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# ADDRESS

OF THE

DEMOCRATIC YOUNG MEN

OF THE

*CITY AND LIBERTIES*

OF

Philadelphia.

## DEMOCRATIC YOUNG MEN.

PURSUING with ardor the object of their first meeting, the democratic young men assembled again, by adjournment, on Friday evening the 14th August 1812, at the County Court Room,

GEORGE A. BAKER, jr. *being in the Chair, and*  
SAMUEL KEEMLE, *Secretary.*

*On motion it was*

*Resolved.* That the Democratic Young Men, of the city and liberties of Philadelphia form themselves into an association, to promote the democratic interest and support the constituted authorities of their country.

After which the meeting approved, with some amendments, the plan of the institution reported by their general committee.

The following address was then read and unanimously adopted, amid the applauses of the meeting :—



## To the Democratic Young Men.

FRIENDS AND BROTHERS,

IF we love our country—if we love liberty—if we love ourselves and all that is dear to us, now is pre-eminently the time to show our hearts. For, all the days that any of us have witnessed, were bliss itself compared to the threatening present. We have friends—we have rights—we have a government and laws—the freest, wisest, best in the world—before these the arm of every freeman holds a seven-fold shield against the miserable attempts of foreign mercenaries. But the danger lies nearer home. Hear it not shade of Washington—hear it not guardian spirit of Franklin—scarce six and thirty years have elapsed since you resolved “America shall be free,” ere some degenerate sons of your gallant compeers, consorting with the offspring of the base, league with the arch-enemy, to re-enslave the land you freed! Yes, brothers, we hear Americans—to their eternal disgrace be it said—uphold and justify the oppressors of their fathers. We see them with Spaniel tameness listening to the accents of their lord premier, and his hireling editors, pronouncing them the “*British party in America.*” Heavens! do we live while we record it, that any of Columbia’s sons cling to their country’s ancient natural, and implacable foe? Can it be that some of them forget, and others have not read, or heard their sires tell, that this insatiate fiend is the same whose persecutions first drove their ancestors to these then desolate shores; and, after they had made a wilderness to blossom like the rose, sacrilegiously entered this paradise of liberty, to persecute, politically, whom they had before falsely persecuted for religion. Does none of

them know of the "murders at Paoli?" The scalping scenes on the frontier? Or have the hypocritical tears of villainy already quenched in their hearts the flames of burning cities on the Atlantic? Where are the bones which but lately bleached on the Wallabout? Does not one hear in fancy the agonizing groans of a father, or a friend, issuing from a floating bastille? Heroes of America, where are ye, that we must hearken to song and choral symphonies sung to the perpetrators of these damnable deeds? O! brothers, if we do not our duty on the thirteenth of October coming, woe to our country—woe to its liberties—its honour—rights—happiness—every thing. Should the British party be allowed to seize the reins of government, we shudder to glance at the prospect such an event would raise. Where would fly those principles for which Washington fought, and Montgomery bled? What would become of the national rights, for which we have suffered a seven years privation? Do you not tremble when you think, if ever such thought enters your minds, of *Timothy Pickering being President of the United States*? Him who was ignominiously burnt in effigy, with bags of *British* gold dangling at his heels! Yet this is one of the evils you have to dread if the democrats—the whigs—the patriots—do not succeed in their October elections. But it is far from being the only ill. Thousands of others swarm about it, like worms in corruption. Nay, if the anti-patriots gain but one single office even in the city corporation, it will taint your state. You must take such measures as to lock out every one who will suffer himself to be borne along in the same party with Tories and traitors. The times call for it. There can now be but two parties—one for the country—the other against it; and those who are not for it are against it." We may pity, but we dare not confide in the deluded—and, as for the designing, you must shun them as you would shun an adder.

We see a striking parallel between these days and those of the "Heaven-directed" revolution. Our enemy is the same. The rights we contend for are scarcely less important. There are now, as there were then, tories and spies, who have carried their daring insolence so far that the people themselves, in some places have been exasperated, spontaneously, to inflict summary justice upon the culprits. Examples enough might be produced from the revolution. But, thank God, our cause stands on a nobler base for its support. Guarded by the laws, and its own inherent firmness, it has hitherto stood like a rock of adamant. The brittle shafts of falsehood have dropped harmless at its foot, and we need never fear that our opponents can injure it, or gain the confidence of the people, as long as they link themselves to the British, while the wounds of the last war still stream afresh. And that they do now so link themselves, witness the occurrences of every day, both here and in England. Did not Erskine in his diplomatic correspondence, proclaim those who call themselves federalists to be the "British party in America"? Did not Henry act upon that supposition?—Was it not openly announced in the British parliament? And has not Pickering, the great high priest of his party, explicitly declared it? We do not speak of the motives which have made them the "British party," nor pronounce them *generally* bad or corrupt. We submit the fact on the evidence, and ask what conclusion may be drawn from it? We do not wish to confound all in the inference; but then we call upon every honest federalist, who desires to be exempted to come forward and disclaim it, and not suffer himself to be quietly numbered with those who have incurred even suspicion, for as Junius says—"When the safety of a nation is at stake, suspicion is a just ground of alarm." It is our greatest

desire to see all *true* Americans united like a band of brothers to accomplish the object of the war, which we consider to be a firm binding and honorable peace, recognizing those principles for which our ambassadors have *negotiated* in vain. And let no one dare to impede this great object by extolling our enemies above their own countrymen. Let no one dare to be seen weeping for the losses of the British, and exulting as has most shamefully been done, over the capture or defeat, real or supposed, of an American.—Execrated, we say, be the wretch who “*wishes to see the English before six months in Philadelphia, driving the damn'd Yankces all before them, & then ravishing their wives & daughters.*”<sup>\*</sup> These sentiments are abhorrent to nature, and who would not blush and hang his head, and be ashamed to belong to a party under whose banners such beings dare enlist themselves.—But more—who would wish to see the government of his country again in the hands of such a party? What must be the effect abroad of their declarations, connected with the treasonable proceedings at Boston? Will not the English ministry seize on them the moment the news of the war arrives and exultingly proclaim that the United States have undone themselves by declaring war against England? Will they not adduce as evidence the misconduct of *some* of our citizens?—There can be no doubt but, in order to palliate the effect of their own ruinous measures, they will designedly mistake the voice of a *faction* for the voice of the *people*. We would not be surprised to hear it declared in parliament, that his majesty might recruit his regiments in America, particularly in New-England. These are serious considerations—But their lordships will be mistaken if that is their calculation. Should a British,

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<sup>\*</sup> *This declaration is said to have been actually made by a Federalist.*

or any other army attempt to land on our shores, ten times ten thousand flaming swords, drawn from the thighs of mighty freemen, would flash confusion in their faces. But still the idea that the Americans are a divided people, will have had its pernicious effect, added to the circumstance that the subjects of king George, as well as king George himself, have always grossly misapprehended our characters. We boast as well as they do, the ancestry of Hampden—Sidney—and beyond them that of Gustavas Vasa—William Tell—Herman—and thousands of others equal in glory, though lost to fame—the streams of whose noble blood, as they course through American veins, are enriched with the patriotic flood of Erin, and swelled by the life blood of Washington. Such a torrent would sweep the innumerable squadrons of Hell itself, were they to appear, from the field. Nor has the proud neck of an American ever borne the yoke of conquest. No Roman, Saxon, Dane, Bastard-Norman, or Hanoverian, has ever imposed the laws of conquest upon *our* country, and never shall any one. That rich inheritance of liberty and independence, which each successive generation will receive from their fathers, shall be transmitted unimpaired to the latest posterity, if we remain true to ourselves. Then, brothers, let us do every thing in our power to secure this inheritance. This address we are persuaded contains the sentiments of all good democrats adapted to the present crisis. Then let us one and all. act up to them with spirit. We have resolved to form an association to support the best interests of our country, and our immediate object must be to speed the whig ticket at the next election. JAMES MADISON must be again president of the United States, and ELBRIGE GERRY, vice president, and their triumph over our foes, foreign and domestic, is intimately connected with the success of the state and city tickets. In every point of view the next election will be one of the greatest consequence that has ever ~~been~~ holden in the state : and if the democrats are but firm,

vigilant, and united, as no doubt they will be to a man, success is theirs.

Friends and brothers of Philadelphia and its liberties—call to mind the memorable election of 1808. Read over again the recorded praises of your exertion at that time—These, it is true, with the political freedom you enjoy, are the only rewards of those of you who toiled most. The only rewards!—Good Heaven!—And what rewards can you ask besides?—To you with one accord, was attributed the success of the city ticket that year. Let it be so again. The ardor with which you have already come forward is prophetic. May the prophecy be soon fulfilled, and wreaths of victory bind your brows!



After the above address was read, it was immediately resolved, that a committee of ten be appointed to have it printed in pamphlet form, and distributed throughout the state.—The following persons compose the committee :

SAMUEL KEEMLE, GEORGE H. HUNTER,  
THOMAS D. MITCHELL, JOEL B. SUTHERLAND, R.  
HUTCHINSON, G. F. LEHMAN, W. LINNARD, jr.  
G. F. GOODMAN, S. ALWINE, & JOHN REYNOLDS.

(Signed) GEORGE A. BAKER, jr. *Chairman.*  
SAMUEL KEEMLE, *Secretary.*