

MEETING OF YOUNG MEN.

Pursuant to public notice, a very large meeting of Young Men of the 5th Congressional District of Maryland, opposed to the present National Administration, assembled in the Saloon of the Athenæum building on **THURSDAY EVENING, 20th Dec. 1831.**

On motion of *A. B. Wolfe*, the following officers were appointed—

JOHN M. STEUART, *President.*

AUGUSTUS W. BRADFORD, *1st Vice President.*

CHARLES E. WETHERED, *2d do. do.*

WM. L. MARSHALL, }
ROBT. H. COLEMAN, } *Secretaries.*

The meeting being organized for business, the President in a pertinent address, set forth the objects in view. When on motion of *Wm. Jessop Ward*, seconded by *Samuel Ellicott*, it was

Unanimously Resolved, That a Committee of five be appointed by the President of this meeting, for the purpose of nominating four Delegates to represent the 5th Congressional district of Maryland; and also to name four gentlemen whom this meeting may recommend to the State at large as Senatorial delegates to the National Convention of Young Men to be held in Washington on the 1st Monday in May next.

The Chair accordingly appointed to this duty the following gentlemen:—*Wm. Jessop Ward, Saml. Ellicott, Doct. B. M. Byrne, Philip Littig Jr., Saml. Hough.*

This committee retired, and, after a conference, returned, and reported the following nominations for the consideration of the meeting, which were unanimously accepted.

BRANTZ MAYER, }
JOHN M. STEUART, } *For the City.*

ALEX'R. H. TYSON, }
GEO. H. CALVERT, } *For the County.*

And in virtue of the foregoing resolution, *Wm. Jessop Ward*, as Chairman thereof, reported that the following gentlemen be recommended by this meeting to the State at large, as Senatorial Delegates to said General Convention of Young Men, viz:

ALBERT CONSTABLE, of Harford, } *Western*
AUGUSTUS W. BRADFORD, of Balt. } *Shore.*

JOSEPH S. COTTMAN, Somerset co. } *Eastern*
JOHN GROOME, Cecil co. } *Shore.*

YOUNG MEN'S MEETING.

On motion of *Brantz Mayer*, seconded by *A. B. Wolfe*, it was *Unanimously Ordered*, "That the president appoint a Committee of seven, who shall be a Central Committee of Vigilance, Finance and Correspondence for this district;" whereupon the Chair named *B. Mayer*, *E. La-rabee*, *C. Burnie, Jr.*, *W. Hope*, *S. Sands*, *J. L. Maguire*, *Geo. Warner, Jr.*

On motion of *George H. Calvert*, seconded by *A. B. Wolfe*, it was also

Resolved, That the President appoint a Committee of five, who shall prepare and publish an address to the *Young Men of Maryland*, for the promotion of the objects of this meeting, and the support of HENRY CLAY, for the Presidency, and JOHN SERGEANT, for the Vice Presidency, of the United States, and report to a future meeting. The President, by the unanimous consent of the meeting, appointed *Geo. H. Calvert*, *Wm. Jessop Ward*, *Wm. L. Marshall*, *Joseph Willey* and *John H. Iglehart*, the committee to prepare the Address. The meeting then adjourned to meet again at the same place, by the call of the President, so soon as the committee on the Address shall be prepared to report.

The adjourned meeting of the National Republican Young Men of the Fifth Congressional District, took place in the Athenæum, on the evening of the 13th January, 1832; the same officers presiding as at the former meeting, when Mr. *Calvert*, Chairman of the committee for that purpose, leave having been obtained, read the address to the National Republican Young Men of Maryland, which was unanimously adopted, on motion of Mr. *Brantz Mayer*.

