

Mr. FENNO,

NOTHING can be more laughable and ridiculous than to see little vagabond societies and committees throughout the United States, and our own in particular, Resolving in the most pompous dictatorial style,—that such and such an act of the President was illegal and unconstitutional—that in such and such instances, Congress have violated their duty, and encroached upon the liberties of the citizens; and Resolved by a club of five or six of the most insignificant, perhaps of the worst, members of the union, that the PEOPLE of the United States, ought to do so and so.—A club of this sort collected from a township in the county of Cumberland, have exceeded all rivalry in this kind of Tom Thumb heroism and importance. They have resolved and declared that it is "improper and unjust" for the state to sell her own lands as she pleases and to whom she pleases, although the purchase money is appropriated to the immediate use and emolument of the community—and why is it unjust? Because, say they, it creates an unequal division of lauded property; that is, because none of these gentry have been able to buy any of it. Pursuing the spirit of this resolve a little more openly it ought to run thus—That, whereas we are a set of poor Devils possessing neither property, nor talents and industry to acquire it even in this land of plenty, and whereas a number of our fellow citizens have by the efforts of industry, accumulated handsome estates, and are enabled to make large purchases of land, while we can scarcely buy a bushel of corn, it is therefore, Resolved, that neither the state nor any citizens thereof shall be permitted to sell or buy any tract of land whatever, because it tends to create unequal divisions of property, and to make our neighbors richer than us—a story in point just strikes me—A poor, beggarly, lazy wretch, who owned not a farthing in the world, and was not likely to earn one, complained bitterly to one of his intimates, that while some men were enjoying all the pleasures and comforts of life, and indeed rioting in its luxuries, he was destitute of common necessities, even of a dram of whiskey. He thought it improper and unjust—How can it be helped? said his friend—why I'll tell you, said the other, Let all those rich fellows be made to throw their property into one common stock, and then let it be shared out equally among us, damn them, they may have their share, I don't want to cheat them out of that—no, no—fair play and justice say I—But replied his friend, if this was done you would soon see things in their present state again—the industrious and frugal would improve their shares—the indolent and prodigal would squander and waste theirs, until property at last would come again into the hands that now hold it, you would be a beggar again and Bob Morris a Nabob—that may be true enough, said this just projector, but then I would make them share again.

The Congress of the United States who are, perhaps justly supposed to be men eminent for learning and patriotism, spent a good deal of time in forming the funding system, and in endeavouring to do justice to its creditors. To Congress these were important questions and difficult of decision. But the inhabitants of a township in Cumberland, settle the matter at once, at a single meeting; where no doubt some "second Daniel," some praternatural wiseman presided and dictated.

But to another resolve—As the people of the United States are totally inadequate to judge for themselves in the election of their representatives, the inhabitants of this township, in pity to their inexperience and ignorance, kindly condescend to instruct them whom they ought to elect—"the people of the United States ought not to chuse any speculators in the funds, any stockholder in the Bank of the United States, nor any land jobber." It is further resolved, that every law which the people, that is, our club, do not like, is tyrannical and unjust, and may and ought consequently to be opposed by force.

But the two last resolves of these extraordinary lawgivers and reformers, wear a more serious aspect—They are in fact a direct declaration of war against the authority and government of the United States, and a fraternal invitation to the citizens of Mifflin County to unite with them in the treason—It runs verbally thus, that "whereas the Governor of this state in compliance with a requisition of the President of the United States, hath ordered the militia to hold themselves in readiness to march at a moment's warn-

ing to enforce the execution of the excise among our brethren in the western country, it is, therefore unananimously Resolved, that the citizens of this county be earnestly recommended to send a number of delegates, not fewer than six nor more than ten, for the purpose of taking into consideration the important crisis in which we are placed, and the measures proper to be pursued—And resolved, that our fellow citizens in Mifflin county be requested in the spirit of fraternal affection to send some of their confidential citizens to meet us on this occasion." Need I comment on such language, or such proceedings; can any comment expose audacity which so boldly steps forth and exposes itself—who are the people of the United States, and what is their dignity when they are thus insulted; and their government which ought to be, and is the essence of that dignity is thus set at defiance—Do these poor deluded wretches suppose that their flimsy ideological assertions, unsupported by truth, can deceive you; or their childish threats, unsupported by virtue or power, terrify—their conduct is an exhibition of madness that distracts itself. Two or three designing unprincipled knaves, who like salamanders can exist in flames, and who wish to throw the country into sedition and war, that they may plunder amidst the confusion, are the usual dictators of the resolves of such meetings, and the poor deceived inhabitants are called in to decide on questions which they had never considered for a moment, on resolutions on whose tendency they have not reflected, and sanction by their vote the preconcerted mischief of these enemies to public peace and public happiness.

