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BOOK-BINDING.
John W. Whittington
Respectfully informs the Public and his Friends in general, that he has taken the Stand in Church Street, opposite to the Office of the Maryland Gazette, where he intends carrying on the above business in all its various branches. His facilities and of public patronage.
April 17.
Harris & Johnson's REPORTS.
The 7th Volume is now complete and subscribers are respectfully requested to transmit the amount due by them for subscriptions.
The 1st, 2d, 3d, 4th, 5th, 6th and 7th Volumes of the REPORTS are for sale by the subscriber, at 25 per cent. bound in calf, or at 25 per cent. in boards.
GEO SHAW,
Annapolis, Jan. 17.
BY THE CORPORATION,
August 15th, 1822.
Resolved, That it be recommended to the proprietors of lots upon the public streets of Annapolis, to have SHADE TREES planted in the streets in front of said lots, near to and within the line of said lots, so that the description in all cases, as such growing trees, their roots will not be materially injured by the pavement.
Test. Geo. Holland, Clerk.
Aug 21
PROPOSAL FOR PRINTING
The Journals of the Conventions of the Province of Maryland,
Held in the City of Annapolis, in the years 1774, 1775 and 1776.
IF Sufficient encouragement be offered, the Subscriber proposes to publish, in one volume octavo, the Journals of the Conventions of the Province of Maryland in the years 1774, 1775 and 1776. It is believed that there are not more than two copies of these Journals now extant; and from the circumstance that they were printed in pamphlet form, and unbound, it may be fairly concluded that they, too, must in a few years be destroyed by the mere decay of time. These Journals are the authentic evidence of the Political History of Maryland, during that interesting and unquiet period. Although we have, in abundance, histories of Maryland, as connected with the Association of Provinces and Colonies, at that time formed, for mutual protection against the improper assumption of power on the part of the Mother Country, yet none of these works embrace what may be termed its Domestic and Internal Political History.
This part of the history of Maryland it should be her pride to lay down to posterity, not only on account of its deep interest, but as a public State Record of the voluntary sacrifices, daring spirit, and determined resolution, of her citizens, during this period of doubt and dismay.
In the confident expectation that the citizens of Maryland will consider the proposed publication of sufficient importance to entitle it to their patronage, the Subscriber is induced to issue these proposals.
The Price per Copy, not to exceed \$2 00.
J. GREEN.

DECISIONS OF THE COURT OF APPEALS OF MARYLAND.
PUBLISHED By Subscription.
THE DECISIONS OF THE COURT OF APPEALS OF MARYLAND,
To be Reported by Thomas Harris Esquire, Clerk of the Court of Appeals, and Reverend Johnson Esquire, Attorney at Law.
These Decisions will form a continuation of the first volume of Reports already published by Messrs. Harris and Johnson, which closes with the year 1805. It is proposed to publish the Decisions in a Series of Numbers, each to contain not less than one hundred and twenty-five pages, and four numbers to constitute a volume. The last number of each volume will contain a full and complete Index. This mode of publication, it is conceived, possesses advantages which give it a decided preference to that of publishing the Reports in bulky volumes. It ensures the earlier publication of the Reports, and as not more than four numbers will be published in a year, the expense will not be so sensibly felt.
TERMS.
The price of each number of the Reports will be \$1.25, payable on delivery.
Subscriptions to the above work are received at GEO. SHAW'S Store, the Maryland Gazette Office, and the respective Offices of the County Clerks of this State.

The Maryland Gazette.

VOL. LXXXIII. Annapolis, Thursday, September 11, 1823. No. 37.

PRINTED AND PUBLISHED BY
Jonas Green,
ARCH-STREET, ANNAPOLIS.
—Three Dollars per annum.

POLITICAL ADDRESS
OF THE
MASON STATE CONVENTION,
TO THE
PEOPLE OF MARYLAND.
(SECOND EDITION.)
Having been appointed Delegates from the several Districts of the State, to meet in Convention, in this City, for the purpose of considering the course, which to our country enjoins upon us, in view of the next election of President, we beg leave to lay before you the result of our deliberations.

