

NO. III.  
To his Excellency Jonathan Jennings,  
SIR,

If your excellency is not much in the habit of reading, I will inform you that a large portion of the people in this quarter of the state, are perfectly aware how, and by what means, true republicanism has in every age, been undermined, perverted, or overthrown. If, however, you are occasionally in the habit of reading this may be unnecessary—and willing to believe so, I will just enquire who they were that corrupted and destroyed all ancient and modern republics but our own? If sir, in numerous instances the very greatest enemies of the peoples rights have not made like your excellency and your underlings, the loudest professions of regard—and if all republics except our own, have not been totally subverted by the slow and progressive inroads of those to whom the people delegated power—and if in all such instances, they did not first vitiate and corrupt the freedom of the press, & thereby cover the assumption of functions which did not belong to them, and the disobedience of the laws and constitution they had sworn to uphold. Examine into this sir, see Venice, Genoa, Holland & France; & compare the progress of their course with our own nation; see them as free as the human understanding in the ages of their existance, would admit; see them like ourselves, rise from obscurity by that genius which liberty ever gives to society, by simplicity of manners and by industry;—see them like ourselves give arts and commerce to the civilized world—and in war defeat the most powerful monarchies—see them excel in almost every department of human glory—but mark! in the midst of their career each of them was deceived and imposed upon, by intriguers and designing men, who excited personal and party distinctions, and supported by the glare of office trappings and wealth, gratified their corrupt lust for power. 'Twas such men who undermined the peoples liberties by falsehood and deceit;—and all those boasted seats of virtuous freedom became at last, victims and slaves to certain combinations of men, to whom power had been originally delegated as a trust. See sir, I beg of you, in their history a warning for our citizens; and I would again beg of you, let not the experience of intrigue, ambition, folly and debasement, find another obvious and pointed example in you! But enough of this, I will descend to particulars.

Your friend Regulus, the slave of malignity and of words, and the enemy of reason and of truth, with his labored pieces, reminds me of a duck pond in a hail storm, creating a bubble for every hail stone that falls which disappears as they sink; his pieces are a political storm & his charges are mere bubbles; they are read, and when read his motives are discovered, and the whole is attributed by the people to his own disturbed and burning conscience. He is a singular writer indeed, and as inconsistant as singular; he avows one thing and from his conduct proves his own avowal to be false; he commenced by declaring he was the friend of the people, and concludes by proving himself to be their violent enemy. He has brought to the light and view of every one, his voluntary interference between the editors of your watch tower, the Centinel, and the Board of Trustees of the Borough of Vincennes; and it is now plain to be seen, that your editors attacked the board, in order to create and have an excuse for Regulus and themselves in praising and eulogizing your excellency, and in attacking with your very great political assistance, one of the territorial governors;—a governor whose character as a soldier, a general and a statesman, is not to be sullied by all the band, with all the assistance your hopeful Regulus can give you.

Was there ever, let me ask you, so ungenerous and unwarrantable an attack made upon any people on earth, as your Regulus has made in the Centinel of the 25th ult.—He has called upon the old citizens of our state, to testify to the truth of his declarations—then tells them whilst they lived under the territorial government, that owing to Gov. Harrison's official pre-eminence and insinuating manners, his opinions was made the criterion of their suffrages,—your Regulus might as well have told them in plain language, that they were the dupes and slaves of Harrison; so ignorant, so dependent, and so incapable of speaking or acting for themselves that from their belief of their own inferiority, they had yielded their dearest birthright—their suffrages, to the executive of the Territory! This sir, was monstrous and malignant defamation; and contains a charge or assertion against the citizens of the territory, which is as untrue, as

Regulus is capable of speaking—as untrue sir, as that he is not your tool, and the dupe of the Centinel; and it well comports with the administration of your excellency. This Regulus then goes on and tells the people in the election of 1809, there was a spectacle as novel, as arrogant and insulting—that Gen. Harrison having caught the contagion from his red brethren, was virtually both a war and village chief, and was alternately entreating & commanding obedience to his inordinate desires. Can your friend Regulus your editors or yourself point to a man who yielded his suffrages to the control of Gen. Harrison? Or can your Regulus or your editors or yourself name a man who will testify to your charge against gen. Harrison in taking from the citizens of the territory by his pre-eminence in office, even one solitary individual vote in the election of 1809? No sir, neither of you can; unless it be one of your own fraternity. Your Regulus has assailed the character & conduct of every man, let his station be high or low, who dares oppose your administration, or who will not tamely succumb to your measures, & has also abused all who approved & supported Governor Harrison's administration. If it is now made a crime by Regulus, to have supported Harrison's administration I am sure it is a shame and a greater crime for those who support you at this time; and let me ask you, if it was formerly a crime to support the executive, what miracle has now wrought it into a virtue? No sir, yours, your editors, and your Regulus's object is to destroy all who will not worship you, and to seek revenge against those who know, and ever have known you too well, to say you are either a statesman, a man of talents, or a man of much acquired knowledge.

Your Regulus wishes it to be inferred from part of his address of the 25th ult. that the citizens of the territorial government were the mere abject slaves of Harrison, too ignorant to exercise the rights of freemen; and that Harrison imposed upon their ignorance! Such assertions and inferences, can only be made and drawn by you Regulus and your maimed, mangled, foiled band, consisting of yourself, Nat, Elias, Big John, and a few other mutten headed, chop logicians. In fact the charges and insinuations of Regulus in his address of the 25th ult. are enough to raise the indignation and hatred of every man who lived under Harrison's administration; particularly those who thought favorably of it. To say that Harrison, having caught the contagion from his red brethren, was both a war and village chief, and that the citizens of the territory composed his band. Under what government could such a state of affairs exist? The charge is not only a slander against the government of the United States and against Gen. Harrison, but also against all our citizens.—Let me ask you if you can approve of your friend regulus's conduct, after comparing the citizens of the territory who fought the battle of Tippecanoe, and punished the enemy in many skirmishes during the late war, to a band of savages? But it is to be expected that you do—particularly after your own heroic conduct in marching to the relief of the citizens of Pigeon Roost, when instead of giving to to their relief you fled like— to the state of Kentucky for safety, and refused the command of the volunteers who solicited you to lead them to the relief of the women and children of that settlement! After such dastardly conduct, may I not suppose you approve of any thing that will slander the brave?

Your favorite Regulus, who is no bettered to you for his historical knowledge of the territorial government, and to whom you now look to for support and preservation, not content with comparing the few who survived the battle of Tippecanoe, and the few citizens of Indiana who defended and preserved their character as citizens of the territory, to a band of savages—but his callous heart and corrupt principles, by the solicitations of your malignant soul, has pursued the object of your malice and your resentment to the silent grave of the brave and virtuous Randolph, who gallantly fell in the defence and support of his country, on the memorable 7th of November, 1811. Oh! how disgraceful it would be to your excellency had you the feelings of a brave man, and the virtues of a Randolph, to have a press and an underling, to slander the living and to disturb the ashes of the dead! It is cause sufficient for the remaining noble citizens of the state who fought with Randolph, the relatives of the deceased, who fell with him, to pour out their curses upon your Regulus, yourself and your friends; and damn the press that would give vent to such unjustifiable defamation. Had Randolph, and those who fell with him, done as the racers of Bladensburg did, they might have lived to see one or two

or the next year the vanity and pomposity, basking in the unmerited honors bestowed by an unworthy governor of Indiana. Your Regulus after speaking of Randolph's being the administration candidate, says "let none disturb the repose of the departed soldier, for his troubled spirit might haunt the conscience for ingratitude." How dare Regulus say his spirit was troubled? What crime on earth had he been guilty of, that would cause his spirit to be troubled? If it was a sin in the eyes of God to oppose you, then has he sinned.—But your Regulus may rest in his bed without the fear of being haunted by the troubled spirit of a Randolph! he has gone to that happy bourn from whence no one returns, and will not be disturbed by the barking of a Regulus, or the curses and malice of your excellency.

Is it possible that Regulus could expect the ancient citizens to testify to their own infamy?—No sir, he did not, unless it was from your advice and opinions—and I am warrantable in saying, you have the contemptible opinion of the old citizens of the state, that is expressed by your companion and advocate.—What greater insult could the vanity and impotence of Regulus offer the citizens of the territory, than to tell them they had yielded their suffrages to governor Harrison, and then to call upon them to testify to it?—And will it now be said to the disgrace of the memories of capt. Dubois, capt. Jones, Col. White J. Purcell, Esqr. and others equally respectable who are no more, that they yielded their suffrages, and knew not the value of their rights? No—I will in the name of truth protest against it; and I would tell your Regulus that he is misinformed, even if I knew he received his intelligence from your excellency. How dare your Regulus, if he be not a man void of truth, even look at Judge Parke, Col. Jordan, Col. Decker, Gen. Wilson, Gen. Evans, Judge Montgomery, Chas. Smith, Wm Jones J. D. Hay, and hundreds of others equally respectable and known, with those named, (who were all here in that age of Harrison's pre-eminence, and who were the friends of his administration,) and say they are at that time, or ever, men who would yield to any executive their rights as citizens? Your Regulus says it is not every man who rallied around the executive standard of those times, whom he includes in the range of his expressions, and that many of them have discovered the absurdity of the course that was pursued. Let Regulus name one of those I have noticed or any one man who was ever the friend of Harrison and the enemy of Jennings, that is now the friend of Jennings and the enemy of Harrison, except himself; and I will show you either a corrupt designing man, or one who has lost his character as an independent man, and every other ingredient that is requisite to constitute a patriot, a gentleman, or a soldier.—For I contend gov. Harrison and yourself, are so different in talents, principles, and patriotism, that it is impossible for a virtuous upright man, who was once the friend of Harrison, ever to be the friend of Jennings.

Your Regulus asks, when have the calumny of Vincennes faction ceased to exclaim against your excellency—to call you fool, paltroon and villain, and to rebuke the people by whose votes your merit was established? This, sir, was the language and epithets applied to you by your sycophantic Regulus, when he first came into the state of Indiana, and so continued to be for nearly a year; he told his triumph over you at a Billiard Table in the City of Washington, and of your littleness, and improper conduct as a gentleman in that city, whilst you represented the territory as delegate.—Let him remember those things I beseech of you, for you may have never been improperly miscalled. And now let me again advise you to examine your nominal friends, and let your choice hereafter be different; for this Regulus of yours is only a viper in your bosom that ere long will become warm and suck your support—Remember too, that a friend gained in the way your excellency gained Regulus, cannot be sincere or true; his own objects—his own views—his own interests will alone direct him when established in power; for gratitude is founded upon moral feeling, and Regulus has as little of that as your excellency.

I am, &c.

A FREEMAN.

FOR THE WESTERN SUN.

When the editors of a public newspaper will so far forget the morality of their calling as knowingly and maliciously to publish the most glaring untruths, in order to lessen the standing and character of a man, the exalted qualities of whose head and heart have become proverbial, or in order to puff up another individual, it is not very easy to find suitable terms to censure their conduct, and the most suitable are such as I can not at this time condescend to employ.

I will not, therefore, deign to reproach the writer of a piece in a late "Centinel," headed "Who shall be our next Senator?" for the sentiments, feelings, and expressed will of nineteen twentieths of the people in this quarter of the state, leaves for his incorrectness, no possible covering.—Indeed the character of that hireling paper, through which the unfounded strictures on Gen. Taylor are sent abroad, will, where it is properly appreciated, be sufficient to counteract the intended effect. But this matter may not be understood and known throughout the state, and I will on that account notice the strictures, altho' they only merit contempt.—Besides I have other reasons to influence me to this—I have a deep and solemn conviction that this is the most critical moment since Indiana became a state, for the security of her future prosperity; and that there never was a more dangerous principle advocated amongst a free people than the selection of the people's representatives from executive favourites. I am well aware that in regard to the subject matter of this communication it is not possible there can be danger of any such result; a little reflection and prudent observation, which no man of sense will fail to exercise in a matter of so much general importance, must convince of this.—But as the subject has been colored with falsehood, and the opinions of the people positively contradicted, it now appears necessary that the members elected of our next legislature should be informed; they are the true representatives of our sentiments—the true guardians of our liberties—for this they were instituted, and if faction can ever delude or deceive them, we will be in that hopeless and degraded state, to guard and secure us from which, they were created. 'Tis true we have many securities to our rights, but the integrity which depends on the intelligence—correct knowledge and independency of our legislature, is the key-stone that keeps the whole together—If by any means this be ever shaken, the sentiments, interests and liberties of the people totter.

After these few preliminary remarks, I will ask if the inhabitants of the west and south west were every man assembled on a large prairie for the purpose of enquiring who should be our next senator in the congress of the U. States—what would be their thoughts and declarations? Would not nineteen twentieths say Gen. WALLER TAYLOR?—he has ever been a judicious guardian of our best interests, and a firm defender of our rights and liberties—he is free from faction—he is a pure and disinterested politician, who during a long residence has shewn himself capable of the most trying and distinguished duties—he is an honest man, who abhors peculation and speculation in officers of the government—he is an experienced intelligent man, who has proved himself a senator for the state and not for a party, ever since his capacity, services and principles pointed to him as well worthy of the honors and confidence of the state, and secured to him from a majority of our legislature, that highly important station—he is a man who on every occasion has devoted himself to further the real interests and good of his country—and until the calumny of a wretched, contemptible creature has got vent thro' this corrupt Centinel, could never by any human being, be even suspected of any offence against the people, or against the most strict and chivalric honor—he is a plain man whose political course, if not brilliant, has always been marked with honor, intelligence and integrity—and whose conduct and achievements have a conspicuous place on the records of Indiana's glory—he is the man who best knows our interests, wants and sentiments, and this knowledge, added to his experience and personal worth, renders him, above all others, deserving of his present station. That these would be the thoughts and declarations of our citizens in the west & s. west, if collected on such an occasion, I would pledge my honor and my life.

Now who does the Centinel dare to say has an equal hold on the affections of the people?—why no less a personage than ISAAC BLACKFORD Esq. late cashier of the Vincennes Bank, now one of the supreme judges. As an individual, I will here confess I think, in some respects, highly of Mr. Blackford; but I must take occasion to say that in my opinion the man cannot be sincerely his friend who would bring him forward as Gen. Taylor's competitor. I will refrain from making any general comparison of the men and their public merit; and I really rejoice on account of my individual respect for Mr. Blackford, that he has rendered it altogether unnecessary to do so; for I should not know where to look for many occasions where he has in any