

TO THE PUBLIC.

Friends-citizens,

You have read in the 12th No. of the *I. Republican* my address, giving you some strictures on a piece written by a person who styles himself "Simon Maggus." In that address, I made use of some words implicating the *Editor* of the *Republican*, which he appears to have construed as intended to stab his moral character: upon mature consideration, I find his construction of my piece, is one, that the language therein used, will bare; but I do now declare that was not my intention; I only intended it to shew my disapprobation to a piece which I conceived to be calculated to sink the cause of vital religion, having a hope that it would draw some apology from him for having given currency to it: however the matter between us, as it relates to myself, is now settled.

Altho' these feuds between us are thus accommodated, I stand implicated in the eye of the public; therefore as a duty I owe to myself I shall attempt to give you an explanation of those things with which I stand charged, which I trust will give me the complete relief from the tarnish exhibited.

In the first place I stand charged with acting inconsistent with my station. That instead of spending my time and talents with my flock, in the discharge of my ministerial functions, behold I am casting severe reflections &c. In answer to this, I will say, I have had the honor to be ranked among the ministers of the Methodist Episcopal Church nearly 27 years, and am cheerful to leave it to their decision, yea, to the judgment of all with whom I have labored during that time, if I have been remiss in my duty as a minister. By their judgment I am willing to stand or fall. I will further state, from the view I had and still have of Simon's piece, that honesty, sincerity and religion was degraded, I thought and yet think it an important part of my ministerial duty to advocate the suffering cause: hence I conclude I have not gone an hair's breadth out of my proper station. 'If I forget the O Jerusalem, let my right hand forget her cunning.' Psalms 137-5. This may show what kind of sore place Simon blundered against.

In the next place he charges me (tho' indirectly) with taking up arms to fight against the rights of man in the American revolutionary war. It is to be observed, that when ever I have arose to detect evil doers, this has been a cud that they have chewed with much seeming delight. In order that they may be deprived of some of their pleasure, and saved the trouble of publishing it again, I will frankly acknowledge it. I retrospect past life, and with deep regret think on the follies of childhood and youth, though precipitated to action by the example of a very respectable, and much respected father, together with a large majority of the inhabitants of the country where I lived; yet I have the consolation to find that those who

wish to injure my character, have to travel as long as the Israelites in the wilderness, even 40 years, to procure something to suit their purpose. Indeed I think it a particular hardship that I must be deprived the liberty to advocate a good cause, for no other reason than I once when a child, attempted to support a bad one!

The chronology of our country shows us that the war was declared against the U. States in the year 1774; and from the register my father kept of the births of his children, I was born in the year 1761: so that at the declaration of the war I was 13 years old; the first battle was fought in the year '75, when I was 14, and the last in the year '81 when I was 20. Let such as are disaffected with me on that ground, place themselves only by fancy, in a similar situation; let them call to mind the force of parental example; the filial affection of a son who had ever been taught to honor the King; who was surrounded with a circle of friendly neighbors, school-mates & play-fellows; who were roused by a sense of duty (from the prejudice of education) to rally to the British standard: then let them ask themselves if among them all, would have been seen such a phenomenon as one of them, turning his back upon those tender connections, and repairing to the standard of the Americans? I doubt not but these things will have their weight in the minds of the judicious, and that they will preponderate so far in my favor, that I shall still occupy that ground merited by the conduct of

B. WHITSON.

NORFOLK, VA. MARCH 13.

The following petition, addressed to the president of the United States, by fourteen Americans, now confined in the Spanish prisons at St. Jago de Cuba, was handed to us by a gentleman who arrived here from that island about ten days since, with a request that we would publish and transmit it to the president. Not knowing the gentleman who was the bearer of the letter, and having no evidence of the authenticity of the document, induced us to delay its publication until we could satisfy ourselves on these points. Having received such assurances touching its genuine character as we required, and having the statement verified, by a subsequent arrival from the same quarter, we give it insertion with pleasure, forwarding the original as directed to the department of state, where we doubt not it will receive that attention to which it is entitled.

To the president of the U. States.

Petition of fourteen Americans, now

confined in the prison of St. Jago

de Cuba.

