AURORA

SURGO UT PROSIM.

PHILADELPHIA.

TUESDAY, APRIL 30, 1799.

## No. II.
## AN ENQUIRY,

*INTO THE EXISTING INTERPOSITIONS OF THE GOVERNMENT OF GREAT BRITAIN IN THE AFFAIRS OF THE UNITED STATES.*

The British paper, by William Cobbett, has ventured to call us all those things derogatory to *the Government of our choice*, which have been stated in No. I. By way of example, he says, that an honorable independence of the Swiss is incompatible with even *the name of a Republic!* So of course with the Americans! Having thus audaciously insulted our form and kind of government, and the cardinal provision of our constitutions, let us see how this foreign emissary treats those who have been chosen by a free great and enlightened people to administer that Constitution. We will begin with his insults on the supreme federal *legislature* itself—the *Congress* of the United States, the *supreme* constitutional organ of the people of America.

"Can there (says this pernicious agent of a foreign monarchy,) "can there be any stronger evidences than these, that *you do not possess the public confidence*; and that although by some fidelity or other you fill seats in Congress, *you are not the representatives of the people* at this moment, nor the organs of their will and opinion? What do you wait for more? are you resolved to hang as dead weights, and to stop the wheels of government, until the *the people rise*, and take you by the shoulders as Cromwell did the rump (Parliament) in the last century, *and turn you out of doors!*"

Again, "neither the *Congress* nor *the people* of this country would enter into a war with the French, though they were *to tread their guts out*"! This to *the people* of the United States, and to the *Supreme legislative power* of the United States is past all endurance. In vain is the right of war and peace given to our legislature, if an audacious bully, sent out by a belligerent power, dares but to lisp to them such insolence. We repeat it! Our executive power is responsible to *the people* for some proper representations to the British minister on such occasions. Mr. Liston ought to succeed in nothing while he holds intercourse, visits, gives countenance, purchases, and distributes the papers and pamphlets, of such a British printer. Representations ought to be made to England if it be any longer continued. It is friendly to them, for the people will resent such indignities. The money of the people of the United States was paid by acts of Congress for the papers that contain it is foreign abuse of the people of their republican institutions, and of Congress, for Cobbett's Gazette was thoughtlessly taken, at the expence of the public official fund, by officers of the government. Do such servants of the nation act towards it, as if they sincerely believed this to be a great, free, enlightened, and independent people?

Again. "and thus (says Cobbet) ended a session of Congress, which has cost this country about eighty or ninety thousand dollars *without rendering one farthings worth of service*." Can any man wonder at the insurrection produced by false notions of the insurgents on taxes, when they are thus fomented by a foreign printer? Can any one ask how it came that Berks or Northampton over rated their burdens? He will find the reason in the incessant misrepresentations of this pernicious foreigner. Cobbett goes on to observe upon the proceedings of Congress, "that they had done a vast deal of *mischief*"—that they had *degraded* the *national* character in the eyes of the *whole* world "when American *courage* and *fortitude* (continues this English Corporal and printer) shall in future be boasted of, then to quote the speeches of a Dayton, &c."—We will remember that Mr. Dayton was the Speaker of the House of Representatives at the time.

In another place Cobbett says of Lieutenant General *Washington*'s reception of the French flag in January 1796. in the character too of President of the United States, that it was "*most trifling*"—"*childish*"—"not to say *scandalous* and *shameful*." This fact would be out of place, but that Cobbett applies the offensive and contemptuous language, just quoted, to *the Senate* and *house of Representatives* "Every branch of *the American Government*" is his expression. Have the executive officers of the Government of the United States a regard for the republican principles of the constitution, for the government of our choice, for the benefit of the first country, for their duty to be execute their office, as to need protection to *the bodies* of their colleagues in authority from foreign bayonets or daggers, and to the *independent deliberations* of their colleagues in authority from the poison of foreign intrigue, or the disturbance of foreign audacity? If so then let them use their constitutional diplomatic powers with Mr. Liston, in the manner which this case plainly requires and admits. If they continue to submit to such abuses and Cobbett perseveres to insult and vilify our constituted authorities and to interfere in the elections of the people, the appointment of the Presidents and Governors, and the depending proceedings of the Legislatures, it requires no spirit of prophecy to predict, that the executive officers will decline in the esteem of this high spirited and discerning nation.

