

MANKIND, in the absence of greater evils, have always been accustomed to complain of those which are trivial in their nature, and which would scarcely attract their notice if they were not rendered conspicuous by coming alone. Even where real evils do not exist, the imaginations of some will be busy in forming gloomy prognostications, and their abilities exerted in spreading distrust through society.

To this disposition of human nature to repine at their condition, however envious, we may justly attribute the murmurs of some of our citizens, at the present time of unexampled prosperity. Here are the United States risen to independence and reputation, and favored with peace, liberty and plenty. *And yet the use of unexampled patriotism multiplies the evils from these blessings, to analyze the defects of government!* America, having resisted the heavy arm of oppression, having baffled the schemes of insurrection, and disarmed by her placid dignity the malice of distant nations, is now doomed to be pestered with the effusions of calumny, and the lamentations of counterfeited sorrow.

To him, however, who considers human frailty, this circumstance will not occasion much surprize; nor, when he examines into its nature and cause, will it rouse his apprehensions. No system of government can be formed to free from error, as not to present some opening to the assaults of discontent; nor, indeed, would perfection itself fare any better with those who are determined on dissatisfaction, and continue their censures, rather to cherish animosity than to effect reformation.

But why should these clamours disturb us? The evil may be truly said to bring its own remedy. By bringing political subjects so frequently into dispute, they incite others to think more deeply upon them, and lead us by frequent alarms to study our security with more circumspection. Let not therefore the friends of good government be disconcerted by the voice of those who delight to vilify & counteract it.

Much has been said about the propriety of our siding with certain foreign nations. For my part, I see no reason to meddle with the concerns either of England or France, further than to demand justice from both. As to the opinion of our partiality for the former power, it is too absurd to deserve refutation, though there are many that profess to hold it. France, it is true, may claim some share of our regard, but cannot we show it without giving up our Independence to her, as some would have it? I am well aware that we are bound in friendship to the French nation, but these ligaments extend only to the mutual interests of the two nations, and embrace not the internal policy of either. Was it ever intended by the compact between us, that one should make the cause of the other her own, and hold herself obligated to join in her vengeance? If so, the two nations are but one; and let them hereafter be ruled by one head, since they can by this means operate with greater force, and plan their enterprizes with more uniformity.

But taking these people on their own ground, and allowing it is incumbent on us to help France in their present difficulties, by what means are we to do it? Go to war with her enemies? No, surely; if the wisdom of France is equal to her heroism, she will easily see that the aid of America has been more effectually drawn forth by her observance of impartial deportment, than if her government had been inspired with the same spirit of resentment that enflamed themselves. She has furnished them with food, without which the fire of enthusiasm is suffocated, and the force of arms depressed. By this line of conduct substantial succours have been given; and who that wishes well to the cause of France, would be anxious, rather to gratify them with useless anger at their enemies, than to pursue those steps by which alone we are qualified to assist them?

With respect to our treaty with Great Britain, concerning which the minds of men have not yet become calm, much has been said and written; perhaps more than its opposers are willing or able to examine. I shall therefore forbear to dwell upon it, though it forms the chief subject of complaint amongst us.

It is to be hoped that America will always be so singular in the world, as to prefer peace to war when it can be done with honour, and that from the motive of serving our own interest, as well as doing justice to the rest of mankind. Remonstrances and threats may indeed be made, but have we any way to follow and enforce them? Or if we confine ourselves to island operations, what advantages of posts captured, or territory subdued, can recompense for the destruction of commerce and the walk of war? I am not one of those who would sacrifice national reputation to trifling fears, or cautious calculations of interest; but if as much can be obtained by expostulation as by battle, where is the man that would recommend it, or who so weak as to admit his arguments?

From a candid view of the subject it appears obvious, that the uneasiness of our exasperated citizens has been totally without ground; that they only needed some serious calamity, or deprivation of their present blessings, to bring them to a sense of the superiority of their situation to that of other countries, and that their rancour proceeded by no means from the weight of injury or misfortune, but from the natural inclination of all mortals to raise phantoms of evil where there is none in reality.

AGRICOLA.

The following observations come from THOMAS PAINE's Pamphlet on the Decline and Fall of the English System of Finance; lately presented by him to the National Convention of France.

Let Financiers diversify systems of credit as they will, it is nevertheless true, that every system of credit, is a system of paper money. Two experiments have already been had upon paper money; the one in America, the other in France. In both those cases the whole capital was emitted, and the whole capital, which in America was called continental money, and in France assignats, appeared in circulation; the consequence of which was, that the quantity became so enormous, and so disproportion-

tioned to the quantity of population, and to the quantity of objects upon which it could be employed, that the market, if I may so express it, was glutted with it, and the value of it fell. Between five and six years determined the fate of those experiments. The same fate would have happened to gold and silver. Could gold and silver have been issued in the same abundant manner as paper had been, and confined within the country as paper money always is, by having no circulation out of it, or to speak on a larger scale, the same thing would happen in the world, could the world be glutted with gold and silver, as America and France has been with paper.

The English system differs from that of America and France in this one particular, that its capital is kept out of sight, that is, it does not appear in circulation. Were the whole capital of the national debt, which at the time I write this, is almost four hundred million pounds sterling, to be emitted in assignats, or bills, it would sink in value as those of America and France have done; and that in a greater degree, because the quantity of them would be more disproportioned to the quantity of population in England, than was the case in either of the other two countries. A nominal pound sterling in those bills would not be worth one penny.

But though the English system, by thus keeping the capital out of sight, is preserved from hasty destruction, as in the case of America and France, it nevertheless approaches the same fate, and will arrive at it with the same certainty, though by a slower progress. The difference is altogether in the degree of speed by which the two systems approach their fate, which, to speak in round numbers, is as twenty is to one; that is, the English system, that of funding the capital instead of issuing it, contains within itself a capacity of enduring twenty times longer than the systems adopted by America & France; and at the end of that time it will arrive at the same common grave the Potter's field, of paper money.

The datum, I take for this proposition of twenty to one, is the difference between a capital and the interest at five per cent. Twenty times the interest is equal to the capital. The accumulation of paper money in England is in proportion to the accumulation of the interest upon every new loan, and therefore the progress to dissolution is twenty times slower than if the capital were to be emitted and put into circulation immediately. Every twenty years in the English system is equal to one year in the French and American systems.

BY THIS DAY'S MAILS.

NEW-YORK, July 16.

The respectability of the person who yesterday communicated the price of wheat, and the rate of insurance, induced us to give it a place. Upon due investigation his information is not entitled to the smallest degree of credit, as we are informed, by the best authority, that merchantable wheat is now selling at 12s. and 12s. 6. per bushel: And that the rate of insurance is at 9 or 10 per cent. our and home, against capture and the danger of the sea, &c. And when a distinction is made between British or French captors, it is, for substantial reasons, in favour of the former. [Diary.]

RIOTS IN AMSTERDAM.

By the arrival of the ship Three Friends, yesterday afternoon, in 48 days from Amsterdam, we learn that the inhabitants of that city were placed in a disagreeable situation. There were a body of citizens to the number of about 8 or 900, called cannoniers, of the lowest class in the society, who were allowed to wear side-arms.

They had lately assembled every night in gangs, and ranged about the city like madmen, in several instances committing murder. The municipality fully alarmed at these proceedings, gave orders on the 11th of May for them to assemble in front of the Stadhous, and surrender their arms. The cannoniers assembled on the day appointed; and the light horse, and the rest of the militia were ordered to surround them in order to disarm them. The cannoniers however remained firm, determined to surrender only with their lives. With this disposition they remained from 12 o'clock at mid-day until 12 at night.

At about half past 12 at night, they entered the Stadhous, and forcibly liberated three or four of their party who had been confined for murder; who were next day seen to parade the streets of the city unmolested. A body of French troops had been sent for to keep the peace of the city.

