

The love of power is the predominant passion of man.

Americans read of the persecutions of Nero and Domitian with horror—They shudder at the recital of the tortures inflicted on heretics in Europe—the rack—imprisonment—flames and death.—They wonder the Pope, priests, and princes can punish men for their faith—for not believing the doctrines of the established church.

But look at home—mutato nomine, de te fabula narratur—only change names, Popes into democrats, and heretics in moderate federal men, vulgarly called aristocrats, and the same scenes are hatching—they are in embryo—and nothing is wanting but a little more power in the party, to revive all the horrors of persecution. Already the incendiaries, the Catalines of America threaten vengeance upon their opposers—not only in private conversation, but in the public papers, the friends of peace, and the supporters of our government are menaced with terrible vengeance. This is the same persecuting disposition, which has deluged the world in blood for conscience sake—and whether religion or government is the pretext, one part of mankind are eternally quarrelling with the other about their opinions; eternally endeavoring to make all others think and believe like themselves.

“Man’s thirst for power,” says a celebrated French philosopher, “is insatiable. Not content with commanding men, he would command their opinions also. He is as anxious to subdue the reason of his fellow citizens, as some eastern despot is to usurp the provinces or the treasuries of his neighbors.” Just so is the fact in America; and private clubs, under a pretext of Republicanism, are attempting to controul public measures, and threaten the men who are of opposite sentiments.

“Man,” says the same writer, “does not think himself truly master of others, if he does not bring their minds into subjugation. To effect this he employs force—he at length subdues reason. Men are completely degraded by believing opinions they are forced to profess. What reasoning begins, is finished by violence.” Who does not see these truths verified in America, where men are burnt in effigy for their independence of mind.

In the name of common sense, let me ask what is the difference, between a French King’s issuing Lettres de Cachet, or banishing a man for his opinions, and a mob hanging a man in effigy for the same thing? The names and the persons are changed, but the violence and the tyranny are of the same species, differing only in degree. It is a violence offered to freedom of opinion—a King in France and a Mob in America have committed equally an outrage on the liberties of others. It is an attempt to subdue opinions, the right of which is sacred and inviolable. When Rousseau and Voltaire published opinions that the King of France or the Doctors of the Sorbonne did not like, they conspired to destroy the men—and exile was their portion. When a Smith or an Ames, as honest men unquestionably as ever lived, publish opinions that a cabal of mock patriots do not like, the junto conspire to disgrace them—they threaten, and only want the power, to inflict on them the most summary vengeance. Is this a land of freedom? Is this the reign of republicanism, when law and not despotic will and passion, is to govern? Gracious Heavens! Let me rather live under an Eastern Rajah, than under the despotism of a MOB!

Ame. Minerva.

UNITED STATES.

NEW-YORK, May 26.

On the night of Saturday the 18th instant, there was, in some parts of the country, a more severe frost than has been, for many years, known at the same season. Through Columbia county in this State, and also northward through Rensselaer and Albany counties, its effects are very visible and calamitous. Most kinds of garden vegetables, every sort of fruit, great quantities of peas, flax, oats, wheat and rye are destroyed. Some farmers have plowed up their flax for a second sowing. Many fields of wheat on the Pitch Pine Plains are wholly turned yellow, and the wheat is supposed to be totally killed. In more elevated situations, the leaves only of the wheat and oats appear to be affected.

Throughout the counties above mentioned the small oaks, hickory, chestnut, and some other kinds of trees are killed: at least the leaves are as dry as in the winter. In some parts of Rensselaer county, especially near Hoosack river, the oaks, standing detached from forests, many of them 60 or 70 feet high, have not a green leaf remaining. To the southward of Columbia county the frost was lighter. Through Dutchess county and to this city the wheat and much of the fruit has escaped. To the eastward from Norwalk to Hartford, we are told, the effects of the frost are visible, but not severely injurious: further eastward towards Boston, the damage done is very great.

CHESTERTOWN, May 27.

The Distance of places from Philadelphia to this town, taken by Mr. Samuel Dudley, of Kent county, with a machine which he has constructed to measure roads with ease, and facilitate the taking of maps, and which is found to answer in its measurement with a great degree of exactness. From Philadelphia to

	Miles	Perches	M.	P.
Grey’s Ferry	3	232	3	232
Darby	3	180	7	100
Chester	7	120	14	220
Wilmington	12	260	27	160
New-Castle	5	291	33	131
Red-Lion	7	129	40	260
Middletown	12	100	53	40
Warwick	4	103	57	143
Head of Sassafras	3	17	60	160
G. T. Cross Roads	5	181	66	20
Sims’s Tavern	6	250	72	270
Chestertown	8	313	81	260

The distance taken from the old Court-house in Market street, Philadelphia, to the market-house in Chestertown.