*(No. III in a future paper.)*

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Some transactions that have occurred within a few short days, merit particular attention. The departure of Toussaint's agent *Bunell* for St. Domingo, with Dr. *Stephens* as an American agent; the privilege given to two merchants of this city in *exclusion of all the rest*, to carry merchandize to that island; and the arrival of general *Maitland* from England a few days after *Bunell's* departure, have been already noticed in this paper.

We have to add some new circumstances, a *new agent* from *Toussaint* arrived in Philadelphia on Sunday, his name is Bouvies, but general *Maitland* is not here to meet him.

*General Maitland* departed from Philadelphia very suddenly last week—he had taken the house lately occupied by Mrs. Grattan, for *a month*, but remained in it little more than *a week*. We sometime ago stated one of the objects of this *extraordinary* mission, to be to form a contract for the supply of American beef and pork for the British navy. We find by an article of intelligence from Petersburgh that there had been a *cash contract* entered into there; but the severity of the winter in the north of Europe had prevented any considerable quantity from being supplied in any reasonable time.

The proposal for a contract made to our government was not for *cash* but on a remote *credit*. The basis of this credit was to be the *monies awarded* by the commissioners under the sixth article of the British treaty. The English ministry had been advised so long ago as the 14th of December 1798, that the commissioners had decided claims to the amount of 500,000 dollars. This amount was certainly overrated, as well as the fact of a decisive award. Since that period indeed the cases inquired into would justify a supposition that double that sum would be likely to be awarded by the commissioners. This fact was given to the public, and excited considerable and just apprehensions in the southern states.

A member of Congress called upon the commissioners, in order to quiet the alarms of his constituents, and Mr. Fitzsimons, one of the commissioners, wrote a letter very happily calculated to quiet their apprehensions; unfortunately for *General Maitland's* proposition, this letter appeared in the public prints just as he came forward with his plan, for the supply of provisions upon the *credits* that are to arise under the 6th article. The letter of the Commissioner shewed that tho' there were sums to a great amount likely to be awarded, that the English minister had overrated tho' misinformation the actual amount already discussed by the commissioners, and it became evident that the question of decision upon the actual sum to be paid must be subject to great delay and uncertainty both as to the *time* and amount to be paid.

General Maitland's purpose was therefore to consult the President on the subject, but he learned that the measure would not be decided on but at the seat of government, and that propositions in writing would be the most speedy and effectual mode of proceeding. Whether these propositions have been presented or not is to us uncertain, but the probability is against it.

There are some additional and *highly interesting* circumstances connected with this mission of General Maitland. We do not allude to his conduct in regard to the *infamous Judge Combault*. Matters of a *peculiarly English* policy, and as usual *basely* and *insidiously* injurious to America in prosperity and commerce, transpired, during the short stay of *Bunell*, the agent of *Toussaint*, in this city; and during General Maitland's residence here.

It will be remembered that when General *Maitland* abandoned St. Domingo to the French General *Toussaint*, a treaty had been entered into. The whole of that treaty has never publicly transpired, but such facts have reached us, as betray the *uniformity* of the British policy towards us in all our relations, whether as colonists or as an independent nation—as enemies or as allies.

Notwithstanding all the sacrifices, not to say worse, which we made by the British treaty, to secure at least the peace and neutrality of the United States, we have seen Great Britain incurably jealous of our enviable prosperity, and the rapid advances which we are making in arts and manufactures. We need not allude to her conduct to our vessels at sea, that conduct continues to the present moment, and there is reason to believe that her hostility is intended to be encreased.

When General Maitland left St. Domingo, he delivered over to the French General all the American property to an immense amount, which had been brought into the ports possessed by the British, by their citizens; particularly all the provisions. But the most striking, because the most perfidious stipulations made on that occasion, were those, by which *Maitland* endeavoured to destroy the American carrying trade in every thing but provisions.

It was stipulated that *Jamaica* should possess the *exclusive* privilege of supplying St. Domingo with *manufactures* and piece goods of every kind—and that *American* vessels should be totally prohibited from importing into St. Domingo *every species of merchandize but provisions!*

It requires no great sagacity to discern, that if the provisions which America produces, could be supplied from any British resources, that the *generosity* of the *British General Maitland* would have included provisions among the prohibited articles.

