

ALEXANDRIA, Feb. 4.

At a meeting of a number of the inhabitants of the Territory of Columbia (west of the Potomac) on Monday evening last, at the Court-House in Alexandria, convened agreeably to adjournment of a former meeting, and in pursuance of a general and public notice, the following Memorial was agreed to, and directed to be transmitted to Ewen Powell, Esq., with a request for him to lay it before the House of Representatives of the United States.

TO THE CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,

The Memorial of sundry Inhabitants of the District of Columbia, (west of the Potomac)

RESPECTFULLY SHewETH,

THAT your memorialists having enjoyed for many years past, in common with each fellow citizen of the union, the blessings of freedom, and indulging at this moment a laudable pride at the recollection that they have contributed to prove to nations the superior benefits of self-government, and desiring to be distinguished by reverence and love for the federal union and the government as forming, conjointly, the most perfect system of political institutions which the world has witnessed.

Your memorialists cordially hope that they regret that the time is arrived when the constitution of the United States has (they trust for the wisest purposes) veiled its sacred power to diffuse the ties which may have bound the people together under the basic authorities, and has delineated the people of this district to take their stand in the midst of their country under a system of jurisprudence novel and peculiar.

Your memorialists cordially hope that the objects intended to be effected by this peculiar in the policy of our constitution may be completely attained; and that the territorial institution may be viewed as the most beneficial and salutary measure which the illustrious and visionary luminaries of American jurisprudence—And while they beg leave to express their confidence in the virtuous attention of a Congress of the United States to the rights of every citizen of the union—they claim the liberty to remark, that the bill lately reported to the House of Representatives by a committee appointed for that purpose, entitles a bill for the government of the District of Columbia, which they cannot help viewing it as adverse to their most important rights and interests.

First—because it appears to be defined by the bill itself, that the representation of the people of this district to the Congress of the United States should cease, although by the said bill Congress would retain the paramount right of legislation over the said district and the laws of the United States continue to introduce a controlling force over the persons and property within the Territory of Columbia.

As members of a free community your memorialists are prompted to allege, that the rights of representation and taxation in government constitute an indispensable quality in all legislative institutions of a legitimate kind; and that a privation of those rights under government will alone constitute despotism.

That it is an acknowledged maxim in politics, illustrated by the acts which generate our national existence, that we cannot be bound by laws to which we have not by voice or by representation given our assent. Nor can we for a moment suppose that the wise framers of our constitution intended the idea to enter their deliberations, which would mark the people of this district as unreluctantly consenting to the general annihilation of liberty, diffused by a free government over a wide extended empire.

We presume that every power granted by the constitution is to be exercised in conformity with the condition that it shall be exercised in a manner conformant to general rights. Yet should congress suppose that consistently with their present investiture of power they may authoritatively provide for the passage of an immediate representation, however sanguine your memorialists may be in their expectation of benefit, to be derived from the assumption of an exclusive right of legislation over the territory of Columbia, they are unwilling to barter for advantage, the rights which they conceive to be dearer to them as men.

Secondly, We cannot but deem the refusal made of rights therein preferred, a violation of the fundamental principles of free government; because it excludes from all share in legislation a numerous class of citizens, who contribute in various ways to the maintenance of government, and are as entitled to an equal share in the laws as

citizens, and whose services the sovereignty of the nation derive, whenever the State of the country requires their aid.

Thirdly, The great weight of power conferred on the officer denominated a Governor in the territorial bill, is manifestly coercive to be strongly objectionable in so far as it affects his legislative capacity—we deem it an unnecessary and unprecedented investiture of authority in a department of government, and a violation of the constitution, and an implied negative on the acts of the legislative department—we consider it as subverting the most important branch of the body politic, to one of an acknowledged inferior nature.

Fourthly, The objection last mentioned to the said bill we find strongly enforced by the total omission of any previous qualification in a governor to be appointed, and we will do to this information the same defect of qualification as applicable to the district judiciary. If in the opinion of Congress an evidence of permanent interest and attachment is necessarily to be exhibited by every officer of the federal government, whose powers are placed under the double control of a governor and a Congress itself, we cannot, pursuing the same principles of political propriety, presume that the important offices of the federal government, and departments, ought not to be filled by any characters, but such as may manifest an indubitable and superior attachment to the interests of the government they conduct.

