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# ADDRESS

OF

THE COMMITTEE APPOINTED BY A REPUBLICAN  
MEETING IN THE COUNTY OF  
HUNTERDON,

RECOMMENDING

GEN. ANDREW JACKSON,

OF TENNESSEE,

*TO THE PEOPLE OF NEW-JERSEY,*

AS

PRESIDENT

OF THE

UNITED STATES.

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TRENTON, N. JERSEY,

Sept. 1834.

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# PRESIDENTIAL ELECTON.

## NEW-JERSEY.

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### INTRODUCTION.

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THE distinguished character of *Andrew Jackson*, could not fail to attract the attention of his countrymen, in deciding on the pretensions of those who are held up as candidates to fill the office of *President* for the ensuing term of four years.

His probity, honor and disinterestedness, in every private relation to society, as a *citizen*: His liberal education, and early acquaintance with the institutions and laws of the United States, matured by experience, and practically exercised by him in the most important *civil* departments of government, executive, judicial and legislative: His devoted attachment to the *rights of man*, and the liberties of his fellow-citizens, proved by all the publick actions of a long and useful life: His uniform and constant profession and support of *republican* principles, such as Washington maintained: His great and splendid *services* in the late War, when, at the call of his country, he saved defenceless citizens, and even entire states, from savage tomahawks and British bayonets, exalting by a train of glorious victories the character of citizen-soldiers over European mercenaries, and shedding immortal lustre upon the American name, in every quarter of the world: Such high and just pretensions as these, let us repeat, could not fail to fix the attention of a great portion of the American people upon *Andrew Jackson*, as the *successor* of that excellent man who now fills the office of president of the United States. He, in fact, is *nominated* for that high station; and, we believe, in every state where sectional or party prejudices do not greatly prevail, or, from remote situation and other circumstances, deception could not be practised upon the people by misrepresenting his true character, he stands *first* in the affections and preference of his countrymen. And whilst other *names*, which suddenly shone forth with a factitious glare, are sinking below the horizon—that of *Jackson*, is steadily and rapidly gaining the summit of popular elevation. New-Jersey, felt and expressed a deep interest in this question.

Having no local connection with either candidate, and actuated by no other ambition but that of promoting the honor and interests of the nation, her citizens would alone seek to fix their choice upon the man most endeared to them by his personal qualifications, and whose publick services and exalted talents most deserved their gratitude and confidence. Certainly we may speak for ourselves in this small section of the state, the county of *Hunterdon*, that such were *our* feelings and motives.

We believe, indeed we know, that it was the sincere desire of the great body of disinterested and impartial men, and republicans of Hunterdon county, to obtain by calm and dispassionate enquiry and discussion, correct information, and decide, so far as their voice could avail, in favor of that candidate who appeared to possess such claims as these.

In this temper of mind, and with such views, the publick sentiment in this county, and as we doubt not it will, ultimately, in every other, was settling down under a full and delightful conviction, that the pre-eminent merits of *Andrew Jackson*, entitled him to the support of the people of New-Jersey for the presidential office.

But on a sudden, and from a quarter least to be expected, the columns of a *newspaper* hitherto bearing the honest name of "The True American," and under its former lamented director always supporting that title, were mischievously employed to sow discord among the republicans of this county, by branding the friends and supporters of General *Andrew Jackson*, as little other than a band of conspirators or dupes, leagued together for the purpose of overturning the republican ascendancy and character of New-Jersey.

And this because, in the exercise of their undoubted rights and honest judgments, they preferred *Andrew Jackson* to *John Q. Adams*, as president of the United States.

It was deemed necessary, however, in order to give some countenance to the assertion that Mr. *Adams* was the republican candidate of New-Jersey, to test the fact by resort to a *county meeting*. The supporters of Mr. *Adams*, therefore, advertised one to be held for that purpose at *Ringoe's*, in this county, on *Saturday the 21st of August*. It is needless to say, that every inducement existed and every effort was made to obtain an assemblage which would, in some degree, verify the extravagant pretensions held up by the partizans of Mr. *Adams*, and at the same time justify the (absurd and slanderous) imputations which had been heaped upon the republican friends of General *Jackson* in the county of Hunterdon, and indeed throughout the whole state.

The result is already known to the publick. The meeting decided, by a great majority, *against* Mr. *Adams*: They gave their voice in favor of General *Jackson*, and, among other proceedings, appointed a committee to publish an *address* to the people of this county, designed to *refute* the false aspersions which had been thrown upon his republican friends and supporters, as also, to vindicate his claims to that preference which, in their minds, placed him far above all his competitors.

It is this duty, which that *committee* are now about to fulfil. And though they feel how inadequate they are under any circumstances, (and especially within the limited compass which an essay of this nature necessarily prescribes) to do justice to the cause they espouse, or to accomplish the expectations of the meeting, they nevertheless submit the following remarks and facts to the candid consideration of all who feel an interest in the question.



# ADDRESS,

## TO THE FREEMEN AND INDEPENDENT VOTERS OF HUNTERDON COUNTY.

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FELLOW-CITIZENS,

IN recommending to your choice and support, ANDREW JACKSON, as President of the United States, for the ensuing term, of four years, we express to you the sincerest convictions of our own minds that he is *worthy* of this high office. And was the question to be decided between him and his competitors by the *immediate* votes of his countrymen, greatly indeed, do we deceive ourselves, if it did not appear he was the chosen man of the *People*.

We judge not from our own thoughts and feelings alone; they might, possibly, mislead us, acknowledging, as we do, our enthusiastic admiration of his character, and gratitude for his publick services:—But ours is, also, the *common* sentiment, wherever he is truly known, and men's minds are not bewildered by the propagation of idle fears, or deceived by bold and artful falsehoods.

Few indeed of us—or of all who call themselves *Americans* can, or should be ignorant of the great and leading claims he has to publick confidence and publick honors. Yet doubts from mere defect of knowledge, may exist; or detraction in the poisoned armour of party spirit—and urged on by selfish purposes, may invent new calumnies or retail old ones, to serve the present turn of defamation. It is the success of such detestable means alone, against which we would endeavor to guard the minds of our fellow-citizens.

We all know, or have read, that *Washington* at one time, and in the midst of his glorious struggles for liberty at the head of the American army, was charged with *treachery*, and even well fabricated documents, pretended to be his own letters, were published to prove by his own hand a traitorous correspondence with the enemy: He was accused at another time of incapacity, want of generalship—laxity of discipline, extravagant expenditures, and arrogance to his officers: *Gates*, the hero of Saratoga, and conquerer of Burgoyne, with other general officers, and not a few in Congress—were leagued in a plan to remove him from the command. Need we say that *Washington* was innocent, and that his base traducers reaped the bitter fruit which, sooner or later, falls to the lot of the slanderer—remorse of conscience and the contempt of the world.

