

Maryland Gazette.
ANNAPOLIS:
THURSDAY, JULY 27, 1826.

EXECUTIVE COUNCIL.

There will be a meeting of the Executive Council on Monday the 31st instant.

Thos. Culbreth, Clk.

HYMENIAL.

Married, on Tuesday evening last, by the Rev. Mr. Blanchard, Doctor EDWARD STAPLES, to Miss ROSETTA, daughter of JONATHAN MCKENNEY Esq., all of this city.

On Wednesday evening last, by the Rev. Mr. Wells, Mr. HENRY LAMB, to Miss ANN NORMAN, all of this city.

TO THE VOTERS
Of the Second Congressional District of Maryland.

Fellow Citizens,

Having come to the conclusion, that it is my duty to withdraw my name as a candidate for your support at the next Congressional Election, I owe it to those gentlemen of the district, at whose instance I originally became a Candidate, but more especially to my generous friends in the Vanisville Election District, who have since, in the most gratifying terms, volunteered an avowal of their intention to support me, as well as to the voters generally, to assign the reasons for the step I have decided upon. No one can be more deeply sensible than myself, that in taking this step I am exposed to the imputation, in a certain degree, of having acted under the influence of cupidity or disgust. But, if I know myself, I feel perfectly conscious, that neither the one nor the other have influenced my determination. My motives are of an entirely different character, which I will briefly explain.

When I became a candidate for the honour of representing you in Congress, the next presidential election excited but little interest. The opinions of the candidates for this district upon that subject, heretofore, were deemed of little importance, and hardly produced an inquiry. Since that time however, events have taken place which have entirely changed the state of things. The heat excited by discussions in Congress has extended to the district;—and the inquiry in relation to the candidates, instead of being which is best qualified for the duty of legislation, is beginning to be, Is he for General Jackson or Mr. Adams for the next President? These circumstances, with others not necessary to enumerate, have satisfied me, that the next presidential election will be the hinge upon which the next congressional election in this district will, in a great measure, turn.

It is well known, that at the late presidential election, Mr. Adams was not my first choice. He was my second choice however, after Mr. Calhoun, the candidate whom I preferred to all, had withdrawn from the contest. I gave Mr. Adams a preference over General Jackson, not because I was insensible of the great services, unbending integrity and firmness, or the strong natural powers of the latter, still less because I did not fully appreciate the full value of the elevated, noble and patriotic sentiments contained in his letter to Mr. Monroe on the formation of his cabinet! but simply because I supposed the course of Mr. Adams' life had made him a more learned and accomplished statesman.

Knowing that many of the highly respectable citizens, thro' whose favourable opinion on my name was announced as a candidate, preferred Mr. Adams, and believing that they would naturally suppose, from my own preference to him at the late presidential election, that he still continued to be the object of my choice, I deemed it to be my duty to acquaint them distinctly with my feelings and views in relation to the next presidential election, and to inform them, that I considered no pledge of support, giving under different impressions, as binding. I have been highly gratified at finding, that a procedure, which a sense of honour dictated on my part, met their cordial approbation, and elicited from the greater part of them testimonials of respect, attachment and unshaken or rather increased confidence, accompanied with renewed solicitations that I would continue to be a candidate, being satisfied, that the true republican principle, that the majority should rule, only required me to vote, as I had avowed. I should feel it my duty to do on the presidential election, with the majority of the district, but I found that some other most respectable individual whose influence and support would probably be necessary to my success, would not be satisfied without a thorough-going friend of the administration as a candidate, who would, whether the majority of the district should be for him or not, vote for Mr. Adams' re-election, and therefore determined to retire from the contest.

In order, Fellow Citizens, that you may more fully understand my motives, as well as the reasons why I am opposed to the re-election of Mr. Adams, I beg leave to lay before you, a letter from an intelligent and influential friend of Mr. Adams, with my reply thereto, the substance of which I have also written to some others of the most respectable citizens of the district. I trust, that, what I have stated and will be disclosed by that correspondence will justify me in the eyes of those, who still wished me to continue to be a candidate, after the frank avowal of my sentiments on the next presidential election, and relieve me from the responsibility of not complying with their wishes, and place it upon those, who require more of me than my sense of duty would allow me to grant.

