

To JOSEPH PRIESTLY, L.L.D. &c.

SIR,

A stranger arrived in a new country with whose opinions, habits, and manners, he has but that imperfect acquaintance which is formed by literary correspondence, will be safer by preserving a respectful distance from, than by an intimate union with, any party who may step forward and endeavor by a flattering address to prepossess his mind in their favor.

Your answer to the address of the Democratic Society of New-York, is modest and decent, it conveys ideas of peace and harmony with all the world, but differing from their expectations.

They hoped to find in you the enemy of those who have persecuted you—they trusted that you were like themselves unable to forgive injuries or to forget wrongs done by or to, themselves; that because you have written and preached in favor of the Unity of the Deity, you therefore, with them, were adverse to the principles of Christianity, inculcated in the sermon of Jesus Christ, delivered on the Mount of Olives, wherein he tells us that "Blessed are the Peace-makers for they shall be called the Children of God." Matt. v. 9. "Blessed are ye when men shall revile you, and persecute you, and say all manner of Evil against you falsely, for my sake; Rejoice and be glad: For great is your Reward in Heaven: For so persecuted they the Prophets, which were before you," Matt. v. 11 and 12.

Your answer to them convinces a number of your friends that they were and are mistaken in their ideas of your resentments. There are few men in America, who will not be happy in the acquaintance of a person distinguished as you are by your researches in philosophy and mathematics—and the moderation of your enquiries into moral, natural, and revealed religion, and you will reap in this Western World a temporal enjoyment of a well earned reputation, if you preserve yourself from the spirit of party.

But, Sir, you are in danger—a party is endeavoring to make a merit to themselves of your weight and influence—Beware, Sir, of casting it into the scale on either side. In the preponderant scale, its value will be lost by a mixture with the majority—in the lighter scale it will kick the beam with your associates and be found wanting—Preserve it then, for the good of mankind, by your guarded conduct, and let us (who have only heard from a distance) see that your virtues are truly Christian, tho' you express doubts of the Divinity of our Saviour; that you believe in the message, tho' you doubt the character attributed to the Messenger, and that persecuted in one City you have fled to another, only for peace and repose.

Be assured Sir, that there is no persecution here against opinions, and that however different your's may be from that of the majority, you may write, print or preach them, without danger of persecution of any kind; and that while we are instructed by those parts of your doctrines, which with freedom we imbibe, we shall never be angry because we cannot subscribe to those which we reject, nor suspect you of being displeased for the exercise of our free will.

Conducting yourself in this way, your private virtues, your industry in the pursuit of knowledge useful to mankind, will render your name respected as Franklin's—by a contrary conduct, by coalescing with any party whatever, you will certainly diminish your fame as much as the opposite party is proportioned to that which you shall adopt, and possibly by the merger of that party, sink the whole of your well earned reputation in a long life.

Yours, &c.

SENEX.

Phil. June 7th, 1794.

CONGRESS.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

A sketch of Mr. Sedgwick's observations, in the House of Representatives, on the motion of Mr. Goodhue, for an indemnification for the spoliation committed on American commerce.

It certainly had not been his wish, Mr. Sedgwick observed, that this question should be brought forward at the present

time. As it was, however, before the House, as he approved the motives of his colleague, who made the motion, and as he perfectly concurred with him in opinion on the subject, he should make a few concise observations.

He believed he said that in a government such as that of this country, it was the peculiar duty of those, to whom the administration has been committed, to extend security and protection to all the interests, and redress for all the injuries of the citizens. That inexcusable and unexampled injuries had been perpetrated, and an immense value in property unjustly spoiled, and that the honor of our country had been insulted, without provocation, were facts admitted by all. Those whose property had been the sport of wanton violation, which in many instances had reduced the sufferers from ease and affluence, to want and misery; come forward and demand redress and indemnification. That they were entitled to such indemnification, from the nature of our social compact he understood to be agreed by every gentleman. (Here Mr. S. was interrupted by several members, and Mr. Nicholas and Mr. Smilie declared that in their opinion, there was no obligation to indemnify the sufferers, except it were done out of a fund to be formed by the sequestration of British debts.) Mr. S. said he was much obliged to the gentlemen for setting him right; till now he had believed that the right of the sufferers to indemnification was denied by none. If this however was really a question, yet to be decided, it was due to the sufferers, it was due to our own honor to decide it without delay.