However, your memorialists may be to the welfare of the district and the dignity of the United States, we cannot presume that the congressional feat of government; will ever fail to furnish characters duly qualified to fill the offices of the district, which must be the situation of the people of Columbia, if at the same time that they are denied a voice in the national legislation, to subordinate branches of government who be exercised by them by men from whom they claim no responsibility, by men holding no permanent evidence of interest among them, perhaps under the influence of motives, opposed to theirs, and rich others not likely to extend the views of their selfishness may chafe to introduce.

The above objections to the said bill your memorialists, on principle of right, think that they do offer, and we believe that your memorialists will not be less than to endeavor to fill their offices of jurisdiction, which although not of so high importance, as constituting an infraction of right, are deemed of dangerous tendency to the interests of a part of the district. Since we view the mode of electing the Senate of the territorial legislature, by which we fear, that whatever division of the district may from its population be entitled to a superior number of members of the body, that division will entirely control the appointment of the whole of so important a branch of the legislature; we presume that the members of Congress will callily furnish a remedy for this obvious evil.

Your memorialists have felt themselves reluctantly obliged to thus manifest their sentiments to Congress on a subject which involves every consideration, dear to them as members of society, and we cordially trust that however small a part they may constitute of the great American republic, their claims to equal rights will not be disregarded. But under any new organization of jurisdiction—they may experience the same momentary attraction from government, which they with every other part of the community have a right to expect.

PET ERSBURG, on 29th January, 1801.

The celebration of the triumph of Republicanism over Aristocracy, manifested in the election of Mr. Jefferson as President and Mr. Burr as Vice President of the United States, by the people.

REPUBLICAN FESTIVAL.

This being the day appointed for the Festival, as had already been announced, was ushered in by the discharge of 16 guns, and the blowing of the American flag. The morning lowering with clouds and tempests, the subsequent part of the day finding with serenity and sunshine, was strongly emblematical of our political times. At three o'clock in the afternoon, JAMES MONROE, Governor of the Commonwealth, accompanied by several of the Republican Members of the Executive Council of this State, arrived escorted by the Cavalry of this town; on their arrival they were fluted by the firing of sixteen cannon from the Petersburg company of Artillery. At four o'clock nearly two hundred Citizens in full military dress, with the Rock Artillery, marched to the Tavern, which was plentifully and splendidly prepared. Gen. Joseph Jones presided in the chair, and doctor John Stone sat at the other end of the table. During the time of the conviviality and harmony prevailed—every countenance expressed the most striking appearance of interest, joy and satisfaction; and the whole country were warmly animated with that spirit which the influence of Republicanism never fails to inspire.

After the close of the day Mr. Arnold, leader, loudly was handsomely illuminated. About eleven o'clock in the evening the Citizens separated without any interruption of social order.

The Festival the following Patriotic Toasts were drank, accompanied with a Band of Music, and the discharge of artillery.

1. The People of the United States—May they be the first to proclaim the Rights of Man to an admiring world, may they be the last to abandon them—3 guns and 3 cheers. Tune—Yankee Doodle.

2. The Constitution of the United States—May its errors be calmly diffused, and peaceably amended. 3 guns.—Tune The Federal Constitution and Liberty forever.

3. Our Country, our Religion, our Liberties and our Rights—May Congress respect the voice of the people. 5 guns and 3 cheers.—Tune—Hail Liberty.

4. Gen. Burr—A whole views would be influenced, by being made an instrument to disappoint the wishes and expectations of the United States. 4 guns. Tune—Republican Triumphs.

5. Our Country is France—May she be the victor of every thing but Liberty and the Constitution. 5 guns. Tune—Hail Columbia.

6. Peace and good neighborhood—May all political animosities cease, and may the friends of Liberty and Justice be all over the world, and whose feelings would be influenced, by being made an instrument to disappoint the wishes and expectations of the United States. 4 guns. Tune—Republican Triumphs.

7. Our Country is France—They deserved well of their country; had they not accommodated our differences with that nation, they would have deserved well of the Senate of the United States. 4 guns. Tune—Yankee Doodle.

8. The State of South Carolina—She pursued the idea of sacrificing political opinions to local considerations. 4 guns and 3 cheers. Tune—Carolinian.

9. Our Country is France—They deserved well of their country; had they not accommodated our differences with that nation, they would have deserved well of the Senate of the United States. 4 guns. Tune—Yankee Doodle.

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11. Agriculture—The chief strength and support of a free people—Arts, not arms, our study—no more provincial arms, and no more loans of eight per cent. 3 guns. Tune—And the huge oak.

