

MANY further similar illustrations might be made of the ex-secretary's philosophical talents from his notes on Virginia; these may for the present suffice. At a future opportunity, we may find leisure to notice his very extraordinary penal code, and his whimsical system of retaliation, his wife attempt to refute the account of the deluge, (evidently stated by Moses to be a miracle) by a recurrence to philosophical and merely natural principles; and sundry other philosophical absurdities. His plagiarizing report on weights and measures will be adverted to under another head.

After these specimens of his talents, these elaborate productions of his mind, we may safely venture to withhold from Thomas Jefferson the title of philosopher.

But we should incur no danger in yielding to his claim in the fullest extent, because it must be obvious to the plainest understandings, and to men of the smallest experience in public life, that of all beings, a philosopher, makes the worst politician, that if any one circumstance more than another, could disqualify Mr. Jefferson for the Presidency, it would be the charge of his being a philosopher. Not believing him to possess any thing more than the mask of philosophy, my objection to his election would certainly not rest on that ground; but as there may be some, who, having read his works superficially, may have been deceived by that character, which is sometimes acquired, because no one has been at the trouble to scrutinize and strip it of its borrowed garb, to them I repeat that, admitting him to be a most learned philosopher, such a character alone creates his disqualification for the Presidency.

In turning over the page of history, we find it teeming with evidences of the ignorance and mismanagement of philosophical politicians. The great Locke was employed to frame a constitution for Carolina; but it abounded so much with regulations, inapplicable to the state of things for which it was designed, so full of theoretic whimsies, that it was soon thrown aside. Condorcet, a particular friend of our American philosopher, was a great French philosopher, his constitution of 1793, contains more absurdities than were ever piled up in any system of Government; it was so radically defective that its operation was never even attempted; Condorcet's political follies, and the wretched termination of his career are well known; he had philosophy enough to know how to raise a storm, but not enough to avert its effects. The affairs of France have since been more ably conducted (except during the short anarchy of Robespierre) by men who are good politicians, but fortunately for France, not philosophers.

Rittenhouse was a great philosopher, but the only proof we have had of his political talents was his suffering himself to be wheedled into the Presidency of the Democratic Society of Philadelphia, a society with which he was even ashamed to associate, tho' cajoled and flattered into the loan of his name. Many other instances might be adduced.

The characteristic traits of a philosopher, when he turns politician are, timidity, whimsicalness, a disposition to reason from certain principles, and not from the true nature of man, a proneness to predicate all his measures on certain theories, formed in the recess of his cabinet, and not, as they ought to be, on the existing state of things and circumstances; an inertness of mind, as applied to governmental policy, a wavering of disposition when great and sudden emergencies demand promptness of decision and energy of action. If the laws are opposed and infraction raises its crest, the insurgents will always calculate on the weakness and indecision of the executive (if a philosopher) and they will be justified in their calculations, for he will hesitate till all is lost; he will be wandering in the labyrinths of philosophical speculations, moralizing on the sin of spilling human blood, and foolishly persuading himself that mankind can always be reclaimed and brought back to their duty by wholesome advice. His mind will be constantly attracted to his favorite pursuits, and his presidential duties, of course, be postponed to more pleasing avocations.

Let us suppose one of these exploring and profound philosophers elected President of the United States, and a foreign minister, on his first introduction into his cabinet, surprizing him in the act of inspecting the skin and the scarf skin of a black and a white pig, in order to discover the causes of difference which nature has created in their colour, or with the same view anatomizing the kidneys and glands of a Negro to ascertain the nature of his ferociousness? Would not the minister's first observation be, that the philosopher would be much better employed in his retirement at home, and his second, that such a President would furnish excellent materials for him to make use of?

What respect would the officers of government entertain for a president, whom they should find, on waiting on him for instructions, that he was busily engaged in impaling a butterfly or contriving with assiduous perseverance an easy chair of new construction? Would not an attention to these littlenesses make him the ridicule of the world? The great Washington was, thank God, no philosopher; had he been one, we should never have seen his great military exploits; we should never have professed under his wife administration. There is another characteristic trait in philosophers highly dangerous, namely, their extreme openness to flattery; a flatterer will be always sure to gain a philosopher's affections; a philosophical president will be consequently most influenced by that nation which flatters most; which that is, need not be mentioned; if their agents do not fail in this national qualification, such a president will be their most devoted servant; he will also be perpetually surrounded by a swarm of domestic flatterers; and as they are generally the basest of characters, the companions he will be attached to, and the measures they will promote, may without difficulty be predicted.