Honored Sir,

We take the liberty to inform you of our sad misfortunes, confined in Cuba prison, at the inhuman mercy of the cruel Spaniards. Our first misfortunes are as follow: Our vessels being sold for the purposes of privateering, we were obliged to take passage in the schooner Margaretta,

Peter Anchor, commander, bound United States. The Lion dared to Jamaica. To our sorrow, after being on our passage two days the captain brought up his Carthaginian commission, and said he was bound on a cruise. Finding ourselves taken in this shameful manner, we concerted with each other to leave her the first opportunity. On the 2d September we captured the schr. Sophia, under Spanish colors, bound to Jamaica, with cattle on board; on the third of the same month, captured a Spanish brig from the coast, with 180 negroes on board

— the captain and owner ransomed the brig, &c. for 1600 dollars; we allowed the boat to take the captain on shore at Cuba, under a promise that he would return with the money; the unjust agreement of the Spaniards, in place of the money, sent out a king's schooner of superior force, and captured us; at the time of the capture four of the men got clear in the boat. Honored sir, now began the inhuman usage of the cruel Spaniards—cut and mangled to pieces with cutlasses, bound back to back till the blood run from under our finger nails, we are at present in Cuba goal, on the allowance of this savage nation, on half a pint of rice and beans, half cooked, for to content the sons of Columbia for 24 hours, without cloathing, or any shelter to hide our nakedness, in irons strong, &c.—no friends allowed to see us.

Honored sir—we the unhappy petitioners do humbly beg for the mercies of a free country, for which we fought and valiantly conquered our enemies.

John H. Buckley, Nantucket,  
Denard Townsend, Norfolk.

Thomas Reed, New York.

Benjamin Brown, do.

John Daviss, Newport.

William Handey, N. Carolina.

George Wilson, New York.

James Morress, Boston.

John Bennett, Philadelphia.

John Jackson, do.

John Anderson, New Orleans.

John Dunkin, New York.

John Charles, New Orleans.

Francis Barber, do.

BONAPARTE'S ESCAPE!

NORFOLK, MARCH 16.

Bonaparte escaped from St. Helena!

Captain Smith, of the brig A-

lonzo, (reported in our marine

list,) states, that it was rumoured

at Port au Plat, and generally be-

lieved, that Bonaparte had made

his escape from St. Helena, in an

American vessel. A passenger in

the Alonzo, informs, that the

account was published in the

newspapers, printed at Jamaica

and Barbadoes, and stated that

he was brought off by an Ameri-

can frigate, which had been per-

mitted to go into St. Helena, for

the purpose of getting a supply

of provisions and water, that the

frigate was attacked by an armed

English ship which she beat off,

and brought Bonaparte away safe,

concealed in a water cask.

The following paragraph copied from a London ministerial paper, shows how apprehensive the British are of a friendly understanding between Russia and the

United States. The Lion dared however, lay his paw on either the Prometheus, an American sloop of war, of which some notice has appeared in the prints, has been upon a secret mission to the court of St. Peterburgh, and has returned to America. It is somewhat mysterious and suspicious that it passed from Russia without touching any part on its return and IT HAS BEEN RUMOURED THAT SOME CLANDESTINE PURPOSE WAS IN VIEW."

Detective Conspiracy at Bordeaux Liverpool, Dec. 28.

Letters from Bordeaux of the 21st inst. were received in town on Saturday. One is from a gentleman there addressed to the firm with which he is connected in London. It communicates intelligence, that a considerable number of persons were apprehended at Bordeaux during the night of the 20th, by order of the government, on a charge of being concerned in a conspiracy to restore the Bonapartean dynasty to the French throne. The intention of the conspirators, it is understood, was to declare the arch dutchess Maria Louisa regent of France during the minority of her son. The attempt excited the greater surprise, considering the quarter where it had been made, as Bordeaux has taken the lead in its loyalty among the cities of France. There are other places in the south of France in which fidelity to the government is said to be questionable.

The French government, we understand, has given orders for the purchase of 40,000 barrels of flour in America, for the supply of the city of Paris.

Admiral Penrose has announced to the governor of Gibraltar that Tunis and Tripoli have given up, at his request in the name of the prince regent, every christian captive they had, and that there is not now a Christian slave in the barbarian states.

Renewal of our treaty with Algiers

The following circular, is politely handed, by a friend who arrived in the brig Spartan yesterday.

U. States ship Washington. Mahon, Jan. 1st, 1817.

CIRCULAR.]

SIR—I am happy to inform that a treaty of peace and amity was concluded with the dey and regency of Algiers on the 25th ult. which in its principal features is the same as the treaty of June 1815.

Our relations with the other barbarian powers remain as we could wish them and the American trade has nothing to apprehend from the cruisers of either of those powers.

Be pleased to communicate this information to all the American merchants and ship masters within your district.

I have the honor to be, sir, very respectfully, your most obedient servant.

I. CHAUNCEY. To BERNARD HENRY, Esq. Consul United States, Gibraltar.