—The Rev. Daniel St. John was called to the Chair, and David Wallace, appointed Secretary. Considering the unpleasantness of the weather, and the badness of the roads, the assemblage was much larger than we had any reason to anticipate; there were in attendance, individuals from almost every Township in the County; and those generally among the most respectable for their age, intelligence and standing. After the meeting had been organized, the Committee appointed at a previous meeting to draft an address and resolutions suitable for the occasion, by their Chairman, the Hon. Miles C. Eggleston, present the following

ADDRESS.

We citizens of Franklin County, friendly to the present administration of the General Government, and the leading and prominent features of its policy both foreign and domestic, assembled for the purpose of giving a free and candid expression of our opinions and our cordial support to the great system of *Internal Improvement and protection of Domestic Manufactures*, now so ardently cherished and patronized by the General Government, by the re-election of John Quincy Adams to the presidency of the United States, whose views are known to be decidedly friendly to these measures, and who has heretofore given them an uniform and consistent support; beg leave in a spirit of candor and liberality, to offer to our fellow-citizens, some of the principal reasons which influence our opinions, and to invite them to co-operate with us in their support, and to aid by all fair and honorable exertions in the attainment of the great object we have in view, the security and permanence of those measures, and the continuing in power those able and faithful servants of the people who have through good and evil report, with a constancy and firmness deserving the highest praise amidst the most embittered conflicts of party, adhered to and zealously maintained them.

Deeply impressed, by a rigid scrutiny into the conduct and sentiments of the existing parties which now agitate and divide our country, with the sincere conviction, that these measures, so essential to the future greatness, stability and independence of the nation, and of such vital importance to the people of the western states, are put in jeopardy by the prospect of the elevation of General Andrew Jackson to the Presidency, and that an example most dangerous to public liberty and the durability of our free and happy system of government is sought to be established by placing in the presidential chair a man, however renowned in arms, with no other claim to the office but his military successes, we deem it a sacred duty we owe to ourselves and posterity, to come forward at such a crisis and employ the best efforts in our power to prevent his election, and thereby avoid such an example and to defeat one of the chief objects of those who make use of him to effect by stratagem the destruction of measures which they could not otherwise successfully oppose, either before the people or in the legislative councils of the nation.

In opposing the success of General Jackson we desire to abstain from all epithets of unmerited reproach, or any expression which might in the slightest degree derogate from his high reputation either as a patriot or a soldier. We would not if we could mar a single emblem in the bright escutcheon of his fame, nor rend from the column of the edifice a single laurel that adorns it. As a General, he has led our armies to victory, and as a patriot, we concede his claims to our affections. Baptised in the baptismal fires of the revolution, he has passed another ordeal which fully attests his devotion to his country. With these sentiments in his favor, we cannot distrust the purity of his principles nor the rectitude of his intentions. But while conceding to him the high claims to our confidence individually, and feeling towards him the most fervent gratitude for his brilliant military achievements and the glory they have conferred upon our country, we must with equal frankness affirm that we do not believe him qualified to fulfil the momentous and complicated duties of the chief Executive Magistrate of this coun-

try. Gifted with a temper unwilling to brook control, rash, violent and wilful, accustomed to follow the dictates of his own will, unfeathered by the restraints of the laws, he is ill qualified by habit and education to submit to the duties they impose, or to hear with calm & dignified composure the acrimony of party spirit of those salutary excesses of liberty inseparable from the nature of a free constitution. Of this his whole life abounds with proofs. At the head of our armies he tramped without remorse the most sacred provisions of the constitution under his feet, the writ of *Habeas Corpus* and the freedom of the *Press*. As Governor of Florida, he exercised the extraordinary powers of his office with a latitude, libertine and despotic, and in private life, his conduct has been marked by private broils, outrage and bloodshed. With feelings of no little pain and regret we have found ourselves constrained to advert to these blemishes in a character, which we wished to cherish as identified with a proud page in our country's history, and most willingly would we have consigned them to oblivion, but for the peculiar character of the times, which requires the truth to be told, however painful the task, or however humiliating the facts it may disclose.

With great industry and solicitude we have looked into the volume of his life for those evidences of his civil talents which alone would test his capacity and fitness for the duties of the civil magistrate. These have not been found. We have looked in vain through the whole of his public service both in the councils of the state in which he lives, and the different periods in which he served in the congress of the United States, for some speech or public document spoken or written by him, which shows him capable of taking a luminous and masterly view of the public concerns or that he is in any wise versed in those great principles of international law, and the intricate and profound *arcana* of foreign policy, which constitute by far the most arduous and important part of the duties of a president. If any exist, they have eluded our researches and defied our toils. And we think it rarely or never happens, that where the opportunity has so frequently occurred and the state of public affairs required the effort, that a legislator and statesman, with an enlarged capacity for public business and endowed with abilities of a high order, would not on some occasion in the course of a long life, have furnished some evidence at least, of the superiority of his understanding. Not having furnished this evidence we are compelled to presume he is deficient in these qualifications, and that he is asking too much at our hands when he asks to be placed in a situation in the government which requires the constant exercise of these qualities, and which neither nature nor education has qualified him to fill.