On motion of Mr. *Joseph Willey*, it was

Resolved, That the Address adopted, be published in the papers of this city friendly to the cause, and also that 2000 copies be published in pamphlet form, to be distributed through the different parts of the state. The distribution to be in charge of the Committee of Vigilance, Finance and Correspondence, appointed at the last meeting.

then, shall we characterise the attempt which has been made—not by citizen upon citizen, or state upon state, to produce a voluntary change of opinion—not by the operation of that mutual influence among equals which is natural and proper, which may be beneficial, and is seldom injurious; but made by the supreme power of the Land, created such by the original depositaries of all political power—the people; created by the people for their own protection; how shall we characterise an attempt by this power to chain that very liberty of opinion and election to which it owes its being—an attempt by the Chief Magistrate of the Union to sap the vital principle of our political system—to turn upon the liberty of opinion the very arm which that liberty has clothed with authority for its guardianship? We say it is political parricide.

Are we, the young men of a party, overstepping the modesty which befits our age in thus giving expression to our indignation at the conduct of the administrators of the Federal government, delegated by the majority of our fellow-citizens? It would be presumption in us to pronounce dogmatically upon the theory and practice of our constitution; it would be indecorous in us to condemn upon our own authority measures of public policy. Judge of them we certainly may, and be decided in our choice of the men we desire to be invested with the governing power by the views which we know they entertain of such questions. The integrity of the Judiciary,—the preservation of the present National Bank,—the protection of Domestic Industry,—the encouragement of Internal Improvements, we feel a deep interest in, and fear, and shall strenuously oppose the re-election of General Jackson because we think that by it they would be placed in jeopardy. But on these and other points of expediency and public law, as requiring maturity of mind and practical experience, it becomes us to adopt rather than to originate opinions. To our elders, therefore, we leave the task of defending the constitution, of demonstrating what the interests of the country require of its government, and of exhibiting the errors of policy and political incompetency of the present Chief Magistrate. But are we obtruding upon the public in collectively protesting, and calling upon the young men of Maryland to protest, against the violation of the most sacred right a republican possesses—against the defacing of the very charter of his freedom? The danger here is as palpable to us as to the most venerable statesman, the source of it as evident, and the means of averting it as much within our control as within that of our seniors. By themselves, accordingly, through the

able and respectable body which sat in this hall a short time since, we have been urged to organize ourselves as collateral to and concurrent with the general National Republican Party, for the more efficient furtherance of the great cause which we all, from our hearts, believe to involve the welfare of our country, and to be the holy cause of Patriotism.

There is a simple grandeur in the office of President of the United States. The executor of the comprehensive decrees pronounced by the confederated power of a mighty people—taken from among millions of his equals by their choice—raised up by the silent strength of a countless multitude of freemen simultaneously exerted over an immense territory—the President of this Union is invested with a three-fold dignity, derived from the source of his authority, from the mode of his election, and from the nature and degree of the power he wields. If the privilege of the elective franchise, possessed by each individual citizen, in every exercise of it, the most local as well as the most general, is not merely a private right, but involves a public responsibility, how shall be measured the degree of responsibility which devolves on that citizen to whom is transferred for a time a portion of the personal privilege and public trust combined in each of the million voters—upon whom is concentrated the wide-spread stream of public opinion—who is the embodiment, as it were, of the National will and the National confidence? When we consider the source of its power—the manner in which it is conferred—the simplicity of its organization, with the high character of its functions and vast extent of its sphere of action; we may assert, that the institutions of no country in the world embrace an office so elevated. And the line of patriot sages who have filled it, by the dignified disinterestedness, and calm cautious statesmanship with which they performed its duties, showed, that their sense of the personal confidence reposed in them was as strong as was their conviction of the difficulty of the discharge of their public functions. With self-diffidence, united to lofty public spirit and commanding intelligence, this high place has been received from the hands of the people by John Quincy Adams, by Monroe, by Madison, by Jefferson, by John Adams. And he who reposes in the back-ground of our history—the rock planted by the Almighty to found our national existence upon;—the success of our grand experiment of a federative republic attests his wisdom,—the total subjection of his private feelings to his religious respect for the people's trust, his purity.—How has

their successor Jackson imitated their example? His first official words were an accusation of his predecessor, and by inference an exaltation of himself. This was his magnanimity; this was his diffidence. To judge from his acts, the feeling that was predominant in his breast during the first weeks in which he sat in the chair that had been filled by Washington, was revenge. That a change had come over its councils the country felt—not through the effects of patriotic deeds or beneficent decrees—but by the desolation which swept from its centre over its surface, striking a class of citizens who, as faithful public servants were especially entitled to the protection of the President. The first use the new Chief Magistrate made of the strength given him by the people was to cast from his public elevation deadly arrows, sped by private rancour, into the bosoms of families whose only crime was their political opinions. The torch put into his hand by a confiding people to light the public council-halls, was hurled by him as a fire-brand into the private domicil.

The removal of the holder of a public office on account of his vote or his opinion (and for what else has any one been removed?) is not a mere private injustice—not simply a domestic act limited to the President and the sufferer: it is a public outrage upon every freeman. The holder of office is not a household servant of the President. Does the acceptance of such a place disfranchise the citizen? Do the laws of the Land make a difference between him and his neighbour, at the polls? To *punish* an American for the exercise of his inalienable right of citizenship is an act of tyranny, whether it be done by a landlord towards his tenant, by a merchant towards his clerk, by a superior officer towards his inferior, or in any other case where it may be possible through the means which one person so frequently has of inflicting injury on another. It is not merely selfish, ungenerous, vindictive; but it is the most *un-American* act a man can commit. In a civil officer appointed by the people, it is a violation, a contempt of the fundamental principle of our public system, which should stamp him unworthy of public confidence. We do not continue our friendship to a man who has made it a tool to injure us: we do not lend our money to a man who has once used it to depreciate our property: shall we give our votes to a man who has used the power they confer to take from us the right of giving them? Because they exercised this right—nay, in many cases, because they avowed their sentiments how they wished it exercised by the majority of the nation, General Jackson put forth the arm of the Executive power of the federal government to

take the hard-earned bread out of the mouths of freemen, calling and treating as enemies those whose votes or wishes were not for himself. Enemies!—the word is a pollution of our politics. The President of the United States have enemies in American citizens! Traitors to the country are the only enemies of the President the Constitution knows. What has stayed this unhallowed hostility? What, but the power of the law? If the quiet occupiers of public offices, who simply voted or temperately expressed their opinions, who had claims upon his generosity as a man, and upon his liberality as a President, have been deemed so guilty and punished so inhumanly, what treatment should the active opposers of General Jackson, what, his virulent abusers, expect? That his tyranny is petty, is owing to our fortune, not his will. We ourselves, here assembled to enjoy the first privilege of Liberty—free discussion, may thank the thick walls of the constitution, that we are not interrupted by his roar.

The same arbitrary spirit, the same self-seeking policy, the same sacrifice of public principle to private feeling, have marked his conduct in regard to the Press. Where is there a duty more sacred than that the head of the social system should give his influence to keep pure this vivifier of all its members—this animating breath of the political body? He has used the opportunities of his high station to vitiate it. Instead of the paternal solicitude which a reflecting patriot would feel for the healthful action of this powerful public agent, he has exerted the executive patronage to corrupt it. Instead of being its protector, he has been its tempter. The power to give and the power to take away entrusted to the executor of the laws for the people's benefit, have here, too, been used to feed favouritism and appease hate. The vast moral weight, which the position of the chief magistrate gives him, has not merely been lost to the nation, but instead of its benign effects, we have seen a bounty offered to corruption, and the doors of the public treasury unlocked to reward calumny.