The progress of the journey was not the east retarded while taking the above distances.

PHILADELPHIA,

MAY 30.

Yesterday arrived at Chester the ship Pigou, Captain Robertson, from London, which place she left the 8th of April. A few days ago, spoke the British frigates Dædalus and Terpichore, from the Chesapeake. There are one hundred passengers on board the Pigou.

Decree of the National Convention of the 27th day of Pluviose (17th March) Second Year of the French Republic, One and Indivisible (1794)

THE National Convention, after having heard their Committee of Public Safety, decree—

ART. I.

The Flag decreed by the Constituent National Assembly is suppressed.

ART. II.

The National Flag shall be formed of the three National colours, disposed in three equal stripes, placed vertically, so that the blue be nearest to the staff; the white in the middle, and the red floating in the air.

ART. III.

The Jack and Ensign shall be disposed in the same manner, observing the proportion in the size which is established by custom.

ART. IV.

The Pendant shall likewise be formed of three colors; one-fifth to be blue, one-fifth white and three-fifths red.

ART. V.

The National Flag shall be hoisted on board of all the vessels of the Republic on the first day of Prairial (20th May). The minister of the Marine shall give of course all necessary orders.

Says a Correspondent.

A schism among the powers combined against France was early predicted.

Independent of the natural principles which repel the component parts of such an association from forming a lasting combination, many persons suppose that at the present day, there is less good faith and honesty of motive in the conduct of the persons invested with the powers of government in the European world, than at almost any preceding period.

Hence they say it is a very easy thing to account for the secession of the king of Prussia from what has been denominated a common cause among the crowned heads—If Frederick has entered into the war from meer motives of speculation and profit, the present appears the most favorable moment for him to make an advantageous bargain—and it is not probable that the allies conjointly, will be able to make him so advantageous an offer, as the french. One million and peace with France, would probably be better than six, to continue in the war, provided he can preserve hi

dominions from the attacks of any of the powers, who may take umbrage at his secession.

The preceding remarks are predicated on this idea; that the interference of the King of Prussia in the war, was founded on mercenary principles altogether—and in truth many circumstances in the course of events have served to confirm this supposition. It is pretty evident that Dumourier by his address, diverted Frederick at a critical moment, and induced him to make a retrograde motion from the line of conquest. On that occasion it is highly probable that a golden shower dazzled his optics—in succeeding transactions, the Prussian Army has appeared to act sometimes as if it had a separate and independent object in view—at others as if indifferent to the issue of the contest. Perhaps after all, the real motives of the secession of Frederick are not yet developed; should it turn out that his people are forming domestic plans of revolution, he may find it necessary to go home, lest while he is attempting a counter-revolution abroad, he may lose what he has left behind.

A letter from Cape Henlopen dated on Tuesday morning last, has a postscript which says, that two frigates were then seen off the Capes, but were at such a distance, that it could not be determined what nation they belonged to.

For the GAZETTE of the UNITED STATES

ANECDOTES of Anacharis Cloots.

This extraordinary character lately guillotined at Paris, distinguished himself from the earliest period of the revolution:—a Prussian by birth and celebrated for his philosophic researches, he was invited into France, where it does not appear that he ushered himself into public notice, till the appearance of some periodical works—more admired for breathing the true spirit of liberty, than from the singularity of his title, which was little relished, being too laboured and dogmatic for the refined taste of a Frenchman:—there was a mixture of folly and wisdom in this man’s actions, and he seemed to pride himself on his eccentricity. He called himself *Porateur du genre humain*—the orator of the human race, and actually picked up in the streets a native of every country in the universe that were to be found in Paris. He preceded this odd assemblage to the National Convention, and in a pompous speech of some length addressed the Convention. His foreign accent was so uncouth, that he excited the risibility of the members, which they stifled, when he announced to them his new title, and prayed the humanity of the nation in behalf of his fellow sojourners who probably, added he, are driven from their respective countries by the hand of tyranny and seek an asylum in a land of liberty. He was universally applauded, and it was decreed, that all people without distinction of color or nations putting themselves under the protection of France should enjoy the same privileges as French citizens.

He had formerly received a flattering letter from the Prussian Monarch’s own hand, accompanied with a golden medal as a reward for some work of merit; at the time when the people were making public offerings of money, plate, jewels, &c. he presented the royal medal, and begged it might be immediately cast into the crucible; and after having read aloud the letter, he indignantly tore it and scattered the pieces in the air, looking round with exulting triumph.

