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Democratic party, Pennsylvania.

SECOND ADDRESS

OF THE

General Committee

OF CORRESPONDENCE,

[APPOINTED AT A GENERAL MEETING OF THE REPUBLICAN MEMBERS OF THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF PENNSYLVANIA,]

TO THE

Democratic Citizens

OF THE

STATE OF PENNSYLVANIA,

ON THE SUBJECT OF THE

PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION,

1812.

PHILADELPHIA:

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The General Committee of Correspondence,

TO THE

Democratic Citizens,

OF THE

STATE OF PENNSYLVANIA.

FRIENDS AND FELLOW CITIZENS.

THE rapid approach of the election of Electors of a President and Vice President of the United States, renders it the duty of the General Committee of Correspondence to make a final appeal, to the good faith, public virtue, and political consistency of the *Democratic party* of Pennsylvania. The appeal shall be short; we trust, that it will be effectual.

The nomination of the Democratic party by the United States on this important occasion, presents JAMES MADISON as a candidate for the office of President and ELBRIDGE GERRY as a candidate for the office of Vice President. This nomination was openly, freely and deliberately, made or approved, by the Republican delegates, from every State of the Union, with a single exception, who were assembled at Washington during the late session of Congress. It was made in the mode which has been long known and uniformly practised, as the most comprehensive to embrace the sentiments, views, and wishes of the whole union; and, as the most efficient to secure harmony and co-operation, in the maintainance of the Republican cause. It is also a mode which has been sanctioned by the acquiescence of the people, who were well aware of its adoption, before the late nomination; yet they never had, in any form, objected to its operation. It has been exercised in the present nomination of Mr. *Madison* and Mr. *Gerry*, with the concurrence and entire approbation of the Democratic Republicans, in every state except one, and it

has been expressly ratified and approved by the Republican members of the Legislatures of the States of Pennsylvania, Massachusetts, Virginia, New Jersey, New Hampshire, Kentucky, Ohio, and Maryland.

Against this powerful and decisive display of political sentiment and opinion, the only dissenting portion of the Republican family of the United States, is to be found in the State of New York. This secession is to be regretted, but neither to be feared nor indulged. It is too obvious for the reputation of New York, that some of her prominent republicans have lost the awful remembrance of past sufferings, and suppressed the painful anticipation of future danger in the selfish solicitude to obtain, at the last, as well as the present, Presidential election, the nomination of a candidate in her own favor. For this object, she announces to the world a determination, singly and alone, to oppose, and, if possible, defeat the deliberate choice of every other State, in which a Democratic majority prevails. In this pursuit she commits an outrage upon the principles and policy of all the States; but her conduct toward Pennsylvania in particular, has added insult to outrage. Not content with the promised aid of the *self-created convention of Federal gentlemen*, recently convened in New York: not content with the pledged co-operation of the *self delegated association of Federalists* which lately assembled at Carlisle; nor yet satisfied with the spontaneous devotion of "the British party in America;" to the specious pretexts of her ambition; she has ventured to introduce her political missionaries, principally the officers of her government, into every county, in the vain hope to seduce to alarm, or corrupt, the Democrats of Pennsylvania from the path of honor and of duty. Let it, however, be distinctly and universally understood; let the approaching election incontrovertibly demonstrate, that, whatever or wherever, may be the guilty triumph of these unnatural alliances, of these nefarious efforts, for the prostration of the Republican, and the elevation of the Federal, party; the honest, enlightened and incorruptible democracy of Pennsylvania, will never participate in the turpitude, or in the shame of the transaction.

To the good faith, the political consistency, the public virtue of our respected fellow citizens, we again appeal, when we ask, why should the deliberate, well-reflected-upon nomination of *Mr. Madison* and *Mr. Gerry*, be revoked, cancelled and set aside, by the democracy of Pennsylvania? Has the declaration of War furnished any ground for the change? The great body of the people of the United States, and the legislature of every state, in which the Democratic influence predominates, speaking in unison with almost every Republican voice in Congress, have called aloud for war, as the only untried, the only remaining, resource to vindicate the honor and to assert the rights of the nation. Have the conduct and events of the war, shewn that a change is necessary, proper or expedient? The war is just begun. While our national government preserves its republican form and spirit, there can be no accumulation of treasure, no enlistment of armies, no equipment of navies, in the time of peace upon the speculation of war: and it is, perhaps, the concomitant inconvenience of the inestimable blessings of such a government, that its wars, will always commence in a state, comparatively unprepared for the supply, as well as for the discipline, of the public force. It is not the part of wisdom, or of candor, to shift the public plans from measure to measure, and the public confidence from man to man, upon every vicissitude, which the fortune of war may produce. If an unexpected disaster has occurred on the land, is it not converted into an advantage by the patriotic energy which has every where been excited, to redeem the pledge of national valor and virtue from the consequence of a cowardly, treacherous or treasonable surrender? If an invincible superiority of maritime force, enables the enemy, at present, to prey upon our commerce, have we not exultingly seen, that remove the disparity of numbers, and ship to ship, gun to gun, man to man, we may not only confidently cope with, but firmly expect to triumph over, the tyrant of the ocean. It ought also to be remembered, on the one hand, that Congress could alone declare the war, and provide the means to wage it; while on the other hand, to impute to *Mr. Madison* the failure of every

military expedition, or the defection of every military chief, will be to place his popularity and fame upon a foundation, on which no man of character, would consent to have his own placed, and on which, fortunately for our country, neither during the revolutionary contest, nor afterwards, the popularity and fame of WASHINGTON were placed.