\* Who has not heard from the Secretary the praises of his wonderful Wirlingig Chair, which had the miraculous quality of allowing the person seated in it to turn his head, without moving his tail? Who has not admired his fertile genius in the production of his Epicurean side-beard, and other Gim Krackery?

But although I have thus denied to Mr. Jefferson the title of a real philosopher, I am ready to allow that he possesses the inferior characteristics, and the externals of philosophy. To a mind, ambitious of passing with the world for a philosopher, the first were easily acquired, the last as easily assumed. The inferior characteristics as applied to the science of politics, are a want of steadiness, a constitutional indecision and versatility, visionary, wild and speculative systems, and various other defective features, which have been already portrayed. Indeed so unsettled is the mind of a would-be philosopher, so capricious and versatile are the principles of these philosophical mimics, that they attempt to reconcile the most irreconcilable theories, and to justify the most inconsistent acts by the same standard. Thus you will find these pretenders to philosophy, at one moment, coolly justifying the most atrocious and sanguinary cruelties, provided they are means to a certain favorite end; at another cautiously dissuading from vigorous, the necessary measures, lest they might fatally issue, in the shedding of human blood. Condorcet and Brissot were like Jefferson, reputed philosophers; they set up certain wild and impracticable theories of government; among them, of course, the emancipation of the negroes in the French West-Indies, and, of course, the massacre of the whites, and the desolation of the colonies; this was represented to them, by a deputation from the colonies, warning them of the fatal consequences of their principles. What was Philosopher Condorcet's reply? Attend to it, Citizens of the Southern States! He answered with true philosophic calmness, "Perish all the colonists, rather than that we should deviate one tittle from our principles." This is the enlightened Condorcet, to whom his friend Jefferson, stimulated by a sympathetic philanthropy, sent Bauneker's Almanac, as the highest proof of his admiration of the Negro's work. This is the same Condorcet who could, with calmness, see the colonies laid waste, and thousands of aged colonists and innocent women and children massacred, and yet was perpetually preaching up philanthropy and universal benevolence. Brissot was much such another character, they both deservedly met the same fate.

As ignorant people are often imposed upon by an appearance of philosophy, those who have ambitious designs, readily assume its externals: these consist in a ridiculous affectation of simplicity and humility in a thousand frivolous, and little puerile tricks, which always render the performer contemptible in the eyes of discerning people, who soon discover that under the assumed cloak of humility, lurks the most ambitious spirit, the most overweening pride and hauteur, and that the externals of simplicity and humility afford but a flimsy veil to the internal evidences of aristocratic splendor, sensuality and epicureanism.

Mr. Jefferson has been held up and characterized by his friends as "the quiet, modest retiring philosopher—as the plain, simple, unambitious republican. He shall not now, for the first time, be regarded as the intriguing incendiary—the aspiring turbulent competitor, unless facts shall warrant the suggestion: of these an enlightened public must judge.

What, if a quiet, modest, unambitious philosopher at a delicate crisis, withdrawing himself from a post of duty, from an alleged attachment to philosophical pursuits, and a strong antipathy to public honors, should immediately devote his hours of retirement to mature his schemes of concealed ambition, and at the appointed time, come forth the indigued candidate for the highest honors, and for the most arduous station to which ambition can aspire? Would not this trait alone sufficiently mark his character and his views? To some few of his fellow citizens, this may perhaps be the first time his real character has been discovered; but let them recollect that there is always "a first time," when characters ludicrous of artful disguises are unveiled, when the vizor of stoicism is plucked from the brow of the epicurean, when the plain garb of quaker simplicity is stripped from the concealed voluptuary, when Cesar, coyly refusing the proffered diadem, is found to be Cesar rejecting the trappings, "but tenaciously grasping the substance of imperial domination."

PHILADELPHIA,

WEDNESDAY EVENING, OCTOBER 19, 1796.

The brig Molly, Captain Medlin, arrived yesterday from the West-Indies, caught on fire last night, and considerable damage was done before the fire could be got under.

From the Aurora. In the City, though the republicans have not proved able to carry their several tickets, yet the popularity of John Swanwick, acquired by his firm opposition to the British treaty, has secured his re-election, notwithstanding the arts and industry employed against him, in this center of British influence and aristocratic corruption.