These objections would go to his exclusion under all circumstances; but there are others of a formidable character against him which if they stood alone ought, as we conceive, to prevent us from according to him our support. Apart from the heresy that he is the best efforts in our power to prevent his election, and thereby avoid such an example and to defeat one of the chief objects of those who make use of him to effect by stratagem the destruction of measures which they could not otherwise successfully oppose, either before the people or in the legislative councils of the nation.

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On the subject of Internal Improvement, we presume but little need be said; its advantages are too obvious to escape the most careless observer. Who does not feel the want of good roads and canals leading to the different markets of trade enabling us to get the best markets for our produce, and binding every section of the country together by the strongest ligatures of interest and affection. Had the facilities been provided, the nation would not have been saddled with half the immense debt incurred during the last war: our armies would have been fed and transported at one half the cost: the Canadas might have been conquered and the war terminated, if not with more glory to our arms, at least in half the time and with a great diminution of personal suffering. Convinced from the nature of things beyond all cavil, that next to the practice and inculcation of free principles and the exercise of the christian charities, more depends on this policy to give strength and union to our country and to accelerate the rapid development of her resources than any other, we are free to declare ourselves its steadfast and constant advocates.

The opinions of Gen. Jackson on these subjects are at least problematical. He is mainly supported in the south on his supposed hostility to them. To the latter altogether, and the former to that extent which is deemed necessary to the vigor and perfection of the system. A cotton planter himself—his personal interest is opposed to it, the present duties on cotton being already high enough to secure that article against foreign competition. The friends of these measures have called on him earnestly for his opinion; he has refused to give it, but folding his mantle more closely around him he observes a mysterious and portentous silence. Indeed it is lately said by a press among the most able in his favor and the most decided in its opposition to this policy, that the Editor has recently seen a letter written to a friend in Virginia in which General Jackson expresses himself "startled" at the latitude of construction contended for by Mr. Adams in his first message to congress, embracing and enforcing it. Agreeing with this, is the resolution of the Tennessee legislature the present session which declares all the measures of the administration to be "injurious to

the interests and dangerous to the liberties of the country." If such are his sentiments and we have no doubt but they are, he then proves himself to be what his friends in the south say of him, truly "a southern man, with southern feelings and interests," and it would be our bounden duty to oppose him. And which side would he likely take if elected? Would he go with his friends or against them? Dare he deceive their hopes and betray their interests? who will venture to question his honor or to accuse him of treachery? If any there be, we are not of the number: we do not doubt the course he would take. Put into office to effect a particular object, tossed on the surface of a turbid and furious current, boiling and dashing with the rage of the elements, he must be more than man if he does not go with those who uphold him and is not borne away by the fury of the tempest. Mr. Adams has gone with those who elected him, and history does not furnish an instance of an opposite example. Elect General Jackson then, and who would he take into his cabinet, the friends of our policy or those who are opposed to it? We cannot doubt but he would take his own, It would be worse than folly in him not to do so, and what might we not fear from their influence? Already that party is so strong as to palsy the operations of the government. It was with great difficulty that a majority could be obtained last winter in favor of the grants to this state and for the extension of the Cumberland road. How would it be if the power were placed in their hands. Suppose congress should pass other laws in support of these interests and he through the influence of his cabinet or his own scruples on the constitutional question or otherwise should place his *veto* upon them? Could two thirds of the body be obtained to carry them in despite of his opposition? Certainly never—we would have to go without them and those great works so essential to the commerce and prosperity of the western states and particularly our own would lie neglected for years if not finally cut up and destroyed by the power over them passing into other hands. Again—we would further ask who would guide our councils his cabinet or himself? We believe his cabinet undoubtedly! for he is too little acquainted with civil administration, too little conversant with our connexions with foreign powers by treaties or otherwise to rely upon his own judgment. Should he do so, who would not tremble for the result? he might involve the nation in inextricable horrors; she it is who would have to reap the fruits of his follies and his rashness. But should he content himself to be ruled by others with more wisdom and experience than himself, the great concerns of this mighty nation would be managed by a set of intruders unknown and irresponsible to the people, lying incognito and working the wires for their own personal emolument or to further their own objects of ambition: we trust our country will not incur these dangers nor hazard her interests and her fame by so perilous an experiment. We have now an administration whose views agree with our own, able, enlightened and patriotic, and we cannot see the wisdom of exchanging it for another of inferior ability whose principles and policy are unknown, and as far as we are able to judge would be opposed to the best interests of the west.