Will it be said, that the imperious consequences of the war, already suggest the expediency of a change, in the nomination of *Mr. Madison*, with a view to promote the return of peace? The assertion fairly examined will prove to be unjust and fallacious. A state of war, indeed, will always, in some degree, be a state of suffering: but this effect must be compensated, by a consideration of the motives, and of the objects, for engaging in it. Is it in the sufferings of our FARMERS, that we must trace the cause of change? Never did the abundant harvests of Pennsylvania find a quicker, or a better, market. Will the depression of COMMERCE present the ground of change? Under the British Orders in Council, our commerce was annihilated, except in those *licensed* channels through which it passes as freely and as safely during the war, as it did during the peace; while the number of British captures, has given us, for the first time, a consolation or indemnity, for our losses, in the great value of the Prizes which have been, and probably will be captured from the enemy. In fine, do the complaints of the MANUFACTURERS, or MECHANICS, indicate the policy of a change in the nomination of *Mr. Madison*? Why, the war is the main spring of the hopes of every Manufacturer or Mechanic for property and wealth. Free them from the competition of British capitals, in American markets; protect them at their home, from the incendiary agents of British establishments; and, through the medium of their arts and industry, the *Second American War* will bless our country, with the means of perpetuating that Independence, which the *First War* so gloriously atchieved. But if, to the Farmer, the Merchant, the Manufacturer, peace is, as it ought to be, with every good citizen, a consummation devoutly to be wished: say, as every patriotic American will say, an HONORABLE PEACE:

and the best assurance for such a peace will be found in the nomination of Mr. Madison. His personal character; his public life; the enjoyment of honor and happiness in his own day; and the noble passion of a generous mind, to deserve the respect and gratitude of future times, all concur to present him to you, as a negociator for peace, not only the most able to conduct the negociation, but the most interested in its success.

Here, fellow citizens, we close our appeal to the good faith, the public virtue, the political consistency, of the *Democracy of Pennsylvania*: but it remains to recommend, with an earnestness and solicitude proportioned to the magnitude of the stake, the adoption of the most efficient measures to prepare and to conclude triumphantly, the business of the Electoral Election, which will be held throughout the State, on the THIRTIETH DAY OF THIS MONTH, (October.) You are now to maintain the republican institutions and character of our country, in opposition to *a combination of the friends and adherents of an aspiring citizen*, (De Witt Clinton, who has deserted the democratic cause and party) with the *Federalists*, and the “*British party in America*;” acting upon the principles and plans of the years 1799 and 1800, as divulged by their agent, WILLIAM COBBETT; and recently promulged and sanctioned, by *the acts and proclamations of the Governor of Canada*.

From the *honor, principles and justice* of every citizen named on the Electoral Ticket, by the convention at Lancaster, the democratic party would be entitled to expect a vote in favor of JAMES MADISON and ELBRIDGE GERRY; and it is with satisfaction the committee affirm, that they have received from every district the firmest assurances that every Elector on the republican ticket will vote for James Madison as President and Elbridge Gerry as Vice President of the United States

From the members of Congress, and the members of the State Legislature, who concurred in the nomination of *James Madison and Elbridge Gerry*, the democratic party are

entitled to expect a prompt and zealous exertion, to ensure the success of the Electoral Ticket.

From every independent, patriotic, incorruptible democrat, his brethren have a right to expect, and do expect, in the support of the nomination of **JAMES MADISON** and **ELBRIDGE GERRY**, a display of good faith, public virtue, and political consistency.

Under these auspicious expectations, and under the assurances we have received from every district of Pennsylvania, well may the democratic party, at this crisis, resolve, in defiance of internal and external enemies, to preserve the "virtue, Liberty and Independence" of Pennsylvania, by the influence of their votes, as well as by the force of their arms.

We are, fellow citizens,

Your sincere friends,

JACOB HOLGATE,
JOHN BINNS,
JOHN GEYER,
JOHN PORTER.

COMMITTEE ROOM,

Philadelphia, October 12, 1812.

PENNSYLVANIA ELECTORAL TICKET.

Charles Thompson,
 David Mitchell,
 Paul Cox,
 Isaac Worrell,
 Michael Baker,
 Joseph Engle,
 James Fulton,
 Isaiah Davis,
 John Whitehill,
 Edward Crouch,
 Hugh Glasgow,
 David Fullerton,

David Meade.

Samuel Smith,
 Robert Smith,
 Nathaniel Michler,
 Charles Shoemaker,
 James Mitchell,
 John Murray,
 Clement Paine,
 Arthur Moore,
 Henry Alshouse,
 James Stephenson
 Abia Minor,
 Adamson Tannehill,