September 7th, 1794.

For the Gazette of the United States.

DEMOCRATIC LESSONS,

Forming part of the GENERAL CREED, and to be sung or said at all the Clubs on the Continent.

Composed by a BROTHER.

The RECITATIVE by the President. TO be a modern democrat, To this you must agree, Sir, That we the People are, and yet, The people are not we, Sir.

Semi Chorus. If you would be a democrat, Keep you in mind these lessons pat. Full Chorus. Sing Whiskey, frisky, turn about then, And we'll keep up a dust till we are Great Men.

RECITATIVE. Should one of us dislike the Law, Or hate the Constitution, Or fight like mad against them both, We give him absolution. Semi Chorus. Because he is a democrat, And learn'd from us his lessons pat. Full Chorus. Sing Whiskey, &c.

RECITATIVE. All officers of government, We have a right to claw Sir, For why? the Law was made for us, And not we for the Law Sir. Semi Chorus. But if you are a democrat, You surely have this lesson pat. Full Chorus. Sing Whiskey, &c.

RECITATIVE. Should one at Club with reason cool, Oppose a 'crat more frisky, He shall be fined to drink at least, A pint of smuggled Whiskey. Semi Chorus. To make him a warm democrat, And hence to know his lesson pat. Full Chorus. Sing Whiskey, &c.

RECITATIVE. Whene'er our foes the many are, And we are but the few Sir, We swear they are aristocrats— We have no more to do Sir. Semi Chorus. To triumph like a democrat, Keep you in mind this lesson pat. Full Chorus. Sing Whiskey, &c.

RECITATIVE. In order to protect our cause, From censure and from evil, We have secured a Printer and, Like wife the Printer's Devil. Semi Chorus. Who really is a democrat, And gives us many a lesson pat. Full Chorus. Sing Whiskey, &c.

RECITATIVE. The President we'll call a king, And Hamilton a tory, To bring these men, their plans, and friends To ruin, we should glory. Semi Chorus. Because a modern democrat, Has taught us all these lessons pat. Full Chorus. Sing Whiskey, &c.

RECITATIVE. Thus we'll be anti government, Until we all get places; And then perhaps, but not till then, We may wear other faces. Semi Chorus. And though no more a democrat, Yet each will have his lesson pat.

Full Chorus. Sing whiff about, frisk about, now out but in then, We will laugh at the fools who have made us great men.

Extracts from the Virginia Centinel, published at Winchester.

It has been suggested, that the local situation of the Insurgents requires indulgence. Considering them as a part of the federal union. I acknowledge myself, Sir, a stranger to the title on which a claim to such indulgence is founded. It is true the legislature of Pennsylvania has exempted them for many years from the payment of taxes; but have they, in consequence of it, been better citizens, or more peaceable neighbors? It appears rather to have produced a dislike to every species of taxation: the excise is odious to them, not so much because it is an excise, but because it is a tax; and a tax being a mode of lessening their quantum of money, it is sufficient with them to oppose it.

But what are their pleas for exemption? They are settled on a frontier country, it is said, and exposed to the depredations of the savages. True; but who forced them to the frontier country? Did they not go there from choice? Did they not settle there from the prospect of advantage? Nay, that they could make a better provision for themselves and families there than elsewhere? Besides, if there is a foe to contend with, are they at all the trouble and expence of the war? Do they hire and pay all the troops requisite for the service? Or do they furnish all the provisions and military stores gratis? No; the Union has expended millions of dollars in equipping armies for their protection, while they refuse to pay a single shilling for their own defence; nay, insult the government and its officers for demanding it: and yet these are the people who are entitled to be treated with lenity, indulgence, and an exemption from taxes.