I will conclude with making a single remark more, that my preference for General Jackson is founded on political principles, the preservation of which I deem essential, (as is more fully explained in the subjoined letters,) to the duration of our institutions and the preservation of republican principles in their purity, and is accompanied in no degree with feelings of personal dislike or opposition to Mr. Adams. While I deeply regret, that he has, as I conceive, separated himself from those principles, and by his influence defeated their incorporation into the constitution, I still continue to entertain a high respect for his private virtues and extensive acquirements. But however high may be my respect for him in these particulars, I should be wanting in the first duty of a citizen, if I permitted it to control my regard to political principle, and what I deem the best interest of my country.

V. MAXCY.

Tulip Hill, Anne-Arundel County,
July 17, 1826.

July 3, 1826.

Dear Sir,

The time is near at hand, when the Voters of this Congressional district, friendly to the present administration of the general government, must make up their minds, in the choice of a member of Congress, either to decide between you and Mr. Weems—desirous to be neutral in the contest—or, having ass't think, good grounds to believe, that they constitute a majority of the district, may conclude to bring another Candidate into the field.—With regard to you two gentlemen, it would be peculiarly unpleasing to me, if I should not be able to vote for either on the occasion, without departing from that political consistency which ought to mark the conduct of every independent voter.

I think you will agree with me, that it will be at this time of day to expect, that the political affairs of this great country could be carried on to any considerable length of time without giving rise to party division, as a natural consequence of freedom of opinion—and, that in fact it is not desirable it should be otherwise. Party feeling, within due bounds, is no doubt salutary, and therefore to a certain degree necessary, as well as inevitable. Its liability to exceed the proper merits and limits is a condition of our nature, like unto that which accompanies many of our blessings, and even that of Liberty itself. Considering then the question whether we can do, or even indeed should wish to do without Party, is no longer open to discussion, but rather as one determined in the negative by general opinion and universal practice—it only remains for us to keep the feeling within proper bounds, that we may derive from it the greatest degree of good with the least possible alloy.

Having come to this conclusion, I feel it incumbent on me as a citizen, to adhere to that party in our public affairs, whose general character for Virtue, Patriotism and Talent, I can most respect, and whose general political principles may seem to me best adapted to the interests of the country—not that it is to be expected that any honest man, thinking for himself, shall be able always to approve the measures and conduct of any party whatever—but, having given a general preference to one party over another, it seems to follow, as a necessary and proper consequence, that we should give the preferred party an avowed and cordial support, although in particular instances we might differ in opinion, unless those instances should involve principle, and be of paramount consideration.

This then, my good sir, is my creed in regard to the present administration of the country. I preferred Mr. Adams as President from the first, and you (as you mentioned to me) preferred him after Mr. Calhoun was withdrawn. I decidedly approve of the general measures of his administration, and as decidedly condemn the conduct of the opposition—consistency therefore requires of me, and those who think as I do on those subjects, to vote only for such persons, members of the general government, as would support that administration. Yet I admit, that no independent candidate can agree to bind himself to the unknown future measures of any party, nor can it reasonably be expected he should do so. But no intelligent candidate will ever be at a loss, by terms sufficiently express, to satisfy the friends of a particular party that he means to deserve the confidence he seeks. This however must be an affair of discretion and trust on both sides. On the one hand, as respects the representative, a liberal confidence should be placed in him, and on the other, it might rightfully be expected, that the known wishes of his constituents should not be disappointed.

Believing, my dear sir, as without a compliment I do, that no person in this election district, is capable of representing it in Congress more efficiently and honourably than yourself, I hope your coincidence in political sentiment with the friends of Mr. Adams' administration is such, as when publicly known will ensure your their cordial support. Hoping to be favoured to hear from you on this subject soon, I remain dear sir,

Very sincerely yours,
VIRGIL MAXCY, Esq.
Tulip Hill.

Tulip Hill, on West River, July 14, 1826.

Dear Sir,

Your letter dated, 5th July, but post marked on the 11th, was received yesterday. I admit to the fullest extent, the right of the voter to be informed of the opinions of candidates, on all subjects, pertaining to the duties of the office, to which they aspire, and shall, in compliance with your wish, lay before you my sentiments in respect to the administration, frankly and fully. Another highly respected friend has written to me, "that he should do all in his power to promote my election, under the thorough conviction, that I, like himself warmly supported Mr. Adams as a second choice;" and that he "finds it a generally prevailing opinion on the subject" (referring to the contest between General Jackson and Mr. Adams.)