EXTRACT.

"In the old world, if the inhabitant of the north be compelled, by a decayed frame, to seek in southern climes, under a more genial sun, a shelter from the rude wintry blasts; or the debilitated native of the south require the bracing of the northern air; each must relinquish the government, laws, religion, and habits, to which he has been accustomed from his youth, and expose himself to all the embarrassments of an alien society and an unknown dialect: But here, the citizens, bordering on the St. Mary's or the St. Croix, on the Atlantic or the Ohio, may mutually interchange their homes, and seek the benefits of a more friendly climate; and each shall find, in every region, equal liberty and just laws, a fostering government, the same people, the same language, the same religion."

MILITIA MUSTER.

FRIDAY the 21st inst. being the day appointed for the 5th regiment of the Philadelphia Militia to muster, the Officers and Soldiers thereof are requested to parade accordingly on that day, with their arms and accoutrements, at the Centre Square, at 12 o'clock at noon:—should any of the regiment be in want of arms for the occasion, the commanding-officer will, on a timely application, procure a supply.

WILLIAM NICHOLS, Lt. Col. Philadelphia, October 17

THE First Troop of Horse, will parade at the Middle-Ferry, on Monday next, at two o'clock in the afternoon: the attendance of every gentleman is expected. Oct. 19.

ELECTION.

A true statement of the votes for a Senator for the city and county of Philadelphia, and county of Delaware.

Table with columns for City of Philadelphia, County ditto, County of Delaware, and candidates Newlin and Pearson with their respective vote counts.

576 majority for Newlin, instead of 127, as has been published.

RETURNS.

Table listing returns for Lancaster Borough and County, including Governor, Congress, Senator, and Assembly members with their names and vote counts.

The following gentlemen, then, appear to be duly elected.

Table listing elected officials: Governor (Thomas Mifflin), Congress (John W. Kittera), Senator (Matthias Barton), and Assembly members (Richard Keys, Jeremiah Brown, Abraham Carpenter, Thomas Boude, John Hopkins, Samuel Boyd).

BY THIS DAY'S MAILS.

BOSTON, October 14.

ATTACK ON HALIFAX.

An arrival on Wednesday last at Cape Ann, 6 days before full with a French fleet of 11 sail of the line and 6 frigates, from France, bound on an expedition against Halifax. They were then about to leagues west of that place, and detained the above vessel 6 hours, examining her very closely, during which time the captain had the fullest evidence of their being French, and of their force and destination. Halifax has been lately strengthened in its force, and has a trained militia and two or three regiments of regular troops (including a provincial.) Prince Edward commands there. The naval force, which will probably be at the place, must be inconsiderable. They have a well furnished magazine of naval and military stores, and a superb dock yard at the above place.

Capt. Atwood, from Shelburne, in 5 days learnt there of the landing of the French on Newfoundland—but heard nothing of any French fleet near Halifax. A rumour was circulating yesterday, that the French were repulsed at Newfoundland with great slaughter. Our best exertions could not trace this rumour to any authentic source.

It is said a gentleman from Nova-Scotia, informs, that admiral Murray's whole squadron, consisting of 13 ships, was at Halifax, last week. If so, it will enable the British to make a considerable defence against the French, who are supposed to have attacked the place: though the acquisition will be more important if it finally surrenders to the republicans.

NEW YORK, October 18.

The following are the claims by which the Spanish court justifies their invasion of Portugal.

- 1. Jure primitivæ donationis—By right of the first deed of gift from Alphonso, king of Arragon, who had furnished Henry, the bastard, of Lorraine, with an army to conquer Portugal, on condition of marrying his daughter.
2. Jure successivæ—As the right of succession is pretended (in the law language of Spain) thence to be indefeasible.
3. Jure posterioris donationis—By right of a second gift, when the cardinal Sebastian's brother re-delivered it to Philip II.—He and his son Philip III. thence held the crown of Portugal, till it was wrested from them by the revolution of Braganza.

Such is the state of Portugal, which, while we are writing, is, two probably, in the possession of the French and Spanish arms.

The unfortunate Louis XVIII. rejected and expelled from all the territories of his relations, has at last found an asylum at Bladenburgh, in the dominions of the duke of Brunswick, where he arrived on the 27th of August.

