

To the electors of the Southern district of the State of New-York. Friends and fellow citizens. The approaching election of a chief magistrate of the State of New-York, is entitled to peculiar attention ... By order of the General Committee in New-York, William Edgar, Chairman. Daniel D. Tompkins, Sec'ry New-York, April 7, 1801.

To the Electors of the Southern District of the State of New-York.

Friends and Fellow Citizens,

THE approaching election of a Chief Magistrate of the State of New-York is entitled to peculiar attention. Perhaps, as it respects not only the interests of this state, but also those of the Union, it is the most important of any which have yet taken place.

The People of the United States have been divided into two great parties; the one, arrogating to themselves the title of Federalists, have been the advocates of power and expensive government; the other composed of sincere republicans, have been uniformly the real friends of Liberty, the constitution and the people. The general government has long been administered by the former; and we have experienced the fatal effects of their doctrines and their principles. Their Federalism, which has been another name for aristocracy in disguise under the specious appearance of patriotism and good order, has uniformly attempted to enrich the few, at the expence of the many. It was the settled determination of their party to introduce distinctions in society, to elevate the rich, depress the poor, and to destroy the principles of freedom intended to be cherished by the constitution.

Examine the history of the general Government for the last four years. What does it exhibit but a series of usurpation and extravagance? nothing was heard of but war or preparations for war. A navy was established to protect our commerce against the attacks of one power, but permitted to yield to the insolence, rapacity and arbitrary pretensions of another. Army establishments were introduced—the public debt accumulated—offices multiplied, and those who possessed the patriotism and firmness to disapprove of their pernicious measures, reproached & treated as enemies of their country. Taxes were increased—monies borrowed at an exorbitant interest—monarchical doctrines countenanced & encouraged—republican principles censured & traduced—the powers of the President augmented beyond the limits of the constitution—Alien and Sedition laws enacted, and our citizens prosecuted and imprisoned for censuring the encroachments of the administration, and advocating with fidelity and firmness, the rights of the people.

Happily for the United States, the good sense of the people has prevailed. The election of Mr. Jefferson and Col. Burr, to the offices of President and Vice-President of the United States, has established a publican administration. It will be their honourable task to maintain the general and state constitutions in purity, to secure the rights of their fellow citizens, to restore a state of quiet and prosperity; to diminish the unnecessary expences of the government, and to alleviate the excessive burthens which have been improperly imposed upon the public.

It will depend upon the approaching election, whether aristocracy and taxation or republicanism, honesty and œconomy shall predominate in this state.

True to their destructive purposes, our opponents have nominated Mr. Stephen Van Rensselaer as their candidate for the office of Governor. The republicans, on the other hand have unanimously resolved to support the experienced and patriotic CLINTON.

Upon the fate of the election, altogether depend the measures and the character of our state administration. Governor Clinton will be the firm supporter of the administration of the federal government; he will cordially unite and co-operate with Mr. Jefferson. Harmony will be restored throughout every department of our public councils—the rights of the people will be protected and respected—the prosperity of the farmer, as well as the interests of the merchant encouraged, and œconomy, frugality and moderation promote the general welfare of the community.

Mr. Stephen Van Rensselaer, will probably pursue a different line of conduct; and on account of his opposition to Mr. Jefferson, impede the measures of the general government, and prevent the establishment of that harmony, conciliation and prosperity which would result from the election of a republican Governor.

In point of talents and experience, Mr. Van Rensselaer can never pretend to stand a competition with Governor Clinton. The latter has, for many years, exercised the office of chief magistrate of this state, with honour to himself, and usefulness to his country. His services have been long tried. We can calculate with certainty upon the benefits of his administration—we know his principles—we have had evidences of his attachment to the rights of his fellow citizens. We are convinced that he will administer the government with a spirit of œconomy—that he is the enemy of extravagance and unnecessary taxation, and that whilst he will yield a proper support to the administration of the general government—he will equally support the independence and respectability of the state establishments.

It is but justice to Mr Van Rensselaer to mention that he is far from being a willing candidate. Conscious as he must have been of his great inferiority to Governor Clinton, for a long time he

resisted the application of his party, and with difficulty was prevailed upon to submit to their strenuous importunity. It was supposed, that from the greatness of his estate, and the number of his tenants, Mr. Van Rensselaer was the only candidate who could be selected with any prospect of success. We challenge his advocates to produce proofs of his experience, or to exhibit a testimonial of his abilities to govern the state. As a man in private life, we cheerfully admit Mr. Van Rensselaer to possess many good qualities; but we confidently maintain that his talents will bear no comparison with those of Governor Clinton, and that the former has been selected as a candidate from the supposed popularity and influence resulting from his riches.

It being therefore apparent that Mr. Van Rensselaer has been nominated as a candidate entirely to answer party purposes: and that those purposes are equally unfriendly to the interests of the people, and of the present administration of the general government—we trust that our fellow citizens of the Southern District, will unite them in supporting their present patriotic government; that equally the friends of public liberty and good order, they will secure our approaching happiness, by associating the services of a Clinton with those of a Jefferson, and once more render our common country the pride and envy of the world.

As a General Committee appointed in the city of New-York, to correspond with our fellow citizens in the Southern District, we feel it our duty to inform them, that Mr. Jeremiah Van Rensselaer, of Albany, is the republican candidate for the office of Lieutenant Governor, and Mr. Ezra L'Hommedien, is our candidate for Senator for this district.

Mr. Jeremiah Van Rensselaer is a respectable inhabitant of the city of Albany. He is a man of found political principles, and highly respected for his services, his talents and integrity; and our republican fellow citizens of all the other districts have agreed to unite in his support.

Mr. L'Hommedieu, your present Senator, is already well known to you. He has so often been your successful candidate, and so uniformly served you with fidelity, that encomiums respecting his personal merits are rendered wholly unnecessary.

Electors of the Southern District! you have established well earned claims to public gratitude; you have greatly contributed to the happy election of Mr. Jefferson. In a distinguished manner you have contributed to the triumph of republican principles, and to the happiness of your country. One effort more, and your triumph will be complete. Persevere with constancy—labour until your glorious task is accomplished. Let patriotism, and virtue, and liberty be the order of the day. With a republican President of the United States, let us unite a republican Governor of the state of New-



York. Peace and industry will then prevail in our land, and the blessings of freedom be transmitted to our children.

By order of the General Committee in New-York,

WILLIAM EDGAR, Chairman.

DANIEL D. TOMPKINS, Sec'ry,

New-York, April 7, 1801.