By the Friends we have received Dutch papers in May, from which we shall cause to be translated what may appear deserving of notice.

Letters by the Three Friends mention a report having circulated in Amsterdam of an engagement on the Rhine, in which the Austrians were defeated with considerable loss.

London accounts of the 14th May state, the reports of a fresh insurrection of the Poles, on the confines of Turkey, under the command of the Chiefs DEUSKO, KOLLYSKO and LIBERADWYZKY: that they had published a manifesto, in which they declare their reliance on the assistance of the Porte to deliver their country from oppression.

Should this prove true the meditated rupture between Russia and Turkey will probably be brought to an immediate issue.

BOSTON, July 12.

Our papers from Paris are several days later than any before received. Several translations from them we give this day. The latest, May 18, contains no account of any battle on the Rhine.

FRENCH PAPERS.

Our friendly correspondent at Paris has supplied us, by Capt. Tibbitts, with a continuation of the series of The Gazette Nationale, ou le Moniteur Universel, to May 16. Their contents have been communicated by the English papers—and they contain the accounts given of the insurgent spirit which agitated the Council of Five Hundred, and which has since been allayed by the vigilance and energy of the Directory. For the rest, the Councils were occupied in discussions on the pecuniary concerns of the Republic, and the expulsion of the refractory Priests. The Moniteur of the 16th says, "We are assured that the Spanish Ambassador has just received a Courier from the court of Turin, requesting his good offices in procuring a peace. The motive is, that the strong places of Coni, Tortona and

Alexandria had opened their gates to our victorious armies."

The Sardinian generals taken in the affair at Ceva, are three in number, viz. Lieutenant general count de Lizer, le comte des Playes, Colonel of his Sardinian majesty's guard, and gen. Matter.—Four Colonels, eight standards, twelve pieces of artillery, some howitzers, &c. are also among the fruits of the victory.

SALE OF PRIZES.

Among other articles, we see a report of a resolution on the subject of the sale of prizes, presented by Barbe de Marbois, to the Council of Ancients, on the 14th Floreal [20th April] in which he informs, that the Committee had carefully analysed the various treaties subsisting between France and other nations; among other things it declares, that the treaty of commerce, made in 1763, between France and the United States, forbids the admittance of officers of American ports, into which the French may conduct their prizes, cognizance of the validity of said prizes, and to reciprocally: but this same article adds, that they may freely depart for the port where the captors were fitted out.—And the spirit of the treaty is, that judgment upon the prizes belongs to the tribunals of the nation to which the captors belong, but not to the Consuls.

Among other sentences, predicated on a just knowledge of the laws of nations, the reporter states a case: "Supposing, says he, peace re-established between France and Great Britain, and the latter power at war with Spain, should we quietly see a British consul pronouncing judgment in a sovereign manner, causing a prize to be unloaded and sold; and few, with a secret joy, the seeds of a secret rupture between us, and a nation with whom we are at peace.—In short, a neutral power, connected with two belligerent powers, ought not to suffer either the one or the other to exercise an act of sovereignty, even towards its enemy—otherwile the neutral nation is exposed to indemnity and even war; if she was able to hinder such violation of her neutrality."

Speaking of prizes carried into neutral ports, Barbe Marbois proceeds, "The captors and the captured, after a stay longer or shorter according to the spirit of existing treaties, must again proceed to sea; and the prizes must be conducted to the ports of the nation of the captors, and it is there they ought to be tried. This, Colleagues, is the reciprocity which we demand; and it is this we will fulfil the duties of friendship and benevolence towards our allies, and even towards nations with which we are only at peace."

FROM LISBON.

Schooner Catharine, Cox, in 45 days. Reports were confidently circulated, that Spain and England had commenced war against each other, and the reports appeared to be credited by two Spanish frigates there which immediately sailed for Spain.

FROM FRANCE.