Thomas Macdonald, esq. counsellor at law, has been appointed one of the two commissioners to come to America, on the part of his Britannic majesty, pursuant to the late treaty with the United States.

By a message from the directory of France, it appears, that a standing army, in times of profound peace, must be maintained, to the amount of 170,000 men.—This force, and the expence, are arranged according to the following estimate:

Table showing military estimates in Men and Livres for various units: Infantry (100,000 men, 35,000,000 livres), Horse (40,000 men, 30,000,000 livres), Artillery and engineers (16,000 men, 20,000,000 livres), Gens d'armes (6,000 men, 6,000,000 livres), Veterans (5,000 men, 2,000,000 livres), Guards of the legislative body and the directory (2,000 men, 3,000,000 livres), Staff, commandants, and commissaries of war (1,000 men, 3,000,000 livres), Allowances (1,000,000 livres), Military police and instruction (1,000,000 livres), Total (170,000 men, 100,000,000 livres).

GAZETTE OF THE UNITED STATES MARINE LIST.

PHILADELPHIA, October 19.

ARRIVED.

Table listing arrived ships and their destinations: Ship John Hodman (prize to the French), Brig Amelia (Houfton), Molly, Medilia (Port-au-Prince 21), Polly, Monk (Havannah 32), Sally, Guyer (Congo 26), Liberty, De-ur (St. Kitts 14), Sch'r Hannan, Pippen (Jeremie 32), Hawk, Hunt (do. 33), Nancy, Davidfon (St. Croix 12), Sloop Hope, Foster (Miraguane 32), Sloop Roebuck, Shewell (do. 29).

CLEARED. Ship Roebuck, Shewell (Hamburg), James, Garret (Halifax and France).

The brig Polly, Nye, from Havana to Philadelphia, put into Norfolk in distress.

The schooner Betsey, Pendleton, from N. Orleans to this port put into Norfolk.

Capt. Wroth, from Port-au Prince fell in with the schooner Mary, capt. Nichols of New-York from Turk's Island, in distress, having carried away her fore-topmast, and had one man washed overboard in a gale. Captain Wroth took her in tow, and left her below Rheedey Island with a pilot on board the 16th inst.

New-York, October 18.

Arrivals at this port.

Table listing arrivals: Brig Queen, Balbee (Bristol), Sehr. Washington, Burrell (St. Bartholomews), Muntres, Watton (Rochfort), Sloop Hiram (Bay of Honduras), Extract from the log-book of the ship James, Capt. Conklin, in 28 days from London, and 19 days from land's end.

Sailed from the Downs the 10th September, in company with the following ships: Ship Sanson, Capt. Smith, bound for New-York; Superb, of Boston, bound for Lisbon; Rose, of New-York, for Charleston.

September 22.

In the channel, was brought to by the British frigate Bonne Citoyen, treated politely and suffered to pass.

September 25.

Spoke the ship Britannia, of Boston, bound to Brest, out six weeks, all well—in long. 19. W. and lat. 47.

October 9.

Spoke the schooner Rainbow, from Greenock, bound to Wiscasset, in long. 51, lat. 43, out 38 days, all well.

List of PRIZES and BLANKS in the Washington Lottery No. 2.

Table showing lottery prizes and blanks for the 8th and 19th days of drawing in October 18.

19th Day's Drawing—Monday, October 18.

Table showing lottery prizes and blanks for the 19th day of drawing in October 18.

Error in the 26th days drawing—Instead of 18277 read 18877 20 dollars. In the 27th days drawing—Instead of 7049 read 7149; and instead of 24283 read 25283, both blanks.

THE PANTHEON.

And RICKETS'S AMPHITHEATRE, For Equestrian and Stage performances, Corner of Chestnut and Sixth-streets.

THIS EVENING, Wednesday, October 19, Will be presented, A variety of pleasing Entertainments.

Equestrian Exercises—by Mr. Ricketts, Mr. F. Ricketts, Master Hutchins, and Mrs. Spinacuta. Clowns to the horse-manship—Mr. Sully. After which will be presented, A COMIC BALLET DANCE, Composed by Mr. Durang, called

The Country Frolic;

Or, The Merry Haymakers.

Table listing performers for The Country Frolic: William (Mr. Durang), Rustic (Mr. Sully), Father Frank (Mr. Tompkins), