

DISCIPLINE OF FACTIONS.

It is the fixed destiny of Republics to be manifested by factions; and all that the patriot can do, is, by exposure of their systems, to weaken their influence and curb their machinations. To eradicate them is impossible; unless by the employment of remedies even more dangerous than the disease itself.

The Hon. Joel B. Sutherland of Pennsylvania, hitherto a friend and supporter of the present administration, has deemed it his duty, as a private citizen and a public man, to declare his opposition to Mr. Van Buren, as a candidate for the Presidency. The reasons which have prompted this declaration are unknown to us; and we, therefore, pretend not to determine upon them; but we think it proper to hold up to public censure, a resolution of the late convention in Philadelphia, assembled for the purpose of devising the ways and means of securing the votes of the people of Pennsylvania for Mr. Van Buren. This resolution, passed with all the solemnity, and, we must add, intolerance, observed in the inquisition, is in the following words.—

“Resolved, That Joel B. Sutherland, in abandoning the party; that party which for 20 years sustained him in all times of trial, through evil report as well as good, heaping upon him honor upon honor, and office upon office, until he has grown rich and great; and joining with his old enemies, Federalists, Whigs, Boss men, life office holders and disappointed office seekers and their adherents, has furnished sufficient evidence that he is truly a man of principle in proportion to his interest, capable of the basest political ingratitude, and unworthy of the further regard or confidence of the Democratic party.”

We do not know Mr. Sutherland, nor one individual of this convention:—but the character of this resolution is as bad as the worst men in the country can desire. These men, denouncing the right of private opinion, assume, in the same breath, the title of the “*Democratic party*.” We care not for this—on the contrary, we rejoice. It shows that even in these times of corruption, vice is compelled to wear the livery of virtue. Cromwell established himself in power chiefly by assuming to be the “*deputy of high Heaven*”—and the familiars of the inquisition never fail to tell their scourged victim that they are the “*precious vessels of the Lord!*” So also these men. They must assume a virtue if they have it not; and while they are putting to the torture a free citizen for the crime of thinking for himself, they assure him and the world that they are the “*Democratic party*”—the friends of free principles, and equal rights! Be it so—faction, like the dog, has its day.

It is not the least of the objections to Mr. Van Buren, that to him, especially, is owing the introduction of this party machinery in this country. The manual of faction has his *imprimatur*,—and it is read only in his own camp. It is alike distinguished by its rigidity of discipline—its cruelty of punishment,—and its profligacy of principle. No indulgence is granted for change of opinion—no liberty given for freedom of action—no excuse admitted for errors of judgment—no credit allowed for purity of motive—no pardon awarded for independence of thought.—But a stern, gloomy, and unyielding despotism utters its commands, and claims, no matter at what sacrifice, whether of private opinion, or of public duty, immediate, implicit, and unconditional submission:—or otherwise the sentence is passed at once—“*Go, Lie, bind the victim, and lay him upon the altar!*”

Such are the principles, and such has been the history of this faction, headed by Mr. Van Buren, since the day in which it first came into existence; the offspring of a foul political debauch between the most profligate and corrupt members of the old republic and Federal parties, who, for their insatiable ambition, fell, like the apostate angels, from their first estate. Its purposes have ever been selfish, its principles demoralizing, and its feelings cruel and vindictive. It has applied its instruments of torture to every man of virtue and distinction in this country, who has dared to think for himself, or ventured to place the claims of patriotism, the obligations of truth, or the commandments of Heaven, as paramount to its arbitrary dictation. In support of this assertion we might fill many pages with individual examples. We might direct the reader's attention to the names of Calhoun, Hamilton, Hayne, Preston, A. D. Smith, Troup, Clayton, Wilde, Mangum, Branch, Moore, Bibb, Rowan, Tazewell, Floyd, Tyler, Archer, Gordon, Wise, Duane, Ingham, and hundreds of others, distinguished alike for talent, integrity, and public service. And with the people of this country longer tolerated and constituted of such elements, founded upon such principles, and polluted by such practices,