It is within our remembrance, the torrent of crimination which was poured out upon *Jefferson*, when he stood a candidate before the people, three and twenty years ago, for that office which, we trust, they will shortly confer on the man who most on earth, probably, he esteems and honors. [See Appendix No. I.]

His *private* life was laid bare, and turpitude of the darkest hues

and every varied form charged to his account. His *political* principles were denounced as taken from the profligate doctrines of French philosophy, misrule, and atheism. He was represented as the calumniator of Washington, and the deadly foe of Adams, and actuated in all, by the basest envy and ambition. What, indeed—was he not accused of which could degrade the character of man?

These charges, too, were supported in attempts to prove their truth, by means as bold as they were false and detestable.

Yet who did not know he was innocent, and that it was party spirit and personal interests distributing their venom against him by means of a licentious press, and through other subordinate agents and channels, which sought to overwhelm him with obloquy, and turn the people on the side of his competitor—Adams!

Even now, not long past, when time and his grateful country had done full justice to this venerable man, there could be found a wretch to brand him with the commission of a *fraud* upon the publick treasury! His answer and his justification, tho' surely it was unnecessary, we have under his own hand, and it is complete.

Shall we wonder then, if *Andrew Jackson*—is to pass through this same ordeal of calumny, prepared by malignant hands and spread among his fellow-citizens, by the agency of the press.—Presses too, professing a magnanimous impartiality, and called “republican.”

We had hoped better things. And deeply regret, on every account, that a paper, in this county, which should have been devoted to concord among republicans, as it always had been—is suddenly transformed, as, by some evil agency, into a consuming firebrand, destroying itself—and scattering abroad unspeakable mischiefs!

Who does not perceive that cunning insinuation, if not direct allegation, against the qualifications and principles of *Andrew Jackson*, has begun its malignant and unmanly office! And as to the republicans of the county, a great proportion of them at least, they are denounced as engaged in dishonorable confederacies, and held up to scorn and ridicule, Yes, the long tried *republicans* of this county—for exercising the rights of opinion and choice, the most undoubted badge of freemen, are described as confederating and amalgamating themselves with—the Bar, the Military, and Federalists. And this too—in opposition, it is said, to the “republican candidate”! As if *Andrew Jackson* was not a republican candidate, because the bar, the military, and federalists prefer him: But let us examine these pretended charges, of weakness, and abandonment of principles, upon a majority of the republicans of Hunterdon county!

And *first* it is announced, that the members of the *Bar*, and the *Military*, take the lead in his support, and that *Federalists* are found on the side of *Jackson*.

And all these respectable classes of people in New-Jersey, are condemned for their opposition to Mr. *Adams*—who, somewhat arrogantly, and we think untruly, is said to be the *republican* candidate.

And if these allegations were so, is it a disparagement to the character and cause of Andrew Jackson, that the *Bar*, without discrimination of party, (and surely they are much divided on mere party distinctions) are for him, the candidate we recommend?

There is no exception it seems, "the whole *bar* is on his side." We are glad to hear it, so positively asserted. We, as faithful adherents of the *democratic* party, in New-Jersey, will never abandon Andrew Jackson, even should it be proved that all the members of the legal profession were in his favor, as president of the United States. We approve of their choice. It does them honor.

Beside, on a mere question of the *general* qualifications of any candidate for this office, their united, unbiassed, and deliberate preference ought to have, and would have, a just weight.

Undoubtedly *republicans*, casting their eyes back upon the roll which records the patriots and actors of the revolution—and who have gone to their reward, ought to be the last of men to throw an indiscriminate stain upon the *bar*. The declaration of independence and the history of our revolution, should for ever silence such folly and ingratitude. Look at the *signers* of that declaration—and think of the great men of those days, and since, and say, if the bar are enemies to liberty? And how many are there now, among the most distinguished republicans of the present time who are not of that profession, or translated from it, by the voice of the people, to the offices they fill? In fact, every candidate for the presidency at this time before the American nation, not long since, was a *member* of the bar.

But, in reality, this *meeting* believe the assertion, (senseless as it is,) that the *bar* is friendly to the election of Andrew Jackson, is thrown out at *random*, regardless of its truth or falsehood, with the disingenuous motive and weak imagination—that enlightened and reflecting citizens could regulate their choice, on this occasion, by enquiring—"who the lawyers were for or against?"

Such, nevertheless, is the opinion which some partizans of Mr. Adams seem to entertain of the *understandings* of the people of New-Jersey! This *meeting* professes neither to solicit or to repel this class of their fellow-citizens, alluded to. They will judge for themselves, as they are well qualified to do; and surely are entitled, without reproach, to exercise the common rights of opinion and suffrage.

If then, as is insinuated, the bar, hitherto, have not always been republican in our sense of the term—we shall rejoice to find them on *this* occasion, at least, on the side of republicans and the people. Certain we feel that this rude attack upon their collective body, will not terrify them, or frighten republicans, into the ranks of Mr. Adams. It is also announced, in this paper, devoted to Mr. Adams, that the *military*, as well as the bar, are for Andrew Jackson.

We believe the *fact* is so; and strange indeed, it would appear to us, were it otherwise.

As to the insulting *sneer*, which this confession is evidently in-

tended to convey upon the respectable *militia*, of New-Jersey, we shall pass it by with a single remark, that it would be more prudent as well as more reasonable if the advocates of Mr. Adams, would forbear to promote the cause of their candidate by attempts (as shallow as they are offensive) to expose whole bodies of independent freemen to *ridicule*, because they prefer General Jackson. We make ourselves, however, quite easy about this paper shot showered upon the *militia*. It becomes a *boy* to use it, and for men to dispise it.

But why *should* the militia prefer Mr. Adams? It would be far better to point out the error of their attachment to General Jackson, than attempt to change it by an attack on their motives, or telling them with no little assurance, that they are *dupes*—and blind instruments, working out their own destruction.

As to the fears entertained, or pretended, that *we* shall part with our republicanism, because the members of the bar, the military, and federalists coincide with us in opinion, on the question between Jackson and Adams—they may be laid aside, unless it can be proved, that General Jackson is *not* a republican.

But who are the “military of New-Jersey,” which are thus ranked among the enemies of republicanism, because they intend to give their voice for Andrew Jackson, as President of the United States?

Fellow-citizens—they amount to more than forty thousand *free-men* and citizen soldiers, the defence and pride of their country. They vote for Mr. Jackson not because he is a *military* man, but because he is a beloved citizen of the United States; because, at the call of the government, he has rendered to his country, in the day of her greatest peril, the most signal benefits; leading forward and directing by his matchless skill, the *MILITIA* of these states, to *repel* foreign invaders, and deliver from the savage Indian, and still more savage Briton, wives, daughters, children, and fathers, who had none to help them. They vote for Andrew Jackson, because he is a profound and practical statesman, long versed in all affairs of state and government; because he is intimately acquainted with the character, the feelings, and the interests of the great body of the people; because of his disinterestedness, his integrity, and his amiable qualities as a private citizen; because he will root out corruption and purify the polluted atmosphere of the city of Washington. They will vote for him, as the political and personal friend of Washington, Jefferson, Madison and Munroe; because he has always been a consistent and devoted *republican*, possessing the hearts and affections of his countrymen; and, finally, because his great talents and splendid actions have rendered the name of an *American* illustrious throughout the world, and inspired all foreign powers with the highest admiration and respect for his own unrivalled character.

This allegation, that the “military” are joining with the bar and federalists, for General Jackson, is intended, foolishly, to conciliate

*other* classes of men, at the expense of casting dishonor and abandonment of republican principle, upon the *militia* of this state. Yet what *other* classes of men will be flattered by degrading the character of militia officers, or militia men.

Believing, as we do, that the candidate recommended by us, in every light, is worthy of the confidence and preference of his fellow-citizens of the *militia*, we exhort our brethren, enrolled for the defence of the country, to *adhere* to the man who, at once, unites the high qualities of a statesman and citizen with the character and acquirements of an accomplished commander. We hope that not one of them, officer or man, will ever forsake Andrew Jackson. He has ennobled their profession, and given to the militia of the United States, an imperishable renown! He has proved that standing armies are not the best defenders of liberty and their country.

Besides, a president who is commander in chief of the armies and, in time of war, of the militia of the United States, and entrusted with the safety of his country in the event of wars, and of the preparatory defences of the country, in time of peace, to prevent their occurrence or repel invasion, would seem but *half* qualified for his station without military knowledge.

The want of this knowledge in some who have filled that office, has been grievously felt; and, surely, if it should happen to be found, in the highest degree, in the candidate we recommend and not in his competitor, it is an argument in his favor and not an objection.

Who objected to *Washington*, because he was a great military character; or who to *Monroe*, because like Jackson, he had fought bravely and successfully for his country, and comprehended the great science of military defence?

No, fellow-citizens, this *alarm* about raising a *Military* chief to the presidency, is but a shallow device, of the partizans of Mr. Adams, to frighten women and children. It is an insult to the understandings even of "the most calm, dispassionate and reflecting of every party;" all of whom, it is *modestly* asserted, in the paper we allude to, are for, John Q. Adams! But to enquire further into this objection, that a president is better for his *ignorance* of military affairs.

How is it proved that Andrew Jackson is only a *military* character. The fact is the reverse. He was bred up in *civil* employments: His life has been principally, devoted to them. In his early years he was distinguished at the bar; and afterwards promoted to the highest station on the Bench, in the state of Tennessee, pursuing honorable trade and agricultural engagements, as his chief business for support. And often representing the state of Tennessee in its own legislature, and in the senate of the United States, of which he is now a most distinguished member. His distinguishing habits were those of industry, temperance, frugality, and social kindness and generosity.

It was not until the late War with Great Britain, in 1813, at the

age of *fifty four*, when at the call of his country, he quit these favourite walks, and by the high confidence reposed in his talents, and his great and well earned popularity, he drew forth the gallant *militia* of the western states, and led them forward to the encounter of difficulties and dangers, and to victories which have no parallel in history. The history of his own personal sufferings and generous sacrifices, are unequalled since the days of Washington. The Indian nations, which had joined the English, were subdued, and Britain itself—humbled by his triumphant arms in the Creek war; in Florida; and finally, in their triumphant overthrow, at New-Orleans: And all this accomplished with means almost of his own creation, within little more than one year: And this is the man who is held up as only “having capacities essentially military,” and pictured forth as nothing but a warrior! As well might *Washington*, and rather, have been stigmatised, with having no title but his sword, to the Presidency; for he was a warrior in his youth, and much of his life was spent in camps.

We dismiss this wonderful objection to Andrew Jackson, that he is a military character, and that Mr. Adams is not. We rejoice that he possesses this great superiority and so highly important in peace, as well as in war!

But it is asserted, that the *Federalists* come out for General Jackson, with the Military and the Bar.

It is not for this *meeting*, to admit or deny so broad an allegation: We do not *know* that the fact is as stated; although it is our anxious wish to find it true. On the contrary we know that many, and the most undeviating *Federalists*, in New-Jersey, are warm advocates for Mr. *Adams*.

But if the fact is so, what then? Their right to choose for themselves, is as sacred as our own; and they will exercise it. They must, necessarily, choose between republican candidates, and vote for some one of them. They have no candidate of their own. The charge of *combining* with them or any others, to overthrow the republican cause, is a base falsehood: And we again repeat, if that great and respectable portion of our fellow-citizens do, in fact, prefer the candidate we have nominated—we rejoice in it. Are we to abandon the cause of Andrew Jackson, because his high character and merits unite all men in his favor? Are the democratic republicans in New-Jersey, to forego every good work, every just and honorable pursuit, every well founded opinion and preference, whenever it should happen they meet the approbation of *federal* republicans?—Such tenets as these are as absurd as they are persecuting, mischievous and abominable. Shall we not eat or drink, or support religion, or government, and a thousand other things, because federalists do the same? The propagators of such doctrine as this are fitter tenants for a mad-house than inmates of the liberal and patriotic republican family of Hunterdon.

After all—we believe this is but a part of the weak and disingenuous scheme of endeavouring by insinuation—and artifice to impress

a belief, that federalists support Andrew Jackson, because, *he* is one. Those who assert this *know* the falsehood of it. Yet they are not afraid thus to insult the understanding of men, while they court their confidence and respect.

We now approach, fellow-citizens, a much more important item, in the exhibition made by Mr. *Adams'* adherents. It is asserted, that *he* is to be considered the "republican candidate" in New Jersey. And, moreover, that the friends and supporters of Andrew Jackson, must be viewed as a *combination* against the republican party.

And why is Mr. Adams, the *republican* candidate. Who conferred on him this title? What *expression* of the publick voice, what fair and acknowledged convention of the people, have declared this?

We deny that Mr. Adams is the "Republican Candidate of *New-Jersey.*" His name is before the people, and by their independent votes it will appear, whether he or Andrew Jackson is their choice. On that simple issue it stands. And all assumptions that John Q. Adams, is the "republican candidate of New-Jersey," rest on nothing but the unsupported assertion of his partizans, which are contrary to the plain fact.

We want better proof of Mr. Adams' popularity in New-Jersey, than the exaggerated and fanciful accounts got up in his own official newspaper, at Trenton.