It was asked, he said, by what means is the government to administer redress. They were first to apply to the governments which had inflicted the injuries, to state their nature, and extent, and to demand in unequivocal terms redress. This business notwithstanding all the opposition which had been made was happily in a proper train. He hoped, and believed the application would be effectual. It might however fail; and in that case he was free to declare, that we owed it to our honor, and to our injured citizens, to attempt redress by means of the last resort. In that unhappy event, the interest of the sufferers must be involved with the general interests of the nation, and must abide the result of war.

But if satisfaction should not be obtained by negotiation, and should the government from any political consideration, not seek redress by force in such events, the sufferers would have a just claim on their country for indemnification.

The question now immediately before the House was, to refer the motion for indemnification to the committee of the whole on the subject of sequestration. This was not fair, as respected that part of the House who approved the engagement to indemnify, and who would never consent to sequestration. It was not fair as respected the sufferers, because he believed there was not a gentleman in the House who supposed that the measure of sequestration would prevail. He was astonished that any should believe that it ought to be adopted. He himself without hesitation approved of engaging to indemnify the sufferers; but at the same time with all his heart, he abhorred sequestration and confiscation of debts as the measures which all civilized nations had for more than a century abandoned as immoral and unjust.

He would not now enter into a discussion of the question of sequestration. Whenever it came directly under consideration, he pledged himself to undertake to prove that it was against the law of nations, that it was immoral, unjust, and impolitic. He had been sorry to perceive that the feelings of the mover of that proposition (Mr. Dayton) were wounded, by the terms in which gentlemen had spoken of his motion. He himself, in his conscience, believed it to be immoral and unjust, and as such he felt himself bound as a man of honor to give it his strenuous opposition. The gentleman surely could not reasonably expect that independent men, would sacrifice opinion to politeness or to friendship. All he could do and that he did with pleasure, was to declare that he believed the gentleman's motives were pure and upright, and that he had a perfect confidence in the correctness of his moral sentiments.

Viewing the subject in the light he had expressed, he appealed to the candor and fairness of gentlemen, to what tended the combining of those irritative questions of

indemnification and sequestration, but to wound the feelings and evade the just application of the sufferers?

Gentlemen he said, had charged his colleague, and those who had supported his motion, with attempting, by these means, meanly to court popularity. To refute this charge would, in his opinion, be unnecessary, because no well-informed man in America could believe it. He did not know that the opinions, which were held by his friends and himself, on this subject, were popular. It was sufficient that they were believed to be just. Was he, however, disposed to recriminate, by disclosing motives which were not avowed, but concealed, he could tell a tale, which, he believed, would be heard with effect.

From the commencement of the administration of this government, certain gentlemen, and particularly those of the eastern states, had been charged with regulating their political conduct by local considerations. That they had disregarded the interest of every part of the United States, but the particular districts of the country from which they came. The charge was now reversed—those districts have suffered infinitely beyond their neighbors, by the effects of those measures of which we complain; and notwithstanding all this, the representatives of those districts have all at once so totally changed; have become so tame, so torpid, as to be regardless of the interests and sufferings of their immediate constituents. "No," said he, is this all; our kind southern brethren have, from pure disinterested benevolence, and with a most acute sensibility, determined to procure for our constituents that redress to which we are indifferent.

It had been said, that the gentlemen who were in favor of indemnification, had opposed every measure of energy. They had indeed opposed certain measures, to which they would give a very different appellation. They had not only favored, but had been the authors of every measure of respectable efficiency, as well in respect to force, as the means of defraying the expenses which our situation had rendered it necessary should be incurred. He need not say who had opposed those measures,

PHILADELPHIA,

JUNE 10.

From a Correspondent.

The disorganizers of this country who pretend to be the staunch friends of liberty, have long since forfeited all right to that distinguished character.

The real friends of the equal rights of man, while they sincerely rejoice at the triumphs of freedom and justice in every quarter of the globe, regret excesses which not only tarnish the lustre of the best of causes, but put to hazard the eventual establishment of a free government.

The partisans of discord on the other hand, have uniformly shouted huzzas to the triumphing faction in France, let it consist of whom it will, and have justified the measures of men who have destroyed each other—Can this be right?