The manufactures of Germany and France, are by much the most in request, in the Island of St. Domingo. Before the intercourse with France was broken off (whether by British intrigues we shall not now enquire) our merchants carried on a lucrative commerce in French piece goods with St. Domingo; and even after the stoppage of the intercourse with France, we were enabled to supply that Island indirectly by the neutral islands with German goods, which though inferior in quality to the French, were still preferred from the peculiar taste of the people and the fashion of the manufactures.

The provision of a partial supply of *English* goods from *Jamaica* to St. Domingo, were not calculated so much to produce a temporary advantage to England, as a durable disadvantage to our carrying trade; since our freights to be in all respects advantageous should consist of other articles beside provision. Our merchants already feel the fatal effects of the overruling influence of English *intrigues* in our cities, and of English *monopoly* even in the ports of a power with which they are in the most relentless hostility, and with which we tho' not in perfect friendship, are at least at peace.

General *Maitland* was not idle during his residence here—he *counselled* and *advised*—he *questioned* and he received information; he found that by his having made overtures so hostile to American prosperity, the British ministers had made an injudicious choice in selecting him to promote new schemes of political speculation with the merchants and the government of the United States. General Maitland has therefore suddenly *taken himself off*—and it is not necessary that we should wish him a speedy voyage.

The arrival of BOUVIES is yet to be accounted for, and we must defer further considerations on this particular agent until our enquiries shall have been bent to that object.

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### *JAMES ROSS*

Is puffed by FENNO as well as PORCUPINE—The latter, as has been already shewn, is a *British* emissary, who must believe that ROSS will be governed by a *British* influence, or he would not advocate his election—But why does FENNO interest himself for ROSS? *He* must believe that ROSS *thinks, feels*, and *acts* as *he* does, or *he* would never became his champion—What are FENNO's sentiments? Let his valedictory declare them—They are inimical to *the Constitution of the United States*, and the *republican* system in general—FENNO is the friend of *Monarchy*, the apostle of a *church establishment*, the supporter of a *standing army*, the foe of the *state governments*, and the advocate for *war* and *bloodshed*, and this self same FENNO is endeavouring to promote ROSS's election! nothing is more natural than for one man to support another who thinks as he does—we all feel a predilection for those of congenial sentiments with ourselves, and it is well known that FENNO has neither charity nor compassion for those who differ from him in politics—Can any one doubt then of JAMES ROSS's sentiments, when they know that he is supported by FENNO? He must be a sceptic indeed who could doubt for a moment.

Are the people of Pennsylvania tired of their *Constitution*, and anxious to have a *King*? Are they ready to prostrate their republican institutions and their independence and rights at the feet of *one Man*? Are they prepared to give up their *religious freedom* and submit to have their consciences kept by *a clergy established by law*? If they are let them be guided by the advice of FENNO—He knows his man, and has pointed him out—The people have only to choose and confirm *his* nomination—JAMES ROSS will suit FENNO exactly, or he certainly would not recommend him, those, therefore, who agree with FENNO will assuredly give their votes for ROSS.

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### *LANCASTER INSURGENTS.*

There never was a greater outrage committed in the United States than that by the *Lancaster Troop of Horse*, and it affords a lesson to *the people*, which ought to be deeply and indelibly engraven upon their minds. They may see from this that they have to expect from a military force under the orders of the administration. The laws under which they expect to repose in safety are mere cobwebs in the hands of governmental heroes, and they trample upon them as suits their pleasure or convenience. CAPTAIN MONTGOMERY and his *heroic* band marched to support the *civil* authority of the United States, and on this march became himself the violator of the common-law of the land. He marched to gather laurels in quelling an *illegal* insurrection, and became himself a *real* insurgent. Is there any substantial difference between the FRIES and the actual conduct THE LANCASTER TROOP? None—they both put the laws at defiance, and they are both criminal—but what is the difference in the eye of the *federalists*?—The Lancaster troop have in their opinion served their country, while FRIES is considered by them as a culprit!!

If such conduct as this is tolerated, where will it end? Undoubtedly in *a dissolution of all law and order*—we shall be thrown into a *state of nature*, and it will remain with each individual to *protect himself*. If one set of men undertake to punish, another may do the same—individual may rise up against individual, and the most powerful only will be safe. Do the people wish this? Do they wish to see us like lions and wolves, feeding upon each other? If they do not, the conduct of the Lancaster troop ought to awaken them to a sense of danger. If such is *federalism*, it is highly time they should understand it and guard against it.

But it may be said that such outrage is not countenanced—if so, why was it not punished? Was the general ignorant of the transaction? He was not. Did he punish the offenders? He did not. If then the culprits were neither arrested nor punished, although the general was on the spot, can it be contended that they were not countenanced? On this subject every mind can draw its own conclusions. No further aid is necessary to a just and fair deduction than that of common sense.

The western insurrection was excited to destroy GALLATIN, FINDLEY and SMILEY, and the Northampton disturbance may have been intended to make a governor of JAMES ROSS; but fanatics often injure their own cause, and when the people of Pennsylvania are apprized of the true situation of things, which every day will unfold to them, the last man they will fix upon will be JAMES ROSS, the candidate of *the Lancaster county troop*.

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### THE TAYLORS' PLOT.

Federal zeal was never exhibited with so much wisdom—so much energy—so much,—but language is very defective to let us tell the story, without *laughing*—it *provoke*! For about five or six weeks past about twenty *men* and three times that number of *women*—have been employed in making *breeches*, and *pantaloons*, and *jackets*, and *shirts*, in the neighbourhood of Spruce street, and to such an audacious pitch have these *needle* and *thread* conspirators carried on their operations, that every day when the sun tired of hiding its face with shame at their *taylorly* proceedings ventured to peep from behind a cloud, these *men* and *women breeches* and *pantaloon makers*, popped into the public streets, and on tables, chairs, and benches, cut and sewed, hemmed and felled, in the most audacious manner these treasonable instruments of destruction, to wit, breeches, &c. Notwithstanding the sun had so often seen these doings during five weeks, the plot was not discovered to our magistracy before *Saturday last*, when and on Sunday, the whole of the manufactures as aforesaid were seized upon, and upon the principal conspirators were actually found orders from our ally *King Toussaint Louverture* of St. Domingo for the manufacture of the aforesaid dangerous articles. Whether the taylors will be *hanged* or not cannot now be determined, because it is difficult to determine whether making *blue breeches* comes within the limits of the laws defining treason! "*Hail Columbia happy land!*"

On the principal conspirator in this business were found three *Commissions* under his *Britannic majesty*, to wit:—that of *Lieutenant, Captain Lieutenant*, and *Captain*—So bail was taken yesterday—*ENCORE—Hail Columbia!*

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The Gazette of the United States has published a violent attack upon the committee appointed to communicate the determination of the republican measure in favor of Mr. *M'Kean*. But we have not forgot that the same Gazette published, a short time ago, a very long and indecent libel upon the federal constitution, upon those of the states, upon state judges without discrimination, upon the character of the Americans, and upon every thing in our country. Mr. *Fenno's* address also contained some very great compliments to William Cobbett, *a foreign emissary*, who has so illiberally abused republican government, the people, congress, Mr. Adams, general Washington, Dr. Franklin, the free presses of the United States, and in short every thing important in the country. The republican meeting which appointed the committee, consisted of an impartial collection from every part of the state. Several of the committee wished, on account of private business, to avoid the duty. But the appointment was urged upon them and accepted from a strong sense of duty. General *Muhlenberg*, Mr. *Coxe*, and Doctor *Leib* have been appointed to Congress, Mr. *Dallas* has been *nine years* Secretary of the Commonwealth, and Col. *Miles* and Mr. *Penrose* have been in the general assembly. Why have nearly all held other public employments, and Col. *Miles* and Mr. *Coxe* have been appointed upon the same kind of duty several years ago for promoting the federal Constitution. There is something so scandalous in a federalist abusing persons whom his own party has solicited to serve them in the same way, that we cannot doubt it is a disguised foreigner. Mr. *Fenno's* paper extolls the emissary of Great Britain, and has several times used the expression of "*his Majesty*" in paragraphs; from which one can easily perceive that *Englishmen write* in it.—The cousin (by marriage) of *the British consul* is the *administrator* of the late Mr. Fenno! He forms a very easy and snug channel for English attacks upon the committee appointed by the republican meeting. But what is the reason that *the British consul* [illegible] adm[illegible]ters to Mr. Fenno's estate, while the son (*John Ward Fenno*) is present and is wholly the agent to that administration? Was not the Gazette his father's? Whose was it? Did it belong to the cousin of the British consul? or to the patron of the British consul? Some of the writers in the paper of Mr. Fenno are *British*. Many of them dislike our representative government as much as Mr. Fenno himself has professed to do, in his own address. The idea that the Gazette of the United States is connected with the *British government* is founded upon more than mere conjecture or suspicion. The writers of the *Anchor Club* have left off their publications under that signature, but we perceive they continue under others. One of that Club has been heard to declare, that he "*hates a republican, and everything that is republican.*" This person is a *native* of Great-Britain! To such a pass have our country, and our newspapers reached!!! It is easy to see that "*the federal republic*" is in imminent danger from these foreign operations. The respectable American citizens, who signed the letter of the meeting, that claim all the federalism of the state, do not appear to issue any of these malignant papers.—They all come from foreigners, or friends of the British form of government. This we truly believe. Electors take care of *Cobbett* and of *Fenno* his colleague at "*the post*."

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### *THE FIRST DAY*

Unlike the political festival of 1798, that of the 25th of April, 1799, pass[illegible] over with a composed and impressive silence—our streets were not seen thronged with boisterous ruffians, "mad with the wine cup grape and ripe for blood"—the pomp of military parade was not seen in our peaceful streets—the windows of our citizens were not assailed with stones—and the Independent did not send back the Aurora unread—because—because it has never been served upon him since the *first day* of 1798.

Political fury has laudably abated, and a number of wretches who were panting for places, to escape under the shelter of official situation from the ignominy of their vicious speculations have disappeared. *Joe Thomas* who with a sword drawn led a phalanx of Bacchanals through our streets on the first day of 1798—has since fled from the upilfted hand of justice, and covered with shame. An example like his though it disgraced our city and his party for the time, has been of some value—No man of prudence could follow his example, and his party cannot forget the disgrace in which his whole conduct has involved them.

To this cause we may in some measure attribute the peace of our city on the last fast day; but there are other more powerful causes.

The people have manifested a more decisive sentiment on the state of our national affairs. Our administration feel it. The recent fast may serve to veil in a partial manner their confusion and conviction, though we cannot hope to hear of its being followed by contrition, it must be followed by prudence.

Our *Banks*—our *merchants*—feel the mistakes or madness by which under a fatal *planet!* we have been governed.

The delusion of *monarchical* ambition is cut short like the thread of the fates—the long expected renewal of coalesced despotism sink into oblivion—the faithless conduct of Britain—her sinister designs on our commerce in the West-Indies, her intrigues in this very city, the seduction of one of our *Senators* by the British agency—the bribe offered to our general *Clarke* by the same agency—the conduct of Dr. *Romayne*, and the whole of the *management* of the Impeachment, are so well understood and so flagrant, that the public must have been the most besotted that ever existed, and the most unworthy of freedom and peace, if they were insensible to the true state of things, or remained indifferent to the general interests.

There were many other causes which awakened public reflection. The delusive schemes of *plots* and *conspiracies*—the *clues* which *Harper* so often held out, to alarm the public, and his public declamation in Congress, that a *system of alarm was necessary to be kept up*—the *tub plot* was another of those perfidious delusions which has tended to disgust the public and disgrace those with whom it originated in the public mind—The appointment of a minister to *Turkey* was another circumstance that disgusted thinking men, who could not forget that President Adams had in his inaugural speech declared his purpose to adhere to the system of neutrality of his predecessor, and who could not but remember, that general Washington in his farewell address had declared himself in these words

"The great rule of conduct for us, in regard to foreign nations, is, in extending our commercial relations, to have with them as little *political* connections as possible. So far as we have already formed engagements, let them be fulfilled with perfect good faith.—Here let us stop.

"Europe has a set of primary interests, which to us have none, or a very remote relation. Hence the must be engaged in frequent controversies, the causes of which are essentially foreign to our concerns. Hence, therefore, it must be unwise in us to implicate ourselves by artificial ties in the ordinary vicissitudes of her politics or the ordinary combinations and collisions of her friendships or enmities.

"Our detached and distant situation invites and enables us to pursue a diff[illegible]-