And let us ask—(placing these candidates by the side of each other, and testing their merits on the ground of *republican character and principles*) which of them is *truly* entitled to this noble distinction? We lay out of view the long string of *foreign* appointments, and diplomatic honors, which are hung, glittering upon the brow of Mr. Adams, to catch the gaze and extort the admiration of "republicans!" Most of them were received under *federal* administrations; and we have yet to learn that they served much beyond the ordinary uses and purposes of those missions, to reward a violent partizan, and pay due reverence to the *legitimates* of Europe. We ask for the *fruits* of these embassies. What has the United States to *show* for the princely fortune received from the publick treasury—by Mr. Adams, for these costly exhibitions in Europe? It would be more satisfactory for his advocates to tell us, what *actual benefits* have resulted to his country from his diplomacy and residence at foreign courts, than to astonish us with the *number* of his appointments and the vast amount of publick money paid to him for these unknown services. [*See Appendix No. 2.*]

We speak with doubt on this point, but it is said, that gentleman has received in outfits and salary two hundred thousand dollars. Looking to the number of his missions, and the years he was away, the sum is not improbable. We might add to this, \$6000 a year for the last 7 years, that he has lived on the Treasury, as secretary of state.

Now we admit that Andrew Jackson can show no *such* proofs of

his being a republican, nor the rewards of them. Much more substantial and better known are his titles to this character.

Then how else, is Mr. Adams—a republican :

During the long contest of parties for the republican ascendancy, up to its final triumph in the election of Mr. Jefferson, and for 7 years afterwards, Mr. Adams was a leading, an *ultra*—federalist. He was a distinguished associate of the Massachusetts *Junto*, as it was named. He was during all that time a co-operator with—Pickering, Otis, Cabot, and all the other prominent federalists, of New-England, in opposition to the republicans, who were struggling for principles.

We speak not now, of the merit or demerit of these men or their creeds or actions : We only mention the *fact*, to put down the pretension of Mr. Adams, to be the exclusive *republican* candidate of New-Jersey. Up to 1807—he was a federalist : he had co-operated in or approved all those measures, which republicans, whether right or wrong, reprobated. Useless armies and navies, wasteful expenditure—exclusion of republicans from office. In short, he might be called a field marshal, in the reign of terror : He approved—if he did not participate in the enactment, of the alien and sedition laws, so obnoxious to republicans. Again we repeat, that we have no motive in alluding to these facts of Mr. Adams' *political* history, but to repel the arrogant *pretension*, of his supporters, that *he* is the republican candidate, of New-Jersey.

*Why* he changed his *side* in 1807, and at the 24th hour came in to share new honors, new foreign missions, and new outfits and salaries, under the republicans, we do not enquire. It is easy to go to the other side. But Mr. Adams is not a man to *change his principles*. be they what they may. He would take offence, if he were charged with it. Can we believe then, that the deep rooted principles, *political* principles, of Mr. Adams, (and of his father before him)—were suddenly, in 1807. all at once extinguished, and that he became a republican, of the *Jefferson* school ? No man will credit this, who is not prepared to admit that Mr. Adams possesses no political principles at all.

We believe better of him, than to imagine any such thing. We have no doubt his opinions and conduct, as a *federalist*, were grounded upon firm conviction of their rectitude, and, it is not we who intend to dishonor him—by the statement we have made—but those who now assert he is a republican of 1798, when the great cause between republicans and federalists was on its trial before the people, and Jefferson triumphed over Adams. The truth is, he quit his friends and violated all personal ties of honorable endurance with them, in their fall, to bask in the sun shine of an ascendant party. But who will assert he quit his *political principles*, when he abandoned and afterwards persecuted his old friends ?—

Let us hear no more then that Mr. *Adams* is the “republican candidate of New-Jersey.” We know not, (in the sense we use the term and according to its accepted meaning, as designating the *po*-



litical principles on which Mr. Jefferson came into power) we say, we know not that he is a *democratic republican at all*, in any sense it can be understood.

*Who* then are about to endanger the security and break up the hopes of the republican party in New-Jersey? *Who*, by “amalgamation,” mean to *divide* the republican party?

We answer; not those who support *Andrew Jackson*, but those who would rashly attempt to confer the presidency on Mr. Adams; and this sentiment is the prevailing one, among all who remember the past, and correctly judge of the future. Can the Ethiopian change his skin, or the Leopard his spots?

May we not then *reverse*—this bold and baseless assumption—that Mr. Adams is the “republican candidate,” and truly say, that the man entitled to that distinction, is *Andrew Jackson*? He, first and last, has travelled and laboured with the men who asserted those principles of policy, which form the creed of republicans—*We* do not endanger them, nor the supporters of them, by endeavoring with all our zeal to advance him to that station which his merit and services entitle him to, and which we confidently believe he will attain, if the wishes of the American *people* can prevail.

We here, fellow-citizens terminate this painful part of our duty; we mean that which has been imposed upon us, by the unwarrantable and unprovoked attack made upon the friends and supporters of *Andrew Jackson*, in the print of this county, devoted to Mr. Adams. We know these indiscriminate and offensive charges, will be qualified, and frittered away—by pretences, that *all* republicans, all the bar, all the military of New-Jersey, and all federalists, were not included in these sweeping denunciations. It will be prudent so to *appear* to repent and conciliate, and we shall rejoice at any reform, as well for the cause of the republican interest, as for an innocent family who might suffer for the indiscretions of a heedless and inexperienced man.

We return with pleasure, to the immediate subject of our address—to the contemplation of *Andrew Jackson*. He appears before you fellow-citizens, as the candidate of the PEOPLE. He stands aloof from the trammels, as he does from the intrigues and corruptions of *official* patronage and official station. He boasts not that his life has been spent in foreign *courts* and his fortune drawn from the public treasury. No *caucus* honors have been sought, no factitious *display* of his ability in controversial scribbling, distinguish or recommend him, although no man in this country excels him, in whatever is solid and captivating in literary and argumentative composition.

Mr. Adams, gives us daily specimens of his *temper* as well as of his tact in writing, and seems never more happy than when he can find or provoke a newspaper squabble, in order to show off the wonders of his pen. Happier for him if they were any proof of his wisdom or magnanimity. Not so, with General Jackson: He resorts to no such arts; but confiding in the discernment, as well as the jus-

tice of his fellow-citizens, he awaits their decision, disdaining any attempt to influence it by methods unworthy of them or himself.

The actions of his life and the properties of his mind, we are happy to say, have appeared in a combined view, from the pen of his colleague in the Senate of the United States, (Mr. *Eaton*) not varnished for the occasion—but exhibited in official documents, or founded on indubitable information. We hope it may be in the power of every republican, every citizen who seeks for truth to peruse it.