This and other proofs of patriotism, made him very popular—and soon after we see him seized as a National Representative at the same period with Thomas Paine.

The Convention anticipated much from the labors of those two celebrated characters—but the intrigue and violence of party soon succeeding, we hear no mention made of either, till the secession of Thomas Paine, and the conspiracy for which Anacharis Cloots was condemned, and executed.

A TRAVELLER.

30th May, 1794.

A special meeting of the American Philosophical society will be held at their Hall, THIS evening at seven o’clock; in order to consider and determine on proposals made by Mr. Peale to rent part of the Hall, for the purpose of accommodating his Museum.

A full meeting of the members is requested. By order of the President.

R. PATTERSON, Sec’y.

May 29.

By London papers of the 4th April it appears Lord Howe was then at Torbay. The Oracle of that day says, the Prussians who are quitting Germany, are destined for Flanders to strengthen the allied powers in that quarter, according to some late arrangements made with the King of Prussia, and the rest of the powers at war with France:—The Oracle adds—“I believe it is pretty well understood, that all these matters are perfectly settled between the Court of St. James’s and that of Berlin, to the satisfaction of all parties.”

“O rare John Bull!”

It does not appear that Admiral M’Bride was at Sea the first of April.

The following bills passed the House of Representatives of the United States this day, viz. A bill imposing a duty on licenses for selling wines & foreign distilled spirits A bill authorizing the President to lay, continue and revoke an Embargo:— And the following to be engrossed, viz. A bill anticipating payment of part of the debt due from the United States to the French Republic—and a bill imposing a duty on Goods and Estates sold at Auction.

LONDON, April 3.

The French fleet lately rendezvoused at Brest, are now found to have been 40 sail of the line, as formerly stated by the captains of two American vessels, but then discredited. They are, however, pretty accurately accounted for now as follows, 6 Sail gone to the Chesapeake* 6 Sail gone to Concale Bay and St. Maloes. 6 Sail put to sea the 23d of March, and seen steering a W. S. W. course. 22 Numbered the 26th of March in Brest Water and inner Harbour.

* The Squadron which escaped the vigilance of Earl Howe.

ANECDOTE.

A few evenings ago, a gentleman called to see his friend, who is a member of the Democratic Society; being told by a country servant, that his master was abroad, the gentleman asked where he was gone, to which the servant innocently replied, that he was gone to the demon-frantic club; where the deuce is that, said the gentleman? I don’t know, replied the servant, but I have heard master say, that it was a kind of New Congress to settle the affairs of the Nation.

In the Canton of Berne in Switzerland, there is a peculiar institution, which in some measure resembles the Democratic Societies of this country. It is a miniature kind of government, a mimicry of that of the Canton. It consists of the same Denomination of magistrates, councils and assemblies as the government itself; it has no authority by law, but the magistrates and councils assemble at stated periods and deliberate on the same questions as the government.—The offices are filled by young men, who are thus trained up to business; the arms of the Republic of Berne are a Bear, those of this mock government, a Monkey, indicative of their mimicry.

It is recommended to our apish institutions to assume the same arms; and it would not be amiss if the Bear was associated with the Monkey.

PORT OF PHILADELPHIA.

ARRIVED.

Ship	Days.
Ship Pigou, Robertson,	London 42
Schr. Phoebe, Smith,	Martinique 24
Dolphin, Watson,	New-York 5
Sloop Abigail, Oran,	Portsmouth 12
Mary, Webb,	New-York 8

CLEARED.

Ship George Barclay, Collet,	London
Hibernia, Irwin,	St. Marks
Schooner Industry, Burnet,	Bermuda

About 30 sail of the fleet which left this port the 26th inst. got safe out on Tuesday evening and Wednesday morning. Yesterday evening 10 sail of outward bound vessels lay at New-Castle.

Capt. Robertson left at London the ship Theresa, of Philadelphia, to sail in 14 days after he left London, for this port. Captain Robertson sailed on the 8th of April, and brings 100 passengers, chiefly mechanics.

The ship General Washington, Captain Geddes, from Dublin, is arrived in the Delaware, having on board 100 passengers.

The brig Lady Walterstorff, Capt. Brook from Cadiz, which she left the 4th of April, is arrived in the Delaware—Also an other brig, supposed to be the Sally, Capt. Odlin, from Liverpool.

Captain Robertson says, that the court of Great-Britain is now well disposed towards the United States of America.

Captain M’Pherson spoke the brig Sally, Capt. Odlin from Liverpool, bound to this port, out 63 days which he supplied with a few barrels of provisions.