Do we speak warmly?—We feel deeply. It is our duty to be indignant when our most sacred trust is abused, and our dearest rights are contemned. It is our duty to rouse ourselves, when not only the highest functions of the government are misdirected, and our most national interests the prey of inexperience and willfulness; but when we behold the central light of our system, to which every freeman of us contributes his beam of nourishing warmth, instead of being guarded by watchful patriots, and shedding a genial brightness, as was wont,

over the whole land,—when we behold it smothered by reckless adventurers, and sinking down from its high, steady, national elevation, to be the flickering beacon of a party. Let us, too, act zealously: let our exertions be vigorous and untiring: let us not confide too securely in the stability of our institutions: the torrent which now boils in turbid impotence around the base of the deep seated Temple of Liberty, though it at first only leave its slimy mark on the surface, will, if not arrested, wear away the foundation of the glorious edifice. The young men of the country are especially called upon at this moment: they have more at stake than their elders, for they have a longer future to provide for. Following then the example and the advice of our elders, with a deeper interest even than they in the common cause, let us pledge ourselves to apply our youthful energies to the vindication of the simplicity and purity of republican principles, and the preservation, as a protection to our old age, of those institutions under whose strengthening influence we have grown to manhood; and, to effect this patriotic object,—undiscouraged by the boasted strength of the advocates of the present administration, let us, as full of hope as of zeal, give our support to him who, without a dissenting voice or a dissenting feeling has been chosen as candidate for the Presidency by the general National Republican Convention assembled from all parts of the Union; let us give our ardent support to him who has our entire confidence—to HENRY CLAY.

Who is HENRY CLAY?—Go ask the annals of the nation's greatness; there you'll find his name indelibly engraven:—go unroll the statutes of Kentucky; her vigorous growth is a comment on his wisdom and his eloquence:—question the diplomatists of Europe; they will tell you, that his skill is equalled only by his courtesy:—pronounce his name to emancipated South America; her foreign tongue will echo it with shouts of gratitude. Judges will bear witness to his logic; juries to his powers of persuasion; and his colleagues at the Bar and in the legislative halls, to his acuteness, his readiness, his force, his comprehensiveness, his manliness. The working man will pause in his cheerful labor to thank *him* for his prosperity. Placed in earliest manhood in a public station by his genius, his industry and his integrity have preserved to him the public confidence. The rapidity of his rise, the variety of the stations he has filled, the permanence of the public favour, bespeak the resources of his intellect and the solidity of his character. Wherever great American interests were to be served,

and American principles to be expounded or defended, there his strong voice has been heard, and the wisest and the best of the nation have been convinced by his reasoning and overcome by his oratory. The malignant demon of party spirit may breathe its fetid breath upon his fame; but the hand of the people, whose unshrinking friend in every stage of his long political career he has ever been, will indignantly wipe away its soiling dimness. Upon the pillars which uphold the nation's strength his name is inscribed, and its distinctness cannot be impaired without mutilating them: so long as they shall endure, it will be conspicuous and it will be honored. As his life has been devoted to his country, so has it been moulded by his country's influence. It may be said of him, that he has been nurtured by the Genius of America. The invigorating spirit of republicanism has been mingled with his native energies to develop his mind and form his character; and now, rich in experience, practised in debate, in council, in negotiation, and in action, he stands before the nation in the maturity of AMERICANISM.

Worthy to be associated with him is the favorite of Pennsylvania, JOHN SERGEANT, whose principles entitle him to our confidence as much as his talents command our admiration.

With zeal proportioned to the importance of the objects at stake—with enthusiasmequal to the nobleness of our cause—with the activity and the sincerity which are natural to our age, let us exert ourselves for the success of CLAY and SERGEANT—FOR FREEDOM OF OPINION and THE SPIRIT OF THE CONSTITUTION.

Signed,

JOHN M. STEUART, *President.*

AUGUSTUS W. BRADFORD,
CHAS. E. WETHERED, } *Vice Presidents.*

WM. L. MARSHALL, }
ROBT. H. COLEMAN, } *Secretaries.*