Capt. Tibbitts.—His verbal information is, that hostilities had commenced on the Rhine, by a victory decisively favorable to the French; and in which 10,000 men were killed. This victory was soon after followed by another, of almost equal brilliancy, and ending in the death of 8000 men.

Letters from Paris, rate flour in that city, at 5 dollars. per barrel. Letters also state, that it was hoped through the intercession of Mr. Monroe, that the decree of the Government ordering foreigners to quit Paris, would be ameliorated so as to allow Americans to continue in that city—at present they are removed.

[Translated for the Centinel.]

GERMANY.

BRUSSELS, 4th Floreal.

Hostilities will commence in a few days. The French and Austrian armies are in movement in all parts, and formidable camps cover both sides of the Rhine.

FRANCE.

PARIS, May 16.

The Council of 500, has just done an act of great justice and humanity, by granting the means of subsistence to the widows and children of the unfortunate Representatives, Valaze, Carra, Gorfas, Brisot, Phelippeaux, Gangeueve, Gaudin, Lidon, Coustard, Camille-Desmoulins, Birroteau, Salles and citoyennes Petion and Buzot. They are the victims of the Robespierian tyranny.

May 18.

The directory is taking active measures to bring the late conspirators to justice. They have issued a decree of arrest against Ricord, Laignelot, and the principal insurgents, Drouet only excepted, and have sent them to the director of the jury of the criminal tribunal of la Seine.

Drouet has undergone one interrogatory.

ARMY OF ITALY.

A letter from Gen. Buonaparte, of the 17th Floreal, addressed to the Executive Directory, mentions, that the army of Italy had taken possession of the town of Tortona, in which they found a very fine fortress, which cost the king of Sardinia more than 15 millions. We have found therein 100 pieces of brass cannon, and caissons for 3000 men.

He adds, that the day after the suspension of arms, the army was put in movement. Beaulieu has evacuated all his positions, and has passed the Po at Valence, with all his troops.

Upon the invitation of the king of Sardinia, the Neapolitans have surrendered Valence to a Piedmontese garrison.

The Convention of Holland (Batavia) has formally declared war against Great Britain.

Drouet, who has been arrested as the leader in the late Paris insurrection, is the same person who stopped Louis XVI. when on his flight from Paris to Montmedi.

COUNCIL OF FIVE HUNDRED.

7 Floreal [May 6.]

The law for banishing the refractory priests was taken up and passed.

Phillippe Delleville proposed to exempt all the Ecclesiastics who had attained to 80 years of age. At this age, said he, they cannot be dangerous; and humanity recoils at the condemnation of such men to captivity. His amendment was not, however adopted.

The Executive Directory was charged with the necessary measures for celebrating on the 10th Prairial following, a fest. in celebration of the triumphs of the army in Italy.

May 15.

The Executive Directory sent to the council all the papers respecting that conspiracy at which Drouet was at the head. They were 44 in number. In a letter to the Directory, Drouet complains of the violence done at his house the 10th. The directory deny the fact, and declare, that in

this occurrence, they have religiously respected the house of the Republic. The Council went into committee of the whole on those papers, but came to no resolution on this subject.

HAVRE, May 14.

The following prizes have arrived at Brest, between the 27th Germinal and 7 Floreal, viz.

The English brig, Duches, laden with Teneriffe wine, taken by the privateer le Patriote.

The English ship Friendship, 140 tons, laden with copper, cheesc and rum, also by le Patriote.

The English sloop Budget, from London, laden with old iron, sugar, quicksilver, tea and dye stuffs, taken by the privateer la Financette.

The English brig Nancy, from Liverpool, laden with beer and fish provisions.

The English sloop Marguerite, laden with Port wine, and cotton.

The English brig Poland, from Madager and Barbara, laden with 200 tons grain.

The English sloop William, laden with flour, salt provisions and beer, bound to Newfoundland.

[Thus far translations.]

17 Floreal, May 6.

The Council resolved that on the 10 Prairial, May 29, a national festival of victory shall be celebrated throughout the whole extent of the Republic. The Directory was charged with the means of execution.