After taking into our most serious consideration all the circumstances of this Presidential election, we are, in our reflection, impressed with a deep conviction, that although the spirit of the constitution was observed, the spirit of that sacred instrument was violated.

That the Chief Magistrate was elected by the votes of the Representatives of the people, and not by the people themselves, is a fact which we cannot but regret.

That the votes of those States had been given according to that will, which the constitution requires, is a fact which we cannot but regret.

That the President, having thus obtained the Chief Magistracy, rewarded the principal assistant in defeating the will of the nation, by the highest of patronage of government, for the purpose of his personal views, and to secure his re-election.

That before his election by the House of Representatives, Mr. Adams approved an amendment of the constitution, which would have taken the power of choosing President from that body, and to give it to the people, for the purpose of preventing in future, not only corruption, but all suspicion of corruption.

That, since his success with the House of Representatives, in defeating the will of a majority of the people and the States, he has not only disappointed the friends of the purity of our government, by declining to recommend amendment to the adoption of Congress, but his friends in that body, who were brought forward without recommendation, opposed and defeated.

In support of these opinions, we will lay before you the facts, which have wrought upon our minds.

In the late Presidential election, the nine electoral votes were given to General Jackson; eight four to Mr. Adams, forty one to Mr. Crawford.

Had the election been sent back to the people, and the choice restricted to the two highest candidates, as it virtually was in the House, there is no one, who was well acquainted with the state of public opinion in the Southern and Western States, where nearly all the votes for Mr. Crawford and Mr. Clay were given, who would not be obliged to acknowledge, that of the seventy-one votes received by those gentlemen, at least thirty two, the number which, in addition to the ninety-nine already secured by Gen. Jackson, was necessary to his election, would have been given to him. According to the test, therefore, a majority of the people of the United States, were opposed to the election of Mr. Adams.

A majority of the states, if their votes had been complied with, were opposed to his election. He succeeded in the House by a majority of one state only; and it is notorious, that in contempt of the will of their constituents, who had given unequivocal proof of their preference of Gen. Jackson over Mr. Adams, the representatives in Congress of several of the western states, gave their votes for Mr. Adams.

In political intrigues, written instructions are not exchanged, nor witnesses called in by the parties to attest the intentions of their compact. Positive testimony on the present occasion, is therefore to be expected. Circumstantial evidence however, often as it is resorted to as positive testimony, has established beyond a reasonable doubt, that the votes thus given to Mr. Adams by Representatives in contempt of the will of their constituents, were obtained for him chiefly through the instrumentality and influence of Mr. Clay. In proof of this fact, we solicit your attentive consideration of the following circumstances:

During the contest for electors, Mr. Clay and his friends had opposed Mr. Adams more violently than any of the other candidates. The grounds of objection to Mr. Adams, most warmly urged, were:

That a President ought to be elected from the West.

That Mr. Adams was unfriendly to Western interests.

That he had attempted to sacrifice them in favour of his Eastern Brethren in the negotiation at Galesburg.

Mr. Clay himself charged Mr. Adams in his representation of that negotiation, with "errors both as to matters of fact, and matters of opinion relating to the navigation of the Mississippi, and certain liberties, claimed by the United States in the fisheries,"—and in allusion to the excitement of the pending presidential contest, stated that "at some time more propitious than the present, to calm and dispassionate consideration, and when there could be no misinterpretation of motives, he would lay before the public a narrative of those transactions."

In the circular address of Mr. Clay's friends in Ohio, it is stated, that "it was the first object of the friends of Mr. Clay, to keep from the Presidential Chair, one of the present Cabinet," and to elect a person, who was out of the Cabinet. The doctrine, that it was necessary to break up the "succession Secretaries" to the Presidency, or the "Secretary dynasty," so called, was urged throughout the West by Mr. Clay's friends.

At length the contest for electors is over. Mr. CLAY is not returned to the House of Representatives, and could not himself therefore any longer be voted for.

