

# Gazette of the United States.

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FOR THE GAZETTE OF THE UNITED STATES.

If a people are to be governed by force, perhaps they cannot know too little—the more ignorance, the more peace and quietness. But in a free country, the people in effect govern themselves. The more knowledge is spread among them, the better. The reason and good sense of the public, make the task light to those who administer its affairs.

Experience has verified, and is every day confirming these observations. We are to thank the good sense of the great body of the American nation for the happy constitution we enjoy. The people saw and felt the necessity of a firmer government, and their understandings approved the plan which was submitted to their consideration. All Europe saw with astonishment a whole people quietly reasoning down a defective government, and maturing a revolution which has diffused a lustre on the national character. As no other people ever did the like, it may not be deemed arrogant to conclude, that no nation has been so generally well-informed as to admit of it. The fact does more honor to the great body of our citizens, than victorious fleets and armies ever procured for a nation.

These reflections afford all the hope we have of the continuance and prosperity of the national government. At this time, it is peculiarly consolatory to a friend of the country to recollect these facts, so honorable to our citizens. For the number and nature of the late publications against the government and its measures, many of them signally virulent in their spirit, and profligately bold in their assertions, would have an alarming influence upon public order and tranquillity, if our countrymen in general were not greatly superior both in virtue and discernment to these writers. But as the good sense of the people caused the government to have a being, it may be relied on to support it. It is only necessary to warn them that men are not wanting who would destroy it if they could. Indeed if the numerous writers against its measures believe their own charges, they may be excused for the attempt. If from their funding law, from the impure fountains of corruption and speculation, *flow streams which will poison your country and your prosperity, if under the sanction of that law plans of oppression are laid, equally injurious to the general welfare as any practised under the British jurisdiction, if you took up arms against oppression, you are (as it is insinuated) ready bridled and saddled for your representatives, with whips in their hands, to ride you from one end of the United States to the other.* The inference is natural and warrantable, that these writers wish to destroy the government which is the cause of all this evil.

The newspapers have poured forth a torrent like the foul specimen given above. Men of sense and virtue read these effusions with proper contempt. They deserve to be further discountenanced—for tho the public is too well informed to be imposed upon by these means, yet there is a disgrace suffered by their publication. The moral state of a country may be known, and it is also considerably influenced by the manner in which political disputes are managed.

If the charges against men and measures are usually made temperately and supported by argument, you may be sure the people are thought capable of conviction by those means, and by no other. The people are some improved, and not the worse served in consequence. But when the basest suspicions are insinuated without any proof, and the most absurd and unfounded assertions are solemnly made, the writers must depend for success upon the baseness of their readers. The worst of men are the most easy to believe evil reports. If truth is treated with total disregard in the public papers, no man will doubt that the tendency is pernicious to morals. The public are in danger of being corrupted by the daily example of men who let their passions loose, and exert all their faculties to communicate them to their readers. It is the business of education to subdue the violent passions. With every precaution they are apt enough to run to excess. But this is a course of vicious education to inspire the sharpest resentments in the readers breasts, and to indulge them by the sacrifice of the objects of them.

There are some falsehoods which affront the reader by their grossness. They shew how little the writer respects him or his understanding. A writer in a late inflammatory production, says, "The public debt became so great by the measures of the speculators to enhance the nominal value of the certificates in their possession. Who can believe (says he) that they could have arisen to a 5th, or even a 10th of the magnitude, without the interference of a system of speculation? Not a small portion of them originated, like the mushroom, under cover of the night—shall we pay taxes to discharge principal or interest of debts, created principally for the emolument of speculators?" None who can read, are so foolish as to believe that the speculators made their own certificates, or altered the face of them to increase the sum, and that the funding act, instead of providing for an old debt contracted before the newspapers were adorned with the word *speculators*, created a new one for the emolument of these men—If there is weakness enough to believe all this, the writer has found a market for his work of falsehood. But the discerning reader who will despise the absurdity of these assertions, will be shocked at the profligacy of the author, who in the midst of them—says, "The all-beholding eye which controuls the universe pierces thro the deception of these men (speculators) and pronounces the greatest part of their representations to be lies."—Such solemn expressions in the very act of deceiving! The reader will make his own comments.