You will find in it, if you can want it, not only the evidence of his extraordinary talents as a statesman and commander, but of his social and civil virtues as a man and a citizen. It will correct too, in every man's mind, impressions which may have been made, on particular points by misrepresentation and artful device, or nourished in honest but undoubted prejudice. It is as untrue as it is ungenerous—to represent him as merely a great *general*; yet that is, surely, no slight recommendation, when we contemplate that our country is to be defended in wars, as well as governed in peace. Did we not think so when Washington, was our President? But, in reality, that forms the least of those qualities, both of his head and heart, which entitle him to the respect and love of his countrymen. We may ask you then, such of you at least who are not satisfied, to suspend your doubts on any point, and above all, to disregard (until you "see the whole ground") garbled statements, distributed by malignity, or got up to answer the purposes of his political opponents.

Were we unacquainted with the character of a citizen; if from distant residence, and the scene of his publick and private pursuits, his merits and his qualifications could not be distinctly known, would not reason be satisfied with the united voice and opinions of witnesses to his actions and sentiments during a long life?

Could we deceive ourselves, if we were recommending for this office one of our *own* citizens. Can *North Carolina*, then, his native state, or *Tennessee*, divided from it in 1795, be mistaken in General Jackson? Would they recommend or desire him to be the President of these states, if—he were unfit or unworthy. Is not their character and also their welfare, as much as our own, connected with this momentous question? And yet *Tennessee*, with enthusiasm, recommends him, and *North-Carolina*, though divided, but not on his merit, will give him, we are well assured, a most triumphant majority.

We shall not enumerate the states, in the immediate vicinity of the one he resides in, which will support him; they form a great majority. Other states, could we want proof of his merit or popularity, might be mentioned; we shall only name our sister state of *Pennsylvania*. And can we suppose that great and republican people, who may be called unanimous, would fill this station with an incompetent man?

Looking also, independently of what we know of General *Jackson*, ourselves, to the *opinions* of his political and private friends, who can be made to doubt of his uncommon deserts?

He has been associated in friendship and clothed by successive administrations with the highest and most delicate trusts, in times extremely critical, and under circumstances of great difficulty. And all his conduct, upon investigation not merely *approved* but applauded. Every branch of the government, executive and legislative, have pronounced him a faithful servant, and the people, with admiration and gratitude, have confirmed the judgment of the constituted authorities. To say that *Andrew Jackson*—may not have erred, would be to raise him above human nature.

Washington himself might err; and who even amongst those the people most love and confide in, have not erred? But this we will say, that his mistakes, if any there be, (we know of none) grew from the circumstances of his situation and are lost in the contemplation of his patriotic motives and the supreme regard he felt for the safety and honor of his country. A hasty expression, an unconsidered opinion, or a confidential sentiment, ought to condemn no one. Who, in this world of imperfection, should be judged by such a test. What would become of Mr. Adams were he to be put on such a trial? Let his best friends answer this question?

Mr. Jackson, is neither rash nor ambitious or of a temper to involve his country in destructive wars. On the contrary, he is cool, thoughtful and cautious in forming his decisions, firm and decisive in their execution. And if, as his traducers disingenuously and artfully endeavor to impress upon the ignorant, his dispositions *were* so inclined, (and what earthly motive, at his time of life and all his honors at stake, could tempt him to indulge them,) how *could* he execute any such purpose?

Not an appointment can be made, not a dollar be drawn from the people, not a soldier enlisted—no one act done without the sanction of his cabinet officers, and the representative bodies of Congress.

The truth is, his manners are polished, dignified and engaging; his disposition mild, candid and amiable; he is liberal but firm in his principles as a politician; in short his whole heart, affections, and ambition, seek but one great end—the happiness of his country and friends.

But we dismiss, the supposition, such as no man but a deceiver would suggest, and, we think, none but an idiot would believe, that General Jackson—is to be feared or rejected, because he has made himself great in the battles of freedom.

On his *political* character and opinions, as the republican Magistrate of a free country, we surely need not dwell. Who ever else may be of doubtful credit in this respect, *Andrew Jackson* is above suspicion.

It is well known, that he is the friend of the present, administration, and of the present cabinet officers. That he approves of existing establishments for the protection of the country and has given to them all his fair support in the Senate of the United States. On the great national *policy* of cherishing our own industry and becoming independent of foreign tribute and foreign influence, his opinions are well known: In business and the transaction of affairs, he is

diligent, firm and incorruptible. He sees to men and things himself. The publick money will not be squandered on useless embassies, nor distributed in sinecures and projects to obtain partizans and popularity to his administration. He will not, (his advanced age precludes the idea,) be the candidate a *second* time, and therefore will have no motive, (even if he could be supposed so profligate) as to abuse his station, by intrigue and favoritism, to secure a re-election. We hope it will be the commencement of a new practice, and that, a double term of office may never be heard of again. Its evils are innumerable.

His *advice* to Mr. Monroe, in 1816, just before that gentleman was inaugurated as President, on the course of his administration, and the friendly and confidential letters which passed between them, will explain his sentiments on the subject of *party*. They are in every one's hands. And if any thing could be wanting to manifest the sound wisdom—the just moderation, and the pure patriotism of General *Jackson*, on this head, let those who doubt, peruse his letters. The mad and selfish passions of individuals, have found in them too much magnanimity—too much of a kind and paternal spirit, inclined to heal rather than exasperate, the baneful effects, publick and private, of *party spirit*. “Names, he observes, are bubbles, a president should be at the head of the nation and not of a party. He should look for talents and patriotism wherever they are found, and judge men by their fruits and not their empty and hollow professions.”

Mr. *Monroe*, approved and thanked him for these high and precious proofs of true friendship, conveyed to him by Gen. Jackson, in language as elegant as the sentiments were wise and elevated.

That his administration would be peculiarly fortunate for his own reputation, happy for his country, and popular beyond any president since the days of Washington, we have not a doubt.

It would be natural for those we address—to ask us to present to them, some authentic sketch of the general outlines of his character, publick and private, corroborative of such facts, as we have alluded to in this address.

A curiosity so laudable, and founded upon motives so reasonable, we should be most happy to comply with. But we, necessarily, derive our knowledge and convictions from facts of publick notoriety, or from undoubted private authority. We have embodied, in what has been said, such information as we believe to be true, and expressed opinions as sincere as they seem to us important.

Nevertheless, believing it may gratify our fellow-citizens to insert here, the following brief *portrait* of General *Jackson's* character, we submit it to their inspection. It is *extracted* from the “*Richmond Enquirer*,” a Virginia paper, and drawn up, not by a political friend, or even an acquaintance, but the result of an enquiry to ascertain the truth, by the author of the celebrated letters entitled the ‘*Crisis*.’ It was given to the publick, too, long since, soon after the memorable overthrow of the British army at New-Orleans, on the 8th January, 1815. It is as follows :—

# "MAJOR GENERAL JACKSON.

FROM THE RICHMOND ENQUIRER,

March 1815.