Although some persons, who look to names more than things, have said that I was a man of no decided opinions, because I have for several years past declared, that I considered the contest between Federalists and Democrats, as opposing parties, at an end, or ought to be at an end, since the causes of difference and opposition, in which they originated, had ceased to exist, and I did not think it worth while to distract the community by quarrelling about the ghosts and shadows of names, which, as relates to the General government at least, have no longer any meaning; I do not recollect to have hesitated for a moment, on proper occasions, to express decided and positive opinions of public men and measures, whatever bearing it might have. On the present occasion, when the public have a real interest in knowing opinions, I deem perfect candour a duty paramount to all others; and you shall judge whether I obey its dictates, though perfectly aware, that it will probably not only deprive me of your support, but also of a sufficient number of others to defeat my election, either by the withholding of their votes, or an agreement to support another candidate.

The election of the next president has, recently and since I became a candidate, when the question had yet excited but little attention, become, in consequence of the events of the last session of Congress, an object of great interest, and probably as the day of election approaches, will be, instead of character and qualification, the hinge upon which the election may turn. This is not surprising, as it will become the duty of the members of Congress, who shall be elected

next October, to choose our next president, by its theory, the chief magistrate is chosen by the people, and responsible to them. The power of the president is almost kingly. Besides participating in the power of legislation, he is the sole administrator of the laws, and what is still more important, in him centres the whole patronage of the government. It would be the very essence of monarchy to place these high powers in the hands of a single magistrate, not chosen by the people and not accountable to them. And it must be manifested in proportion as the people lose that control thro' any defect of the Constitution, or by management, intrigue or corruption, under whatever shape or name, exactly in the same proportion will our government cease to be really Republican, and tend to corruption and Monarchy. The adoption of the amendment to the Constitution necessary to arrest this tendency, has, I am sorry to say, been defeated, and what I still more regret, has been defeated by the opposition of the want of support on the part of the administration and its friends, who were bound, not only by principle, but by distinct pledges given to the people, pealing the presidential election, to give it their cordial support. For it is well known, that Mr. Adams was advocated explicitly on the ground that he was favourable to the amendment, and, if elected, would give it his decided support, while it was stated by his friends as a decisive objection to one of the candidates, (I allude to Mr. Crawford,) that he would be opposed to the amendment of the Constitution. It will not be necessary for me to cite proof, further than to refer to the Journals which supported Mr. Adams' election, and the habitual declaration of his friends. But it would be improper to omit Mr. Adams' own declaration, in his answer to the committee that waited on him after his election, in which, after alluding to the circumstance of his not being elected by a majority of the electoral voices, and also of General Jackson having a greater number than himself, he says, "In this state of things, could my refusal to accept this trust, thus delegated to me, give an immediate opportunity to the people to form and express, with a nearer approach to unanimity, the object of their preference, I should not hesitate to decline the acceptance of this eminent charge, and to submit the decision of this momentous question again to their determination. But the Constitution itself has not disposed of the contingency, which would arise in the event of my refusal!"—thus explicitly recognizing the great principle, that the control of the presidential election ought to be in the hands of the People.—And considering an eventual election by the House of Representatives, though in conformity to the provisions of the Constitution, as so great a misfortune, that he would not accept of the high office by such election, if there were any means through which the voice of the People could be made to prevail.

Notwithstanding all this, the proposed amendment of the constitution was opposed and defeated in the manner I have stated, of which I need add no other proof than to refer to the speeches and votes of the friends of the administration, on the discussion of the question at the last session. The fact is notorious, that the leading members in opposition were his personal and political friends. There were but few speeches against the amendment, which did not come from them. Of the fifty-one votes against the proposition to prevent the election from devolving on the House in any event, there were, as far as my information extends, but three that are not supporters of Mr. Adams' administration. Thirty-five of the fifty-one were from New-England, being the whole of the votes from that section, except four. A mere statement of these facts, without comment or illustration, leaves no doubt that the weight of the administration was decidedly against the amendment, which undoubtedly would have succeeded, but for this opposition.

I thus find myself, upon this great, fundamental and essential principle of liberty, separated from the administration, certainly by no act of mine nor any change on my part; while in like manner I find myself, in relation to that principle connected with those, who are friends of General Jackson. There were but few speeches against the amendment, which did not come from them. Of the fifty-one votes against the proposition to prevent the election from devolving on the House in any event, there were, as far as my information extends, but three that are not supporters of Mr. Adams' administration. Thirty-five of the fifty-one were from New-England, being the whole of the votes from that section, except four. A mere statement of these facts, without comment or illustration, leaves no doubt that the weight of the administration was decidedly against the amendment, which undoubtedly would have succeeded, but for this opposition.

