

What Evidence Do We Have That Frances Wright Personally Was An Epicurean?

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Just a few more clips from the Second collection of Frances Wright's popular discourses:

and even in the Congress of the nation. Second, in the hope of convincing those numerous lovers of liberty and justice who, as it seems to me, sometimes agitate the question without duly understanding all its bearings—in the hope, I say, of convincing such that the mode in which the abolition of slavery as now advocated is neither desirable in itself nor possible of execution; that the means by which this evil may be effectually and benevolently approached are different from all that has been imagined, and are such that, when understood, and when circumstances shall be ripe for their application, will convert our southern country into a garden; will at one and the same time prepare its territory for enlightened white labour, and its black population for emancipation, colonization, and self-government.

I shall discuss the question of chartered monopolies for reasons too numerous and weighty to recount here. Let one of these suffice. Necessarily, under one form or another, constitutes the whole evil of civilized society throughout the globe. As being the opposite of justice it is every where in conspiracy against human happiness, but, in this country, as being in further conspiracy against the political institutions, it is necessarily at variance with public order and acknowledged law. This position is terrible, and there is here wherewith to turn pale with fright. But what has to be done? Dismember the evil? Were this the wisest, instead of the most foolish, course to pursue, it is now shut against us. The truth is flagrant, and every honest man in the country is, more or less, awake to it. What alternatives then remain? There are three. The one is the moral, and political, and industrial prostitution of this Republic. Its becoming entirely, what it is now in part, a tributary of the old world. Tributary in its territory, in its productions, in its energy, in its science, to the aristocracy and financial scheming of Europe. A feeder of home smuglers and foreign slaveholders, even like unto

She was definitely on Jefferson's side against Hamilton:

honestly, until the close of the war. The great struggle by the sword over, the people went home to their families and their labours, and the half-measure men, joining with whitewashed Tories, set to the patching up private fortunes at expense of the public good. America's good Genius was then absent. Thomas Jefferson was in France with Benjamin Franklin. Franklin, old in years and services, returned but to pay the debt of nature; and Thomas Jefferson returned, as he himself tells us, too late to prevent the scheme of Hamilton. What followed the adoption of the Hamilton financial system, formed after that of Great Britain, with such alterations and modifications as the nature of American institutions and the character of the American people rendered indispensable—what followed this, we shall not now trace. Suffice it that from stock-jobbing, banking, and consequent land-jobbing, the party misnamed Federal, and which ought to have been named European or monarchist, proceeded to aim a blow at American government, which recoiled on its own head. That blow was the attempt to exalt legislative authority over constitutional power: in plain language, the attempt was to subvert American government, and to place in its stead a government cast in the mould of that of England. It is important to our object that this matter be clearly understood.

My friends; in all diseases, before recourse may be had to a remedy, it is indispensable to understand the nature of the malady to be treated. That American society is sick, sick to danger, all minds of ordinary observation and reflection can distinguish. That its sickness has source in the financial system which now governs the world, the same minds are for the most part aware.

But the question of European influence, the existence of faction, and the possibility of treason, constitute only a part of the evil and the danger before us.

Numerous are the body of men throughout the nation, who, spurning the bonds of foreign financial slavery; who, honestly indignant at seeing their country's wealth turned in full tide into the thirsty treasuries of European monarchy and aristocracy, yet deem it constitutional, in the face of American history, in the face of this righteous instrument, the law of their country and the inspired scripture of Human-kind, to establish and to foster a system of American financial slavery, in which Americans only are to figure as tyrants, but Americans always as slaves.

Side by side, yet ranged as hostile parties, each struggling for supremacy in this world of equal rights and equal chances, appear at this hour, two devastating armies in the field. Each carries in front its distinctive banner, the one inscribed "Bank of the United States;" the other, "States' Chartered Monopolies." The first assaults this instrument in its twofold provisions, undermining national independence, and violating Justice; the

The first great object, therefore, of the Federalist, or American division of the colonial monarchist party, was to strengthen their numbers by importation from abroad and corruption at home. Under plea of aiding the national instruction, necessarily much neglected during the revolutionary struggle, professors and preachers were sought in Great Britain, and thus the darkness of English tory universities and royalist Scotch Calvinism was brought to quench the light and the fire of the spirit of '78.

The arch Federalist, Gouverneur Morris, a man of more wit than faith, political intrigue than religion, had shipped for the United States, by sid and through influence of Lord Melville, the famous Dundas of Pitt's administration, two score and upwards of fire and brimstone Presbyterians. I hold this fact from the lips of the venerable Dundas, the last act of whose life was consistent with its whole tenor.* The arrival of these frighteners of women and children, and European perverters of America's youth, will be found noticed in the files of the Aurora.

To the party's manoeuvres of that period may be traced the close connexion between financial scheming, peisany intriguing, and youthful education—the banks, the churches, the colleges, and Sunday-school unions, out of which grew the famous Christian party in politics.

Having inspected the origin and rise of the Party by whom was brought to bear the Hamilton financial scheme, we will now proceed to investigate the nature, object, and effects of that scheme itself.