Greedy speculators, under fictitious names, monopolize all the property; pay for it at a trifling part of its value, on account of the present depreciation of the Mandats, and so ruin the Republic. It is not to preserve, that they purchase, but to destroy. Fearing the chances of the future, they hasten to demolish the edifices, to fell the woods, to fell every particle of produce, and thus degrade the finest properties.

The Comissary of the Directory with the army of the Sambre and Meuse, has given orders to put in requisition all the cattle and provisions in these departments. In the province of Luxembourg this rigorous measure created the greatest consternation.

LONDON, May 17.

Yesterday Mr. Pitt went to the king at Windsor, to settle, as it was said, all the preliminaries to the dissolution; such as taking his Majesty's pleasure on the new creation of peers; and of the changes which are in meditation in office. If we may trust to rumor, these changes have been the subject of considerable negotiation, and of some wrangling. The intrigues, however, are said to be at an end, and Mr. Pitt went to the king with the result.

We cannot speak with confidence on the subject, but we are told that Lord Grenville has prevailed in not suffering Lord Auckland to come into the cabinet, and the Duke of Portland is to be permitted to keep his present office with its patronage. The new arrangement is said to be, that Lord Hawkebury, with an earldom, shall be appointed president of the Council, and to secure an office to his son, Lord Auckland is to have the board of trade, with some other appointment.

Sir Gilbert Elliot, whose state of health for some time has been truly distressing, is immediately coming home. Who his successor is to be, is not perhaps entirely fixed. We have heard a person named to the office, whose situation at home is so good as to make it singular if he accepts of it—we mean the Earl of Westmorland.

It is considered as quite certain that Parliament will be dissolved on Friday next. There will of course be a new session in October next.

Mr. Morgan in his recent pamphlet, has most clearly shewn the fallacy of Lord Auckland's argument in regard to the increase of the imports and exports. He shews that their sudden increase is entirely to be ascribed to the war, and that it is not commerce, but wasteful expenditure for all the increases of our exports is to Germany; while to Portugal, Spain, the Straights, Turkey, the British continental territories, and the West Indies, our exports have even decreased.

The Empress of all the Russias, in order to manifest her anxious desire of peace, has graciously condescended to limit her demands upon the young King of Sweden to the following four points.

1. That Sweden shall renounce all connection, and all commerce with the French Republic.
2. That she shall re-establish her creature, Baron Armfeldt, as his prime minister.
3. That he shall deprive his uncle, the Duc de Sudermania, of all authority in the state; and
4. That the young King shall marry her grand daughter.

These demands, the Autocratix says, are so moderate, and so consistent with the relations of peace and amity between neighbouring kingdoms, that she will call God and posterity to witness, that the guilt of involving two nations in war lies upon his head; and she will make a holy appeal to the Divinity, and to all the sovereigns of Europe, upon the justice of her cause.

PARIS, April 28.

To the Editor,

I have this morning been to the Halle au Bled which is the great wheat market of Paris, for the purpose of obtaining precise information of the state of the markets for wheat and flour, and find large quantities on hand; the market open to any and all purchasers—First quality of wheat flour at 12s. sterling for one hundred pounds French weight, or a hundred and eight pounds American—and common flour at 10s. and 6d. to 11s. It has lately fallen, and it is the prevailing opinion that it will be lower. Bread is from three to four sous a pound—all this plenty proceeds from French flour, for not a cargo of American has been sold in Havre for several weeks past, nor a barrel brought from thence to Paris—there appears no want of any kind of merchandize—coined money is the only thing in demand—that, owing to the large quantities that have been exported, and great sums which are held from circulation by reason of the paper medium, is extremely scarce, but that evil is beginning to correct itself: The exchange is in favor of France against all parts of Europe and America, and will remain so until the equilibrium of coined money is restored, and it may not be thought extraordinary if the Louis and Crowns are soon found shifting their positions from America for France.—Their armies are every where successful, they are only to look their continental enemies in the face, and they are vanquished.