"SOME notice of the life and character of General *Jackson* will be desirable, at this time, to the readers of your columns. The distinguished post he at present occupies; the honorable manner in which he has brought the Creek war to a termination; the unexampled enthusiasm which he has instilled into his army, in defence of the nation; and the confidence which he has every where obtained, through this vast country, has excited much curiosity on the part of the public, to become more intimately acquainted with him. The writer of the '*Crisis*' will gratify, as far as in his power, this anxiety for information concerning a man whose life will constitute, and has constituted already, an important epoch, in the history of our country. General *Andrew Jackson*, was, as I am told, born in North-Carolina. where he received a liberal education, and at an early age commenced the practice of the law. He was esteemed eminent in his profession. His speeches at the bar were always considered nervous and admired for the perspicuity of the style: he was pointed out to me, in Knoxville, as an elegant scholar. In early life he was poor, his industry soon made him rich; generous and brave in his disposition, he was esteemed by all who knew him—and his influence soon became extensive; he was elected a member of the Tennessee Convention, and had a large share in the formation of the Constitution of that state. On the admission of Tennessee into the Union as a sister state, he was elected to the house of Representatives, from which he was subsequently transferred by the legislature of Tennessee to the Senate of the United States. This last station he occupied until he was appointed a Judge of the Supreme Court of law and equity of Tennessee, which last named office he held for several years. On giving up this appointment which he filled with honor to himself and advantage to his country—he turned his attention to the military art and soon rose to the rank of Major General of Militia—In the capacity of an officer at the head of an army, comment is unnecessary; he has appeared and yet appears covered with glory—the laurels with which he has decked his country's standard will bloom for ages: His *person* remains to be noticed. He is tall, thin and spare, but muscular and hardy, with an eye quick and penetrating—I have frequently seen General Jackson, and such was the impression his appearance made on my mind, that I have said to myself "he is a man of iron."—Adversity can make no impression on a bosom braced by such decision and firmness as is visible in his face and manners. Let not the reader conclude from this that he is haughty, distant and imperious—quite the contrary. It is true he sports not with the feelings of others, and no one is permitted to wound him with impunity; but then he is gay, communicative and liberal, and the more you know

him, the more you admire and indeed love him. To be a patriot, a soldier and a gentleman, is sufficient to secure the inviolable friendship of this highly distinguished citizen. To the poor he is liberal, to the unfortunate charitable, to the humblest private he is mild and tender, to the base and disaffected to his country stern and unbending, and yet just. He is now about fifty-five, but he has a juvenility of appearance that would make him ten years younger. The General is married, but has no children. If in the field and at the head of armies in battles we admire the dauntless soldier; we love the man who at home, and in retirement, is hospitable and friendly, and in this particular the general is pre-eminently conspicuous."

[8 *Niles' Reg.* 46.]

"*Author of the Crisis.*"

To the foregoing account, of this distinguished citizen, we subjoin, the following extract, from an address to the people of Pennsylvania, under the signatures of a committee of five gentlemen, of the highest character, appointed by the Republican convention, which convened at Harrisburgh, in March last.

## ANDREW JACKSON.

[EXTRACTS, from the Address, of the Committee of the Harrisburgh CONVENTION, which nominated General Jackson, as President of the U. S. on the 4th of March, (1824) last.]

"It seems, (says this committee) to be admitted, that if the president was elected immediately by the *people*, General JACKSON would be the successful candidate."

"For twenty-four years, none but a *Secretary* of the cabinet has been elected to the presidency. We do not object to the distinguished democrats who have holden, or are now contending for this station, but we do object to the uninterrupted continuance of a secretary dynasty. The period has surely arrived when a president should be selected from the ranks of the PEOPLE.

If it has not, how soon will the secretaries claim, by usage and prescription, the exclusive *right* of nomination, and from the powerful patronage in their gift, may be but too likely to obtain it. This artificial system of cabinet succession to the presidency, is little less dangerous and anti-republican than the hereditary monarchies of Europe. If a link in this chain of successive secretary dynasties be not broken now, then may we be fettered by it for ever. *Andrew Jackson* comes pure, untrammelled and unpledged, from the bosom of the people.

The limits of an address will not permit us to sketch his brilliant civil and military career. His two elder brothers fell in the revolution, and Andrew Jackson, the last survivor of his race, at the early age of fourteen, was wounded and taken prisoner. His subsequent military services it is unnecessary to delineate.—They are well known and duly appreciated, by a grateful people.

Nor is he less distinguished in civil than in military stations. At a very early age he was appointed Attorney-General of the South West Territory: When that Territory was admitted into the Union, as the state of Tennessee, he bore an able and distinguished part in the convention which framed for her the most democratic constitution of the Union. In 1797, he was elected the first Representative of Tennessee in Congress, and in 1798, to the Senate of the United States. As a member of that body, during the trying period, emphatically called the reign of terror, which preceded the political revolution of 1800, he was a zealous and efficient opponent of the federal administration of John Adams. On resigning his seat in the Senate of the United States, he was chosen Judge of the Supreme Court of Tennessee, and at the close of his military services, Governor of Florida, and is now re-elected to the Senate of the Union:—He has discharged all these important offices with great ability, with unsullied integrity; and reckless of hardships and of danger, has in every station, whether civil or military, acted with fearless devotion to his country's service.

The character of no man has been so much misunderstood, as that of Andrew Jackson. He has been represented as a rash and desperate military chieftain, regardless of the laws and constitution of his country. No statement is more unfounded in fact. Andrew Jackson is firm and decisive in executing his plans, but cautious, prudent and deliberate in forming them; and cool and collected in the hour of danger. If success be any criterion of skill and prudence, the immortal Washington was not so invariably successful as the Hero of Orleans. Victory has always perched upon his standard. If he has ever seemed to be rash or precipitate, it was when his desperate situation required a resort to energetic measures. He has always been sent on desperate enterprises, with means almost inadequate to success; compelled to rely on his own energy of character and the resources of his own mind.

It is at his *home* we must leave his character as a man; and to his fellow-citizens, residing in his vicinity, to all who have visited his hospitable mansion, the more brilliant halo of military renown is forgotten in the milder radiance of all his private virtues. His soul is the residence of all the softer affections—the sincere and ardent friend—to the orphan, the kind and indulgent protector, the affectionate husband, the practical and professing christian. We have *deliberately* considered every portion of the above sentence, and on the most unquestionable authority, assure our fellow-citizens that it is strictly true. During his stay at Washington this winter, the mists that calumny and prejudice had attempted to throw around his character, have vanished, and he has been known and esteemed by the assembled wisdom of the nation, no less for talents and services as a statesman and soldier, than for his mild and engaging deportment.

All the other candidates, however distinguished their political characters, are unknown to the great body of the people; but in Andrew Jackson they would repose unbounded confidence. No one

of his competitors has performed so many important services, nor filled so many distinguished stations, both civil and military, with greater ability in the discharge of every duty, and such devoted fidelity to his country. His claims upon the American people, are second only to those of the illustrious Washington.

A veteran of the revolution is now about to retire from the Presidency. Will you refuse to elect as his successor, the last of that immortal band of patriots, whom a grateful people can ever elevate to that exalted station? Will you erect the cold monument over the tomb of departed merit, and refuse to the living the last great *debt of gratitude* the nation can ever pay to revolutionary services? Or is this but the idle theme of boyish declamation? Has it lost its practical efficacy, and has ingratitude deadened too soon, the feelings of American citizens!

Pennsylvania, governed by no local or sectional prejudices; prompted by nothing but great national considerations. Pennsylvania the most unobtrusive in her claims for office, without a single officer in the cabinet or judiciary at Washington, now asks the Presidency, not for a Pennsylvanian, but for a citizen of Tennessee. Some of our sister states must yield the pretension of their candidates, and who can ask for such sacrifices, if not the state who has invariably made them? And for what candidate can they be asked, if not for *Andrew Jackson*, who has obtained so many signal triumphs and made so many sacrifices for his country.

Such is the candidate whom Pennsylvania respectfully presents to the *republican* party of the Union, and request their co-operation. The democratic party should concentrate upon candidates for the important stations of President and Vice-President of the United States. On whom can they unite with greater honor and advantage to the country and more assured confidence of success, than on *Andrew Jackson*." [See *Gaz. U. S. March 25, 1824.*]

It would be highly gratifying if we could copy the whole of this able address of the Harrisburgh convention. But we must desist.

With anxious hopes and fears, fellow-citizens, we now draw to a conclusion of the task committed to us.

Our hopes are founded on the PEOPLE, our fears spring from the power which the *patronage* of office, and the arts of selfish intriguers may oppose to their will. It is a proud distinction however, that *Andrew Jackson*—can stand, and does stand upon the rock of his own great character and splendid services for his country. This is his title, and let him who disputes it, produce a better.

It is time, and it is right, that the *people* (once in 20 years at least) should feel and know that the President of the United States, is their *own* peculiar choice. That *they* have made him, and that he is not a *Dagon*, set up at Washington, for them to fall down and worship.

We speak with no complaint, nor disparagement to any one; but it is a fact, as ominous of danger, as it is degrading to our country, that candidates for this high office, who once sought to derive their



title to it from the power and affections of the people, now, of course, trace their right to official *succession*: It seems to have become rather an *appurtenance* to the office of a Secretary, than the noble inheritance of the *People*!

It is settled at Washington: and the only difference—or dispute made about it is, which of the *Executive Officers* at the Capitol shall continue the *Dynasty*.

We desire you, fellow-citizens, to reflect, one moment, upon the intrigues for three years past among these Official Gentry at Washington, for this office. They have infected the whole political atmosphere—and all but their partizans—cry shame!

The monstrous consequences, arising from this perversion, not only in disfranchising the people of their rights, but in those corruptions and distraction of publick affairs which flow from it, in torrents, are notorious to all.

The time is favorable to break this circean web. It is poisoning and strangling our Infant republick. A President, if this is not done, is only appointed as they appoint a Pope at Rome, in conclave, by a set of juggling state Cardinals.

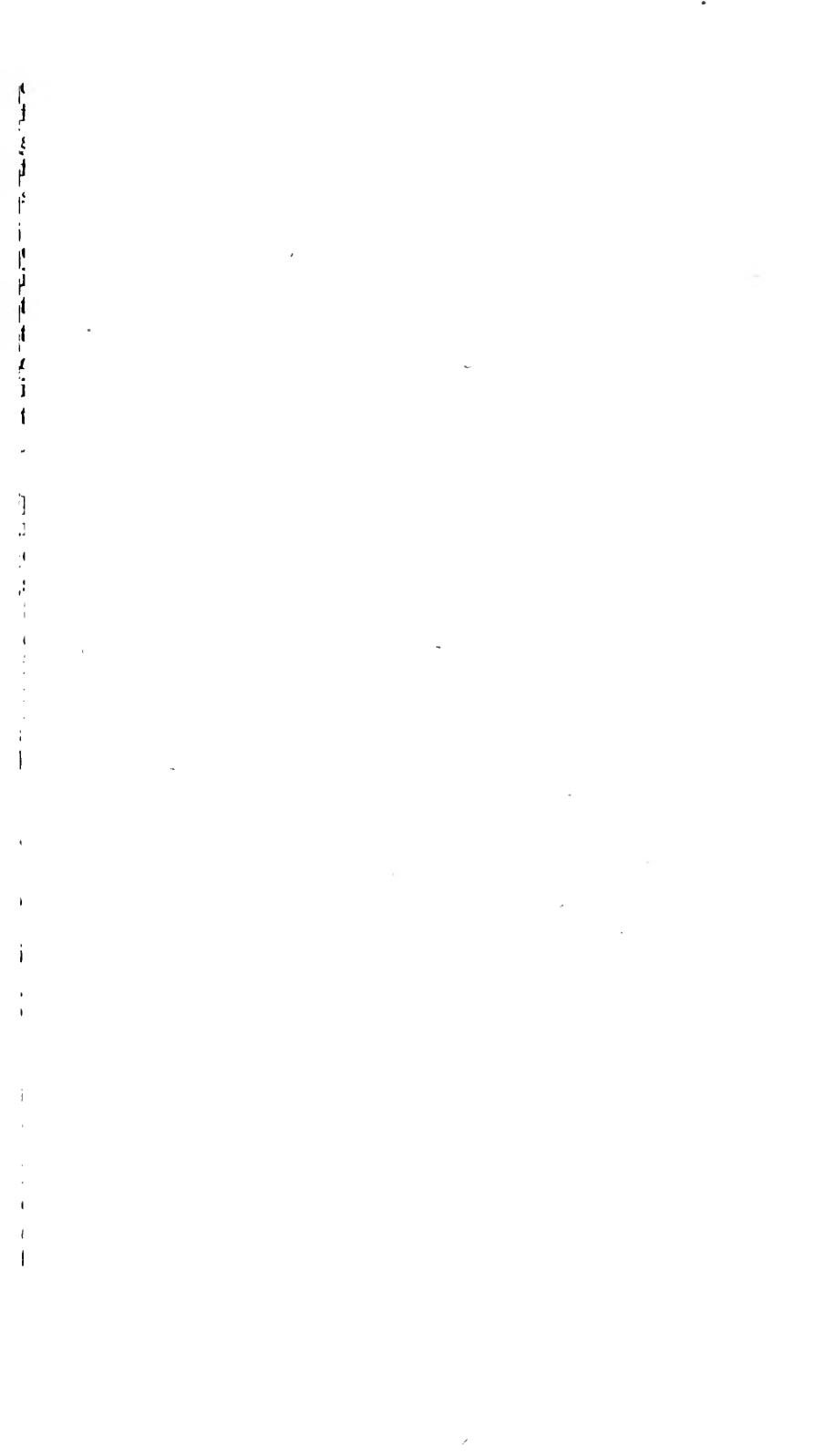
It is plain, we think, that, ultimately, the question will lie in the house of Representatives between Andrew Jackson and Secretary Adams. We object to the right of *succession*, even if no other reason existed. Mr. Adams may be well satisfied with, as he is best fitted for, the important station he fills. He holds a good pen and often sharpened. His talents such as they are, will doubtless be still employed for the government, at a salary of six thousand dollars *per Ann*.

A happy opportunity now occurs, in a time of peace and prosperity, for the people to resume their rights. And, as we write, the cheering intelligence reaches us from every side, that New-Jersey is declaring “for Jackson.”

*Fellow-citizens*, the man who, next to Washington, has conferred the most signal services and extended most the renown and glory of his country; who is competent to the highest duties of the office; and stands unfettered and untainted by official intrigue and patronage, is now before you, awaiting at *your* hands that reward which great and virtuous actions will never fail to receive, if the people do not surrender up their right to bestow it, *themselves*.

By order of the Committee.

NATHAN PRICE, *Chairman*.



# APPENDIX.

## NO. I.

[The friendship which exists between these great men, and their co-incidence of opinion on political subjects, admit of abundant proofs. But it may be pardonable to mention, in a note, a single incidence. In the Autumn of 1815, a few months—after the memorable defence of *New-Orleans*, by *General Jackson*, (when, indeed, acclamations of admiration and gratitude still dwelt on every tongue, and, filled every heart, not dead to its country's glory,) a splendid entertainment was given to the hero, by the corporation of the city of *Lynchburg*, in *Virginia*. Among those who visited *General Jackson* on that occasion, (and nearly 300 gentlemen were present,) was *Thomas Jefferson*. *Mr. Jefferson's* toast, at the dinner party, was in the following beautiful terms. "Honor and gratitude to those who have filled the measure of their country's honor."] 9 *Vol. Niles*. 214.

## NO. II.

Much is said about the *diplomatic* offices which have been given to *Mr. Adams*, abroad, things of more advantage to himself, than on account of any benefits, known to be received by the United States.

*Andrew Jackson* also, might, (could he have sold his virtue and conscience) been a resident Minister at the *Mexican Court*—with an annual salary of \$9000 a year, for life—besides an *outfit* of \$18000, all drawn from the hard earnings of his fellow citizens.

Some time in the winter of 1823, last, he was nominated by President *Monroe*, *Minister* to the *Mexican Government*, and his nomination unanimously concurred in by the Senate. No doubtful proof, we think, of the high estimation entertained by his country, and those best qualified to judge, of his qualifications to exercise the highest diplomatic, civil, functions, and one of the most delicate and important offices of that kind, which, in the present relations of the world, could have been committed to a citizen of the U. States. Yet he *declined* this tempting and honorable mark of public confidence, in his virtue and ability. In coming to this resolution he evinced equal proof of his superior *discernment*, and of those noble sentiments of patriotism disinterestedness, and love of liberty, which have marked his conduct in every period of his life. His intuitive mind readily perceived what *Mr. Monroe*, and his cabinet, did not foresee, that the *Mexican Government*, would be shaken to pieces, and *Iturbide* tumbled from his ill gotten station. That it would not only be a useless waste of public money, but prostrate the honor of this country, to send a republican Minister to *Mexico*, to fawn at the feet of the *Emperor*, *Iturbide*!

These motives, but especially the last, determined him to reject the proffered honor. He saw, what did not seem to have occurred to the President and his Council, that to delegate a Minister from the U. States to *Mexico*, at the head of which was an Imperial upstart, a selfmade Legitimate, would disgrace the country which sent him.

It would be to despatch a herald, not to hail a fresh born *republick* struggling into life and panting for the blessings of confirmed liberty, but to hail an insolent *Usurper*, who had mounted to Imperial power and tyranny, un-

der false pretenses of liberating his countrymen from that very despotism, which he was riveting upon their necks—in league with a bigotted priesthood and a mercenary army.

With such foresight as events have proved, and sentiments so congenial to a heart ever alive to the great cause of human happiness, and especially to the honor of his own country, he wrote to *Mr. Monroe*. After stating that he had not been *consulted* on the subject of the appointment, nor had heard any thing of the intention of the President to make it, until after the nomination was submitted to the Senate, which entitled him to exercise his own judgment on the propriety of the measure, he, on mature reflection, had come to the following conclusion: “*That, in the present revolutionary state of Mexico, the appearance of an American minister at that court, with credentials to the tyrant Iturbide, would carry with it, to the people of that country, the appearance that the U. States approved of his course: Would thereby strengthen the tyrant—and enable him the more firmly to rivet the chains of despotism on the Mexican people, who of right ought to be free. The future peace and security of the United States, materially depends upon the Mexicans establishing a government upon the representative system. These views induce me to decline the acceptance, determined never to permit pecuniary or other considerations, to entice me into a measure, where the cause of suffering humanity could not be relieved; and where there was no prospect of my rendering any service to my country.*”

Such were the magnanimous reasons which determined Andrew Jackson, to forego an outfit and splendid Embassy to a foreign court! Happy indeed and honorable for the U. States, if there had been more examples of such disinterestedness among his competitors, for the Presidency! [*See vol. 24. Niles Reg. p. 280.*]

## JACKSON TICKET.

Agreed on by the Convention of Delegates friendly to the election of General Andrew Jackson as President of the United States, who met at Trenton, on Wednesday the 1st day of September, 1824.

PETER WILSON, *of Bergen.*  
 JAMES PARKER, *of Middlesex.*  
 ISAAC G. FARLEE, *of Hunterdon.*  
 JOHN BEATTY, Jun. *of Burlington.*  
 JOSEPH W. SCOTT, *of Somerset.*  
 JOSEPH KILLE, *of Salem.*  
 JOHN BUCK, *of Cumberland.*  
 DANIEL VLIET, *of Sussex.*

**NOTE**—The reader is requested, after perusing the within address to hand it over to others, so that it may be fully *circulated* in the neighbourhood





WERT BOOKBINDING

JAN 1989

Grand Rapids, MI