This scheme, as first attempted under forms openly European—such as a funded debt, an expensive administration, a standing army, an imposing navy, and all the regular artillery of arbitrary laws, restricted press, taxation, vexation, personal arrest, imprisonment, and transportation, was frustrated by the nation, with Thomas Jefferson at its head, in 1801. The same scheme, as next attempted by the United States Bank, in financial correspondence and conjunction with the agents and controllers of the governments of Europe—namely, with Messrs. Rothschild and their whole fraternity of stockholders, stock makers, and stock loaners—This second edition of the Hamilton financial scheme, as got up, at and since, the treaty of Ghent, yet lives, and lives in open defiance of the law of America's government, and the voice of America's people.

We have seen that the first scheme of the Party was to establish a strong government, armed with direct power—in one word, a monarchy; that same, no less than that thing, being openly advocated by Hamilton and

globe. Such is the consort of the Bank of the United States. Such is the union subsisting between the old Hamilton, American federal, and now *whig federal* financial scheme on the one hand; and the old Pitt, British tory, and now *whig European* financial scheme on the other. The names and the tactics of the parties on both sides of the ocean, though changed for the nine hundred and ninety-ninth time, ever designate a set of men and a scheme of politics having in view the same objects with those proposed by the old parliament of George the Third; namely, the subjugation of the whole industry and credit of the civilized earth to one monstrous consolidated monopoly-monarchy. A monarchy whose throne of thrones is in London, whose prime ministers are Messrs. Rothschild & Co., and whose vice-kings and vicegerents are the ministers of finance, boards of trade, branch banks and bank presidents, who dictate the policy of state cabinets throughout the world. Such is the scheme which America's national Executive

Here Frances Wright tells us how she really feels on the issue of what to do with the chartered banks:

hazards of financial consolidation. These financiers love passages, so dear to the followers of Hamilton, are to a free nation the embrace of the boa constrictor, which enfolds but to crush. The subject is too serious for pleasantry, or we might subjoin that any approach towards any intimate financial communion between America and Europe must be like a marriage between an old rake and a young heiress. On one side youth, health, and fortune, on the other decrepitude and debts. It is easy to see on which side must be all the advantages, and on which all the hazard and the loss. No, my friends! whatever financiers, interested in the funds of the institution, or politicians interested in its principles, may advance, the Bank, misnamed of the United States, and more justly called of the Holy Alliance, is a drain upon the nation's wealth, a tax, and a foreign tax, upon the people, a foe to the institutions, in one word, an enemy to the country. To destroy it, citizens of Pennsylvania! be your first object. To destroy it root and branch. No bargaining, no compromise. Here are no claims to settle. Here is no contract; or, if there be one, it stands between treason on the one hand and invasion on the other: let the parties settle it between them. The enemy once destroyed, the snake not scatched but killed, let America arrange her own affairs with the good of humankind in her heart; and

The final essay in Volume 2 is "The Sectional Question: On Southern Slavery" =

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with a view to its remedy. Having studied the north, I proceeded to examine the south, widely and slavely; and, the latter to approach my object, became a southern citizen, and, from a shirabole. It was neither disease, nor loss, nor disappointment, though, of course, I experienced all, that arrested my design. I persevered with good hope and good courage, until, astonished that I had commenced at the wrong end. Negro slavery, like all other special or partial questions, is never rightly understood until the whole body of the subject be present to the mind. The more I considered the evil of slavery, and approached it in comparison with the other evils that crowded the face of society, the more distinctly I perceived there to have not only the same root, but to be, in fact, only different phases of one and the same thing. My friends: the evil which corrodes and corrodes human society in the distribution of human labor; its enslavement in some countries, its rejection in all. Nearly every where throughout the globe, at epochs more or less remote, it has existed in the earlier stage of degradation; namely, positive enslavement. It is observed, however, that, in this country, it never would or could have existed in that stage but from the circumstances which induced, and the irresistible power which forced, contrary to the habits, principles, and feelings of the early colonists, the introduction of the unfortunate children of Africa into the North American continent. But, since introduced, the position of the masses, and of the slave, race, became one of great complication. In the one appeared the choice and the object of all the white civilized nations of Europe; in the other the unchosen,

The African race, more intimately associated with America's political and social state, will demand, both for its own good and the good of the white population, as still dependent on its labor, a gradual but efficient preparation for enfranchisement and colonization.

I have no other objection to enter into full details on this head but that, at the present moment, they would be premature. One thing at a time and all things in order. We have to emancipate, to regulate, to elevate, and to stimulate the industry of the north; that done, the south, whose statesmen, as a body, have ever been the highest souled, the most national, and the most republican that this nation has produced, will see, effectually and honorably, to wipe off the stain from their escutcheon; to turn to good—to a source of wealth and gigantic internal improvement, the evil which weighs upon them; and, at one and the same time, to cancel the wrong inflicted during a course of ages by the white race on the black, and to pour from their shores a reflux tide on Africa of intelligent industry and conquering civilization!

Ok that pretty much sums up the second collection, which seems much shorter than the first, unless the version I have is an abridgement.