In the General Advertiser of Friday last, there is however a paragraph which deviated for a moment from this hitherto uniform line of conduct. The fate of the celebrated Danton who has fallen under the axe of the guillotine, through the prevalence of a competitor—is there attributed "to the manoeuvres of the aristocrats"—nor is this all, the existence of rival factions is not only recognized, but it is also confessed that, instigated by the aristocrats these factions destroy each other. This was going too far—it was a concession in favor of truth and common sense, that lays the axe to the root of the whole system of anarchy—the next day we accordingly find in the General Advertiser another tune is introduced—the man who it is suggested, has fallen a victim to aristocracy, is denounced as a Traytor, an ambitious, avaricious wretch. It is now said, "his love of money directed his steps in the high road to the guillotine," that he was "repeatedly bribed, and in Belgium purloined a large sum of money;" that he had "risen from poverty to the possession of immense fortune, which he must have accumulated by mal-practices;"—if bringing such a man to the guillotine is aristocratic, (and this is asserted in the General Advertiser) what must the people of France think of Aristocracy?

Extract of a letter from London, dated March 24th, 1794.

"The political horizon of Europe begins

to brighten; there are stronger hopes entertained of the French Republic being likely to detach the Prussian from the coalition of tyrants: his coffers are perfectly drained; his predecessor had 68,000,000 of dollars in real specie locked up in his palace, but they are flown. France we know has made him advances of money; England sent last week to the same person half a million; perhaps he'll keep both and remain inactive. Till this negotiation is terminated you are not to expect any considerable attack to be made by France.

The loan of the minister here of 11,000,000 was applied for by lenders to the amount of 72 millions, they expected to clear 8 or 10 per cent. but the omnium has never reached beyond 1 1/2 so that the subscribers feel much chagrin in their disappointment. Near 3000 tickets of the lottery, now drawing, were held by the purchasers of the lottery when the drawing commenced, by which on a fair calculation they should lose 100,000.

The bonus (a term made use of in Change Alley) in the new loan of a lottery ticket, is found to be nothing instead of 12 or 15 pounds, which they have been worth in former years; they cannot vend them at more than 10 pounds. I hope you manage these things better in Philadelphia as well as France. Gen. Adv.

Latest European Intelligence,

Translated from Paris papers, received by the ship Harmony, Capt. Osmon.

PARIS, April 7.

For some time past the strictest police is observed here. The committees of public safety continue to pursue with indefatigable zeal all the enemies of liberty under whatever mask they endeavor to conceal themselves. The audacity of public quacks is seen no more; and the people, whose every sentiment and wish centers in the national convention, becomes enlightened and appears armed against the intrigues which were distracting them in every quarter.

Every day a crowd of the emissaries of foreign powers is arrested, also emigrants and intriguers who were protected by the faction which has been annihilated.

Frequent visits are made in the public places. The several theatres have been searched. On the 5th, at eight in the evening, the ci-devant Palais-Royale was surrounded, and it is said that several accomplices of the last conspirators were arrested.

April 11.

From Toulon, April 2.

The Duquesne and the Corvette la Fauvette arrived here yesterday evening, with a fleet of 20 vessels from Marseilles, loaded on the Republic's account, with ammunition &c. of all kinds for this arsenal. They fell in with three enemy's vessels, one of which came within gunshot of the Duquesne, but the Republican vessel preparing to receive her, she tacked about and made off. The naval preparations proceed with an activity unknown under the old government. Already we have fitted out several vessels of force, which are employed to convoy merchantmen. The state of the vessels in the harbor follows:

First division armed and ready for sea

The Sans Culotte of 80 guns
The Tonnant of 74
The Timoleon of 74

The Genereux of 74
The Heurenux of 74
Second division, Arming.

The Languedoc of 80
The Censeur of 74
The Duquesne of 74

The Conquerant of 74
The Guerrier of 74
Third division, Equipping.

The Ca Ira of 80
The Mercure of 74
The Alcide of 74

The Souverain of 74
The Barrat of 74
Makes five ships of the line ready for sea, five nearly ready, and five preparing.

Add to these, a vast number of frigates, corvettes and other light vessels.

April 12.

On the 10th 25 persons appeared before the tribunal. The act of accusation mentions them as the accomplices of the infamous Hebert, Cloutz, and others, who have already received the punishment due to their crimes. They are accused of conspiring against the liberty and safety of the French people, of wishing to disturb the tranquility of the republic, by a civil war, during which, in the months of Ventose and Germinal, the conspirators were to dissolve the National Convention, assassinate some of the members and other patriots, destroy the republican government, seize the reigns of administration and give a tyrant to France. Their names follow:

P. Gaspard (Anaxagoras) Chaumette, aged 31; man of letters, ex-agent of the commune of Paris.