Another Western man however, of great talents, splendid services, and unquestioned integrity, and a man moreover, who did not belong to the Cabinet, was returned to the House, by a larger number of electors than Mr. Adams, and under circumstances, that left no reasonable doubt, as has already been shown, that when the real contest lay between him and Mr. Adams, he was the choice of a large majority of the people of the United States.

The elevation of General Jackson, however to the Presidency, by violating the claim of the West, would operate against the future prospects of Mr. CLAY, which on the contrary, would be strengthened by the election of an Eastern man, especially if it could be seen by the East, that the boon was conferred upon them by his exertions and influence.

Mr. CLAY therefore, and his partisans with him, suddenly adopt a new set of opinions to suit altered circumstances, and think it in conformity with "SACRED PRINCIPLES," that another Secretary should be elected President.

That an Eastern man, whom they had denounced as unfriendly to Western interests, was nevertheless to be preferred to a Western man—and not withstanding their late violent and bitter animosity and opposition, and in defiance of the known wishes of their constituents, vote for JOHN QUINCY ADAMS, and make him President of the United States.

As soon as Mr. Adams is thus made President by the vote and influence of Mr. CLAY, he rewards Mr. CLAY for his services with the highest office in his gift, makes him Secretary of State, and places him in the line of "safe precedents."

Mr. CLAY gives his warmest support to Mr. ADAMS' administration, and forgetting his public pledge, is as silent as the grave about the Galesburg negotiation.

Can you, FELLOW CITIZENS, have stronger proof of a POLITICAL BARGAIN, by which the rights of the people have been set at naught, and personal interests have triumphed over the spirit of the Constitution and the fundamental principles of republican government?

Power, thus obtained by "influence and intrigue, bargain and management," with the unfaithful agents of the people against the will of the people, must necessarily be maintained and continued by the same means. Hence all the selfish passions of political opponents have been appealed to, and high offices have been lavished upon those who were most conspicuous amongst them, to purchase their support and neutralize the efforts of their friends.

Hence the papers under the immediate control of the government, have teemed with calumnies without number upon the distinguished and patriotic men, who have had the courage to stem the torrent of executive influence, to exercise and maintain the freedom of speech, and opinion, and to aid in an attempt to punish the violation of the spirit of the constitution.

Hence Mr. CLAY has attempted to punish the independence of other papers, by withdrawing the publication of the laws from them, because they were not entirely subservient to his views, and by transferring it to those of comparatively limited circulation, although the object of that publication is to diffuse a knowledge of the laws as widely as possible, amongst the people.

Hence, the papers which supported the election of Mr. Adams most warmly before the people, while it could serve the interest of their patron, recommended and applauded the proposition to change the mode of choosing the President, so as to take the contingent power of electing him from the House of Representatives, and give the election directly to the people, and assured the people that Mr. ADAMS, if elected, would use his influence in favour of the change, have, since his rejection by the people, and his election by the House of Representatives, thrown obstacles in the way of that proposition.

Hence, although Mr. Adams himself immediately after his election, while the obligation of former declarations and the assertions of his advocates and friends, were fresh upon his mind, in his answer to the committee of the House of Representatives, that waited upon him to inform him of his election, avowed his approbation of the proposed change in the following words: "Could my refusal to accept of the Presidency, give an immediate opportunity to the people to form and express with a near approach to unanimity, the object of their preference, I should not hesitate to decline the acceptance of that eminent charge, and submit the decision of this momentous question again to their determination," and by assigning as his only reason for not doing so, that the "constitution itself had not so disposed of the contest, nor which would arise in the event of his refusal," offered a pledge of his support to a proposition so to change the Constitution in respect to the forms of the Presidential election as to take it from the House, and give it directly to the people; yet, notwithstanding this pledge and the general obligation of duty, imposed by the constitution itself, to recommend to Congress such measures as he may deem the public welfare to require, he has hitherto declined sending a message to Congress to recommend that change.

On the contrary, when a measure for that purpose was introduced into Congress without the aid of his expected recommendation, nearly all his friends in that body arrayed themselves against it, and all his New England friends without a single exception, voted against taking the election from the House of Representatives.

The foregoing statement demonstrates that Mr. ADAMS, having obtained power by violating the spirit of the Constitution, is employing all the means, which his situation gives him, to maintain it, and to secure a re-election, and that another Secretary should be elected President.

And we beg every citizen who is attached to liberty and his country, to pause and reflect seriously upon the fatal consequences of giving the late undignified construction of the constitution contained for by the supporters of Mr. ADAMS. Adopt this construction and you throw wide open the door to corruption, and the election in the House will inevitably, to adopt the language of the circular address of Mr. CLAY's friends in Kentucky be determined, "by influence and intrigue, bargain and management."

General Jackson is the last of the revolutionary heroes, who can be in the course of nature, a candidate for the Presidency, and from the increase of population and the multiplication of the States, we must expect, after the next election, that so many candidates will be set up that primary election will rarely be conclusive. It will become a matter of course for the election to devolve on the House of Representatives. Their Hall, instead of being a seat of independent legislation, will become a theatre for electioneering and intrigue from the period of one election to another. The ambitious men, who aspire to the Presidency, will generally be members of Congress or of the cabinet, and will have the opportunity of laying their plans deliberately and pursuing them perseveringly. All the arts of personal address, of flattering attentions and entertainments will be resorted to. The sword will hope for offices of profit for themselves or relations as a reward for attaching themselves to the cause of some one of these Presidential Candidates. The ambitious will look for promotion and distinction. Those, who desire no appointment for themselves, will hope to obtain an influence in the distribution of the patronage of the government, and have it in their power to gratify their friends. Self love will often disguise, even from the parties themselves, the true nature of the influence under which they act, and the whole circle of interested motives, will have full scope for action under the appearance of a desire to serve friends, or promote the interest of their neighbourhood, or perhaps the interest of the country at large.

Nor ought we from false delicacy to deny the fact, that high and respectable as the station of member of Congress is, that occasionally men of the most venal and corrupt character attain it; and when we reflect that the whole number of votes is only twenty-four, that the votes of one or two individuals

in consequence of divisions amongst the representatives of even large states, will often decide the vote of those states; and that the votes of several small states are actually held by individual members;—when we reflect further that this highest honour on earth will often rest upon the decision of some half dozen or even a less number of persons, perhaps one in a body composed of more than two hundred members, and place before us the fact, that the successful candidate will have the distribution of wealth and distinction, in the nomination to ten thousand various offices, we must tremble for the liberty of our country, unless we wilfully shut our eyes to all the records of history, all the lessons of experience, and all the deduction of reason.

Let it not be said we dishonour our country by representing Congress as liable to corruption. We have a just confidence in Congress. We believe that the members are as virtuous and patriotic as other men; we will admit, that their education, character, and stations in life place them as much above the reach of improper influence, as any equal number of their fellow citizens—perhaps even more. It is not because they are less virtuous than others, that we look at them with distrust, when they come to exercise the functions of electors of the Chief Magistrate; but it is because they are men, and men exposed to the strongest and most seductive temptations disguised in the most alluring and delusive forms. We should be traitors to truth and show ourselves incapable of instruction from the whole history of our race, if we insensible to the dictates of common sense, if we should from spurious patriotism or any other motive, give countenance to the idea, that Congress is so pure and disinterested, and so elevated in character, that the small number of members generally necessary to change the fate of the election, may not be found, who are liable to be influenced in the vote they are to give, by personal interest, not approaching them in the revolting shape of a direct bribe, but in the cunning form of distinction amongst their fellow citizens and reward for patriotic services.

So long then as the forms of the constitution in relation to the election of President remain as they are, the most disastrous consequences will flow from the construction contended for by the supporters of Mr. Adams. The most glittering prize, that ambition can seek, with all its accompanying allurements, is every four years to be thrown in the midst of two hundred fallible men to distract and excite them—men, who are cut loose from the wholesome restraints of a safe construction of the constitution, which furnishes a sure and certain guide for their conduct, in the will of their constituents.

A decision under such circumstances will rarely if ever inspire the nation with confidence in the President—that confidence, which is so necessary to the independent and salutary exercise of the executive authority.

Under this dangerous and anti-republican construction of the constitution a justification is attempted of the most flagrant violation of its spirit, and exhibits in the strongest point of view, a necessity for a change of its forms, which shall place its principles above all misconstruction. We earnestly entreat you, therefore, Fellow Citizens, not to believe, as those, who have obtained power at the expense of your rights would persuade you to do, that the ensuing Presidential Election is a simple contest between two eminent citizens for the Chief Magistracy, in which their personal merits and past services are alone to be considered. Great as they may be esteemed by the friends of Gen. Jackson and Mr. Adams respectively, they are as dust in the balance, and dwindle into utter insignificance, when compared with the importance of the great constitutional principles, which are at stake. No conflict of parties since the commencement of our Government has involved such vital interests as are now in agitation. It is not a question whether a few cents more or less duty upon Woolen or Cotton Manufactures shall be imposed;—it is not a question, whether Internal Improvement shall be prosecuted under the authority of the General Government or abandoned as either inexpedient or unconstitutional;—it is not a question, whether Commissioners, or Ministers Plenipotentiary, or agents at all shall be sent to Panama;—it is not a question, whether the trade with the British West Indies, (important as it is to our shipping and agricultural interest) has been lost by neglect or mismanagement. These questions, interesting as they are, are nevertheless of little consequence compared with those, which you are now called upon to decide, involving as they do in the maintenance or surrender of the fundamental principles of the constitution, and the vital interests of liberty.

The great questions now in agitation are, whether the Chief Magistracy shall be obtained by "influence and intrigue, bargain and management," or be awarded to merit and public services by the unbought suffrages of the people;—whether the influence of Governmental patronage shall sustain a minority in power against the will of the majority;—whether the forms prescribed by the constitution, regulating the election of the Chief Magistrate, originally designed to give effect to the will of the majority, but which have been found inadequate to the purpose, shall be abolished, and the election be given directly to the People;—and whether the people themselves have spirit and intelligence enough to eject from power, those who have obtained it under the forms of the Constitution, in violation of its spirit, or whether they are prepared to submit without resistance to usurpation.

Those who are interested in maintaining existing abuses, and oppose that change which would put an end to them hereafter, seek to attract exclusive attention to the measures of the Administration, and to draw it off from the violation of great and fundamental principles in their elevation to power. While this violation is with us the principal ground upon which we oppose the re-election of Mr. Adams, we see nevertheless, strong reasons for opposition, in the manner in which he has exercised by far the most important of all the functions of the executive authority—*we mean the power of appointing to office and distributing the patronage of the Government.* The use, that has been made of this power by political opponents and control the freedom of the press, deserves and receives our unqualified reprobation.

The next most important branch of Executive duties relates to the regulation of our intercourse with foreign nations. The friends of the administration ascribe great diplomatic talents to the President and yet on the most interesting subject of negotiation, which has occurred since its election, he has been guilty of a palpable neglect of duty, to which we do not think a parallel can be found in the history of our exterior relations, and to which we are indebted for the loss of one of the most important and profitable branches of our commerce. We mean our trade with the West Indies, so essential to the prosperity of Maryland and the other grain growing states, as well as to the shipping interest. Notwithstanding a minister was dispatched to England at a great expense to the nation, all the necessary instructions were omitted to be given in relation to this trade, and no recommendation of legislative measures was sent to Congress to meet those of the British Parliament, the terms of which our Minister, now when it is too late, is instructed to comply with, and an attempt is made to cast the blame on Congress for not acting without executive recommendation, although it was distinctly intimated to the chairman of the Committee on Commerce in the Senate, and through him to that body, that the Administration preferred to arrange that part of our foreign trade by negotiation.

Another expedient resorted to by the supporters of Mr. Adams to divert attention from the manner of his obtaining power and to misrepresent the grounds of our opposition to his re-election, requires our notice.

The most strenuous efforts are made to excite prejudice against the friends of General Jackson by representing them as opposed to Internal Improvement and Domestic Manufactures; although it is well known that many of its warmest advocates are amongst the most decided supporters of those great interests, and the constitutional doctrines, upon which their protection depends.