We have moreover seen with feelings of the deepest interest and concern, a party arise amongst us whose avowed object is to put down the president and his cabinet "though pure as the angels in heaven." We cannot conceive an object more execrable. It should be met with the most decisive indignation—every patriot should speak out—should rise up and denounce it.—No compromise should be made with its abettors—they should be held up to the public scorn—to the just denunciation of their country. Let them succeed and it will grow into a precedent, and who will venture to predict the evils it will entail upon our country, and the excesses it may encourage, when future times shall become more corrupt. To the reproach of our age we have already seen this dark and evil demon pervading every village in our land, disturbing the repose of society, setting neighbor against neighbor, and father against son, throwing over the moral vision the deepest delusion, and with a malignant audacity invading our halls of legislation, defeating the wisest measures and paralysing the energies of the government. As friends to our country's peace we deprecate this example; we

fear the spread of its contagion. No real causes of discontent have been perceived—the firmament of our political sky is as bright and clear as ever—every planet is moving in its appropriate orbit—the president and his cabinet have followed in the footsteps of their predecessors—all the land marks of the constitution are preserved—the government is administered on true republican principles at home, & in the language of the father of his country, with an "equal & comprehensive eye over this great assemblage of communities and interests"—and the honor of the nation scrupulously and sedulously guarded in all its intercourse with foreign nations. Where then is there any just cause of complaint? has any citizen been oppressed? has any of his rights been invaded? has any law offensive to public liberty been proposed or adopted? we answer no—we have heard of none of these things—what then has kindled the tornado which now lowers over our country and is sweeping it with its whirlwinds? Party spirit, deep, deadly and venomous, foisted by prejudice, and originating in disappointment: the fell destroyer of social harmony and all the charities of private life. The frightful Gorgon crested with serpents, whose breath is poison and whose look is death, appalling the heart of the patriot and threatening ruin to our country. Must we yield to this? Must we deliver up our beloved country to the embraces of the monster? Shall the victim make no struggle at the spectacle of the shambles? Shall we lie by in inglorious ease at a time like this when schemes the most fatal to our interests are engendered and matured? when passions of the worst kind are at work? when pestilence is walking abroad at noonday, infesting where it flies, and poisoning where it reposes? when discord reigns and peace flies weeping from her presence? when all the sure foundations of our government are sought to be uprooted by placing the military over the civil power? by preferring the sword to the constitution? and when men are seeking their own elevation at the expense of the fortunes of their country? we think not—we think every patriot should be up and doing—should buckle on his armor and meet the foe bravely in the open field. And who so recreant as to shrink from such a contest? if he is destined to defeat, if he must fall before superior numbers, if the cause for which he contends shall be lost, he will have the consolation to know that he had done his duty, that "it is not for mortals to command success but deserve it" and that if he failed, he had failed gloriously in the cause of liberty and the constitution. We invoke all such to come to our aid—nothing can be gained by listlessness and inaction: we invite our friends throughout the state to put their shoulders to the wheel, to call meetings in the several counties, appoint committees to co-operate with ours and to do whatever is fair and laudable to convince our fellow citizens of their dangers and to further the great object of this meeting.

Let us take a view of our present rulers and their fitness for the offices they hold. Mr. Adams is now our President; he is a man of nearly forty years standing in the public service and has lived in the confidence of all the illustrious citizens who have laid the foundations of public liberty, and presided over the destinies of the Republic: he has filled many offices of great responsibility—and all with distinguished ability and zeal and to the general satisfaction. In the one he now fills, the highest of all, he has acted with great prudence and moderation, and performed its functions in a manner becoming the head of an intelligent and free people. On a careful review of his life both public and private, we believe him an honest man and a true republican in principle and practice—his private life unstained with a crime, moral, charitable and benevolent, and in his public stations, upright, diligent and laborious, and at all times, with all the ardor of the patriot devoted to the institutions of his country. Few, if any deny him abilities of the highest order—his learning is extensive, and his habits of thinking and investigation profound. He is firm of purpose—clear in his conceptions of the public interests—sagacious in his choice of measures—listens calmly to the advice of others, decides deliberately and pursues his counsels with dignity and firmness. Such is the character of Mr. Adams—and who can say the picture is over-drawn? we might add more, who can withhold his applause at the magnanimity and strength of mind with which he has borne in silence the malice of his