It is not easy to believe that the people can be made wiser, or the government more honest by wicked attacks upon its measures—Free enquiry can do no injury to either. The discussion of public questions cannot be expected to be kept within the bounds of moderation and candor. But writers, even of loose principles, should be made to pay some respect to truth and decorum.

LONDON, November 19.

The Spanish Ambassador at Petersburg has made a present to the empress in the name of the society of commerce at Cadiz, of several tons of excellent Malaga wine. The empress accepted them very graciously, and has permitted all such wine to be imported into Petersburg, duty free, during the year 1792.

Prince Ferdinand of Prussia and all his family were lately in danger of being poisoned on their road to Aix la Chapelle, at an inn, where some provisions were dressed in copper vessels: they were all seized in the night with violent pains, and the princess Louisa was so ill, that her life

was despaired of. They are now, however happily recovered.

A vessel is now lying in the river, waiting to carry out colonists for the new establishment at Sierra Leona. About three hundred adventurers, some of them very respectable, are upon her list of passengers.

At a late meeting of the royal college of physicians of Edinburgh, there were presented to them some scarce and curious books from the honorable Lord Hailes, with a very polite letter from his Lordship to one of the fellows, in the following words:

"Some time ago you furnished me with a copy of the catalogue of the books belonging to your faculty. While putting my books in order, I found three volumes in the medical line, which are not in your catalogue.

"I beg that the college would accept of them, not as a present valuable in itself, but as expressive of my wish that private gentlemen would follow the example, and transmit the medical books of which they may be possessed to the faculty. There they may be ornamental, if not useful; in private hands they are neither. Were this plan generally adopted, I imagine that even in this narrow country a large accession of books might be obtained. I have always had a sort of enthusiastic zeal for public libraries, where a man might have hopes of finding any book connected with the studies of the society to which the library belongs."

The Royal college accepted his Lordship's present with most hearty thanks for it, and for the letter which accompanied it; the sentiments expressed in which are so just, and so truly liberal, that there can be no doubt, if they were generally known they would be as generally adopted.

DECEMBER 10.

The situation of Lord Cornwallis is certainly to be pitied, opposed by the elements, and dependent on the faith of Indian allies. The integrity of his mind, and his high martial talents, must, however, always render his Lordship an object of respect and confidence.

This country, in conjunction with Prussia and Holland, at present plays the leading part in Europe. The distinction, it must be owned, is enviable, and it remains only to improve and secure its advantages by a moderate and enlightened policy.

The Americans are about to establish a Mint. This is one of the prerogatives of Sovereignty, which they have not exercised hitherto, being content to make use of the English and Spanish coin, which they procure in exchange for their commodities.

Lisbon is at present benefiting not a little by the access of English persons of distinction.—There are the Duke and Duchess of Northumberland, the Earl of Shrewsbury, and lately the Margravine of Anspach, who can afford together to spend about an hundred and fifty thousand pounds a year.

On Monday last arrived his Majesty's ship Assurance, from Halifax, with troops; which place she left 24 days ago. She parted company with the Argo on Sunday in a hard gale of wind. The Argo is not yet arrived. The Assurance's passage has been the quickest that has been made lately, having run into soundings in 11 days from her leaving Halifax.