We utterly deny that these measures are the lines of separation between the supporters of Mr. Adams and General Jackson.

The friends of Mr. Adams differ with each other on these questions, so also do the friends of General Jackson, but are held firmly together by the common interest which we all feel in preserving the great and fundamental principles of the constitution, and while we are engaged in repairing the shattered timbers of the vessel of state to prevent it from sinking, we do not stop to dispute about the course she shall take when the danger is over.

We say then, let the administration be judged by the principles and the means, by which they obtained their power.

Was it, think you, the heavy grievance of paying a duty of two pence a pound on tea, that induced our ancestors to resist Great Britain, to defy her power and brave all the hazards of the revolutionary war? No fellow citizens, it was the principles upon which that measure was justified and adopted—it was the right claim.

The great questions now in agitation are, whether the Chief Magistracy shall be obtained by "influence and intrigue, bargain and management," or be awarded to merit and public services by the unbought suffrages of the people;—whether the influence of Governmental patronage shall sustain a minority in power against the will of the majority;—whether the forms prescribed by the constitution, regulating the election of the Chief Magistrate, originally designed to give effect to the will of the majority, but which have been found inadequate to the purpose, shall be abolished, and the election be given directly to the People;—and whether the people themselves have spirit and intelligence enough to eject from power, those who have obtained it under the forms of the Constitution, in violation of its spirit, or whether they are prepared to submit without resistance to usurpation.

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Those who are interested in maintaining existing abuses, and oppose that change which would put an end to them hereafter, seek to attract exclusive attention to the measures of the Administration, and to draw it off from the violation of great and fundamental principles in their elevation to power. While this violation is with us the principal ground upon which we oppose the re-election of Mr. Adams, we see nevertheless, strong reasons for opposition, in the manner in which he has exercised by far the most important of all the functions of the executive authority—*we mean the power of appointing to office and distributing the patronage of the Government.* The use, that has been made of this power by political opponents and control the freedom of the press, deserves and receives our unqualified reprobation.

The next most important branch of Executive duties relates to the regulation of our intercourse with foreign nations. The friends of the administration ascribe great diplomatic talents to the President and yet on the most interesting subject of negotiation, which has occurred since its election, he has been guilty of a palpable neglect of duty, to which we do not think a parallel can be found in the history of our exterior relations, and to which we are indebted for the loss of one of the most important and profitable branches of our commerce. We mean our trade with the West Indies, so essential to the prosperity of Maryland and the other grain growing states, as well as to the shipping interest. Notwithstanding a minister was dispatched to England at a great expense to the nation, all the necessary instructions were omitted to be given in relation to this trade, and no recommendation of legislative measures was sent to Congress to meet those of the British Parliament, the terms of which our Minister, now when it is too late, is instructed to comply with, and an attempt is made to cast the blame on Congress for not acting without executive recommendation, although it was distinctly intimated to the chairman of the Committee on Commerce in the Senate, and through him to that body, that the Administration preferred to arrange that part of our foreign trade by negotiation.

Another expedient resorted to by the supporters of Mr. Adams to divert attention from the manner of his obtaining power and to misrepresent the grounds of our opposition to his re-election, requires our notice.

The most strenuous efforts are made to excite prejudice against the friends of General Jackson by representing them as opposed to Internal Improvement and Domestic Manufactures; although it is well known that many of its warmest advocates are amongst the most decided supporters of those great interests, and the constitutional doctrines, upon which their protection depends.

We utterly deny that these measures are the lines of separation between the supporters of Mr. Adams and General Jackson.

The friends of Mr. Adams differ with each other on these questions, so also do the friends of General Jackson, but are held firmly together by the common interest which we all feel in preserving the great and fundamental principles of the constitution, and while we are engaged in repairing the shattered timbers of the vessel of state to prevent it from sinking, we do not stop to dispute about the course she shall take when the danger is over.

We say then, let the administration be judged by the principles and the means, by which they obtained their power.

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