12. Commerce—May she be successful on peaceable and honorable principles, but never be made a pretext to involve us in dangerous connections, expensive arms, and more loans of eight per cent. 3 guns. Tune—And the huge oak.

13. The memory of GEORGE WASHINGTON—The commander in chief of the armies of the United States of America during the late revolutionary war—May the virtue, magnanimity and patriotism, which this highly distinguished officer displayed in the cause of liberty and his country, be handed down to the latest posterity with undiminished lustre. 3 guns. Tune—Washington.

14. The memory of Benjamin Franklin—The printer, the politician and the philosopher, who adopted the Roman maxim, "where Liberty dwells, there is my country." 3 guns. Tune—Rock Castle.

15. May the 19th century be as auspicious to the progress of liberty as the life of the last; and, with the progress of liberty may every nation not only know her own rights, but shall be first made of others. 3 guns. Tune—Go Ira.

16. The American Fair—May they exert that influence, which they never fail to possess among a polite and civilized people, to remove liberty and philanthropy. 3 guns. Tune—It's a kissing time.

The company were then entertained with the following long, composed for the occasion by a citizen of this town.

TUNE—In Andover in Heaven, &c."

I. Ye votaries of freedom, who firmly opposed Those molasses which led to the brink Of our rights, be appall'd, for their plots are detected.

We can now speak and print without fear of sedition; Come then my Friends, along And join in my song.

That in union and harmony fill we'll combine, And kneel with devotion at LIBERTY'S shrine.

II. Methinks I for Liberty's cause on High, Adorned by shades of those Heroes who dy'd I scarce Independence—the smiles—her bright eye, Sheds cheerfulness, happiness, harmony wide; Lo, her banners High wave, Fetters down from her slave; Arts, Science, Philosophy, burst from the grave, Where long they had languish'd, for close round were twin'd The strong cords of Kingcraft and Priestcraft—craft combine.

III. See how her sweet influence cultivates the scene, How sweetly dwell every breath with dearest right; No longer her foes and oppressors are, They have fled to the shadows a vast darkness of night— Like a Chief who commands, Like a Hero in quick retreat, Shrinks again at the touch of Democracy's wand!

And cries, I'm undone for e'er daring The chains of Oppression round Liberty's shrine!"

IV. Hark ye, the echoes of joy, who they ring To the ears of the land— Have ye ye pale Tyrants, 'tis FREEDOM'S heroic voice! On the hills of Columbia the Essex her band, And proclaim the glad tidings—and this is her shout—

TO JEFFERSONS bright— Fill up bumpers that's right— Here's his health, well I support him— it needn't well fail; Let Liberty and Harmony wish to combine, And kneel with devotion at LIBERTY'S shrine.

VOLUNTEER TOASTS. Governor Monroe.

May the Citizens of the United States never forget, that the preservation of American Liberty, depends on the preservation of the American Union.

Alexander Mac Rae, a member of the Executive Council.

WILLIAM DEANES, and the Liberty of speech.

Doctor Faulkner, a member of the Executive Council.

May the influence of Reason and Virtue, be the only influence predominant in the Councils of America.

Richard Kennon, Speaker of the Senate.

May the Representatives of the People, never forget that they hold their trust for the life, and that they are the servants of their political constituents.

Meriwether Jones, public Printer.

JOHN TAYLOR, of Caroline. The patriot of '76 and '98; may his zeal and exertions in opposing federal usurpation, for ever command our veneration and esteem.

By a citizen of this town.

The Editor of the National Intelligencer—May he continue with a ready hand to hold up the mirror of Theodore Sedgwick, till he shall be frightened from his vices by viewing his own deformities.

William B. Giles.

The Judiciary of the United States, from the 4th of March next—may the Judges have their political abilities in the recollection, that they are Judges and not political partisans.

George Hay.

Sacred be the rights of the people, perpetuated by the Union.

From the Irish—National Toast.

The IRISH BIRD NEW FRUIT, may the people of Ireland freely regain their liberty, and appear among the nations of the world as a free people.

From the French—National Toast.

May the French Republic be forever in Amity with that of America.

After the Governor retired, the chairman gave the following toast: JAMES MONROE—whose conduct has proved that an able, honest and faithful minister may be dismissed, but cannot be disgraced.

Doctor Stone, Vice President.

The right of Election by the people violates—may the people of the United States who have deliberately expell'd the people will in the late choice of presidents have their courage enough to have that expedition carried into effect. A SINGULAR PARADOX.