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I should here rest the explanation of my position in relation to the next presidential election, as I deem it sufficient for my objection to Mr. Adams, in conformity with my long established principles, but that it might be inferred from my silence on other points, that the important one already urged, constituted my whole objection to him. I regret, I must in candour, say, it does not; but as my letter is probably already too long, I will do little more than refer to the points, without aiming at a full explanation.

I then object to the mode of Mr. Adams' election in the House of Representatives, as in conversation I have heretofore often done to you and others. It is notorious, that he came by the votes of members of Congress from some states, the people of which had voted for General Jackson; and of members from other states, where he was known to be the next choice after Mr. Clay, who was not returned to the house. I consider the mere fact itself of such an election to be a national misfortune, but if Mr. Adams had avoided identifying himself with the cause that produced it, I should have considered it merely his misfortune, that he was so elected, and not his fault. Such, however, I conceive not to be the fact. It is a conceded point, that this defeat of the voice of the people, which enured to Mr. Adams' benefit and election, was effected by the agency of a single individual. I speak merely of the fact, without questioning motives. On this individual Mr. Adams, immediately after his election, bestowed the first office in his gift, by which he unquestionably identified

himself with him; and must necessarily share whatever blame must attach to him. Viewing the matter in the light, and considering it merely as a question of fact, without impeaching motives, I cannot but feel that a course of events has been highly averse to the public interest. Two strikes me, result from the appointment of Mr. Clay. It is calculated, and has in fact excited, suspicion as to the purity of our public men. Whatever may have been the motive of Mr. Adams in offering and Mr. Clay accepting the Department of State, there are thousands of citizens, who, in the transaction, as they believe, evidence of corrupt political gain, which impression is confirmed by the previous unfriendly relations existing between them, and which ought out of deference to public opinion have prevented the appointment of Mr. Clay.

But there is another, and in my opinion more disastrous consequence. The precedent is eminently dangerous. As the constitution now stands, the election of President must frequently devolve on the house, and he must have a slight knowledge of human nature, who does not see, that the tendency of the example is to introduce corruption. The necessity of resisting this example is, in my opinion, increased, by the previous unfriendly relations existing between them, and which ought out of deference to public opinion have prevented the appointment of Mr. Clay.

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I will allude to but one more objection, which also I have made to you in conversation. I refer to the manner in which appointments have been distributed. The administration has been accused of adopting the system of some European monarchies, of buying up political enemies. I have not seen this objection satisfactorily answered. It is well known that there were two parties more warmly opposed in the presidential contest than the supporters of Mr. Adams, and those who advocated a congressional caucus. The friends of Mr. Adams objected that the latter were opposed to the establishments for the defence of the country, and that instead of relying upon the support of the people, they placed their confidence in a congressional caucus and the management of political leaders, while the latter no less strenuously objected to Mr. Adams, that his political principles were unsound, and that his temper and want of knowledge of men, disqualified him for that high office. Yet there has been apparently a systematic and continued effort on the part of the administration to secure the support of its decided political opponents, by lavishing appointments on them. I know not, how to reconcile this seeming contradiction. In objecting to it I am not actuated by illiberal feelings, but by principle. I would be amongst the last to object to a man of unanimous course as it regards appointments. I am then forced to the alternative on this great point upon which I have so publicly and solemnly taken my stand in the legislature, on whose records my act and theirs is placed, to go with the administration and abandon principle, or to adhere to principle and support the administration. How am I, as an honest man, believing as I do on this important subject, to act? But one answer is left, and that is to adhere to principle, however painful it might be to separate from you and others, with whom I have concurred in supporting Mr. Adams; but who in adhering to him, shew, that you take a different view of this subject, or do not attach to it the vital importance which I do.

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A letter to the editors of the *Intel*
liger, dated Lexington, Ky., July 10, states that Isaac B. Desha, cut his throat on the 8th, and the opinion of the attending physician was, that he could not recover. The windpipe was cut through and he was speechless. Pen, ink and paper were given him, and he wrote that he was not guilty of the charge for which he was confined.

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