A person under imprisonment for forgery has written a letter to the President of the National Assembly, in which he exculpates M. Varnier from the treason laid to his charge, and takes the crime upon himself. This, you will say, is a suspicious defence. True, but have patience; this affair of M. Varnier is one of the most mysterious, perhaps the blackest combination of guilt, that has sullied the steps of this unaccountable revolution. This is not the only letter—behold the history of another celebrated epistle:—M. Bazire denounced M. Varnier as guilty of having written a letter to a Monsieur Noirot, of Dijon, also in prison, which contained a plan for a counter revolution, &c.—M. Varnier being shewn the signature, acknowledged the resemblance of the hand writing, which he said was an adroit imitation, but denied it to be his. He was not shewn the contents of the letter. M. Bazire refused to explain how such a letter came into his possession till the High National Court should be assembled. M. Varnier, ignorant of the crime,

is committed to prison, where no person is admitted to see him, and where he remains.—Last night the President of the National Assembly received a letter from the Municipality of Auxonne, containing a declaration and a paper, committed to their keeping by a Monsieur Voulon, a locksmith of that town.

M. Voulon had received a letter by the post from M. Bazire, the Deputy, thanking him for the communication of M. Varnier's crime, and the honor he had done him in selecting him to be his accuser. Astonished at such a letter, having never written to Mr. Bazire, knowing nothing of any crime or imputation against M. Varnier or M. Noirot, he flies to the Municipality, where he makes such a declaration, and deposits the letter he had received.

M. Bazire, in his defence, produces the letter he had received, and which is his authority for accusing M. Varnier.

LETTER TO M. BAZIRE.

"SIR,

"MY comrade courts the daughters of Madame Damont, inn-keeper, in this town; Monsieur Noirot, our tax gatherer, lodges at Madame Damont's—he is gone to Pontarlier for a few days; my comrade having been to see the daughter of Madame Damont, found her putting Monsieur Noirot's room to rights; he saw upon a table a letter which Mons. Varnier had wrote to him for a Counter Revolution.

He took the letter, and has given it to me; I send it to my cousin at Paris, that he may deliver it to you, for the purpose of your accusing the author.

(Signed) "VOULON."

The Assembly, upon the reading of this letter were naturally embarrassed and alarmed with a thousand successive and contradictory thoughts and opinions upon this dark affair. Will it be believed that, instead of liberating M. Varnier who has no longer any accuser, whose original accuser is demonstrated to be a liar and a forger for the worst of frauds, that they finished with referring the papers to the Archives, from whence they will be taken by the Grand Jury, and proceeded to name the Solicitors of the National Assembly in this mock trial. Mr. Garran de Coulon was chosen. There was not in favor of any other person that majority which the Constitution requires.

The High National Court is therefore to be formed, and to sit at Orleans for the trial of Mons. Varnier.

The King has refused his sanction to the sanguinary bill brought in against his brothers, officers, and nobles, who have placed the Rhine between them and the usurped authorities, which seem to exist only to denounce and provoke vengeance and forfeiture on their heads!

But when once the High National Court is instituted, the Assembly may, according to the Constitution, denounce and accuse any person before them; and it is not Monsieur Varnier, but *Monsieur*, and the Princes of France, the Emigrants and the Non-conformists, who are to be accused at this tribunal. Thus is an engine of terror erected against the Nobility, the Church and even the Throne, who having there no negative, no power of pardon, may see its best and most faithful friends ignominiously dragged to a popular trial, where an accusation is the sure and dreadful harbinger of a sentence.

I cannot comment upon this abominable attempt; may its violence, its evident injustice and fraud defeat its purpose; may the Clubs of Jacobines, and the Jacobines of the Assembly, detected and detested, give up their horrible enterprize in despair; but let their attempt never be forgotten!

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY, Dec. 2.

The Commissioners of the Fund of Extraordinaries stated, that the sales of national property for November, amounted to 136,269,000, making with the former sales 1,117,000,000 of livres.

M. Duportail, the Minister at War, sent a long memorial on the various objects of his department, in which he announced his resignation, and the King's acceptance of it.

Several Members complained that he had not accompanied the notice of his resignation with an account of what the law required of him, and moved, "that he should not leave the kingdom before giving an account of his administration;" observing that M. Montmorin was no longer in their power.