It has been said, and that too by a member of Congress, that the Excise Law should be suspended in their favor for a limited time. How the said member of Congress came to adopt such a sentiment, I cannot comprehend; for had he been sufficiently acquainted with the federal constitution, he must have known that Congress have no such power as to suspend that law in favor of any part of the community. In the first clause of the eighth section of the first article, the constitution expressly declares, that all duties, imposts and excises shall be uniform throughout the United States. Can the excise then be uniform throughout the States, and yet a part exempted from it altogether. It is, a part must be equal to the whole. *Rejunt teneatis amici.*

But granting, for a moment, that the law could be suspended partially in favour of the western opposition, what would be the consequence? A part of the community who would pay no tax, would, in this case, by their representatives, have the power of taxing others who did. A measure this that completely does away the very essence of equal rights, and equal liberties. It tumbles into ruin the doctrine of equality; and, like the stroke of the Magician's rod, causes a privileged order to rise in its room. Besides, the doctrine of suspension is fraught with the worst of consequences to society, from the precedent it would establish.—There are Tories and other disaffected persons among us, who may have influence enough to form a party in opposition to certain laws they may deem oppressive. To appease these, if Congress wishes to act consistently, the suspension act must be enlarged to embrace their case; and so it may go on, ad infinitum, to the suspension of all law and government.

No man, I believe, who is a friend to the Union, but would wish to see the federal government possess sufficient energy, and to exercise that energy constitutionally, when occasion requires it. Relaxation in the reigns of government is too apt to be construed into weakness—a belief of weakness begets contempt of the laws; and, when this is the case, all subordination is at an end. This is a serious evil, and one which should be carefully guarded against, if we wish to preserve any semblance of a well regulated policy. If the citizens reflect upon these things and weigh them in their own minds, regardless of the idle tales of the incendiary, there is no doubt, Sir, but their own good sense will determine them to give the executive, cheerfully and willingly, every assistance in their power, if requisite, for the support of that which should be dear to us all—peace and good government.

I am, Sir, your's, &c. A BACK-WOODS-MAN. Winchester, August 22, 1794.

From the American Daily Advertiser

NUMBER II. ATTICUS to "TULLY." SIR, THE cause of which you have become the champion must be desperate indeed, when you are compelled to step forward in its defence, at the bar of a

public, which necessarily only prompts you to treat with respect. Hard indeed must be your lot, when not one solitary scribbler has arisen to prop your sinking cause; but you could have expected no other fate; for the fortune of *Wolsey* ought to have taught you the uncertainty of depending upon sycophants, and his repentant exclamation, that had he served his GOD as he served his KING, he would not have deserted him, ought to have been a serious admonition to you, to trust yourself to political virtue only.

You have laboured hard to persuade the people, that the western citizens, and indeed all who are opposed to excises and to certain corruptions in our government, are enemies to the constitution; nay, that they are enemies to every kind of government; artfully mingling the systems and conduct of administration, with that instrument which arises from, and received the sanction of the freemen of America. But here you have over-rated your cunning, for the people of the United States are not like the bears of their forests, to be made to dance to any tune that a sifler shall think proper to strike up for them. No, Sir, they have understanding enough to perceive truth, and judgment sufficient to embrace it; and as well might you issue a bull, declaring yourself to be the representative of the Pope, that like him you were infallible, and that all good christians should prostrate themselves and kiss your slipper, as to endeavor to make the people believe that they are the enemies of that very frame of government, which they themselves formed for their regulation.

It would not be an irrelative enquiry to trace the causes of discontent and murmur, which have agitated the peaceable bosoms of a large part of the people, and it would not be difficult to make appear that he is the cause of them who originated funding, bank and excise systems, and who by their means has introduced idleness instead of industry, extravagance instead of economy, luxury instead of simplicity, speculation instead of labor, fictitious instead of real wealth, inequality instead of equality, sycophants instead of republicans, a privileged order instead of citizens, the pomp of monarchy instead of the simplicity of republicanism.—To him, who took the corrupt systems of Great Britain as his texts, and in his commentary upon them has endeavored to grind the poor and industrious, and privilege the wealthy and the idle, in order to tame the one to obedience and the other to submission.

The object of a free government ought to be the happiness of its citizens, and to compass this all should be made to share in the public burthens proportioned to their wealth. Is this the case in the United States? What proportion of the public burthen does the stockholder pay, who has ten thousand a year from the public treasury? What difference is there between the man who has an estate of an hundred thousand pounds, and him who is the proprietor of a single hut? The present system of indirect taxation, like death, puts them upon a level, and the poor and the rich contribute alike, with this singular difference, that the poor man is obliged to assist in supplying the public treasury to satisfy the stockholder's claims. Is not this British taxation with a witness? And will not the same effects flow from it? The land tax of Great Britain is, at this moment, half a million less than it was a century ago, and the taxes upon consumption have increased to the enormous sum of thirteen millions annually!!

The consequences are but too obvious, the poor are in a state of wretchedness almost unparalleled, while the wealthy, like the rich man, are rioting upon the good things of this life. Citizens of America, reflect before it be too late! View the gulph before you, and pause, before you commit yourselves to its devouring jaws.

The inequality which speculation, arising out of funding and bank systems have produced, may be cited as a cause of discontent; for by this means a monied aristocracy has been created, which has hitherto been an overbalance for the general interest.—In proof of this, the exemption from taxation which paper property has experienced may be fairly and substantially adduced. This inequality has operated in another way, it has given rise to comparisons between citizens productive of chagrin; for the man who has labored to advance his fortune by a regular series of industry, feels himself checked and mortified on seeing a dealer in scrip start up in possession of ministerial wealth, like a mushroom in a night.

Were I disposed to exhibit a catalogue of the causes of discontent, I could enumerate the submission of our government to the piracies of Great; the submission of the government to the

detention of the western posts, contrary to solemn stipulation, the extravagant salaries of the officers of government, when the nation is groaning beneath the weight of debt; the exclusion of the western citizens from the navigation of the river Mississippi, &c. but will forbear the exhibition of so melancholy a spectacle, that I may not occasion free men to mourn the condition of their once happy country. These are among the causes which have blasted the hopes and interrupted the happiness and peace of the citizens of America. Here their discontents may be traced, and not to the constitution.

Can it be expected that free men can bear without murmur to see their hard earnings wrung from them to sustain those who take no part in the public burthens? The present excise in itself is not a monster of such an hideous mein; but it becomes so when its products are to be applied to speculators and stock-jobbers, and not for the general good. Free men are disposed to submit to many hardships when their country's welfare calls; but to be made to bear impositions to cherish luxury and idleness is an outrage upon their feelings.

Epithets, Sir, cost you nothing, they seem to be as familiar to you as the manufacture of words; but the sounds of *Conspirator, Incendiary, Cataline, &c.* will no longer delude or alarm; they have been bawled in the ears of the people so frequently that they have at length become perfectly innocent. But were I to enquire who are the conspirators, the incendiaries, the Catalines of this country, it might be answered, that he is a Cataline who aimed at erecting a monarchy in the United States upon the ruins of republicanism; that he is a conspirator who wishes a brother wantonly to imbrue his hands in the blood of his brother; that he is an incendiary who endeavors to substitute violence for reason, who strives to embitter the minds of citizens against the deluded western citizens; would it not be a civil war, to incite free men to slaughter. Had the man who clothed himself with the venerable and revered name of Franklin plan'd an irredeemable debt, and hazarded the maxim that a public debt is a public blessing, then might "Tully's" epithets safely apply to him.

It may be a mark of Insolent presumption to exercise a 'mountebank wit' upon a ministerial word and did I know the soft piano that would keep irritable feelings from vibrating like a pendulum it would be but decorous in me to resort to it; but as I am like a servant who is the ape of his master or like the vulgar who copy their betters, you will pardon the liberty I take in dipping into the ministerial dictionary and saying that it must be the principle of a man who wished a monarchy to resort to instantaneous coercion against the western people; for the instrumentality of a monarch is force, the logic of gun powder being more certainly convincing than all the deductions from the reasoning powers.

Sept. 3. ATTICUS.

The following Sketch is copied from the General Advertiser of this Morning.

Legislature of Pennsylvania.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, September 9.

A petition was presented from the Pilots of this port. Read and ordered to lie on the table. It was afterwards, by special order, read a second time and referred to the committee of health.

The committee appointed, made a report to regulate the sale of lands; ordered to lie on the table.

The Secretary of State, introduced a message from the Governor on the subject of calling out the militia to quell the western insurrection. The Governor wishes the sanction of the Legislature to enable him to fill up the vacancies in the militia by volunteer enlistments. Mr. B. Morgan moved for the appointment of a committee to bring in a bill to empower the Governor to make up with volunteers the quota of militia required from this State, and to allow a bounty to those volunteers.

Mr. White of Washington opposed the motion. He took a view of the causes of the insurrection, adverted to the oppressive nature of the excise, and thence of other measures of the Federal government, which he warmly reprobated. He was repeatedly called to order, those subjects being unconnected with the question before the house. He concluded by moving to postpone the resolution till November next.

Mr. Evans was against this postponement. It was true, he said, that by the existing militia law the Governor could by a lengthy process make up the quota required from this State, by calling on the several classes in succession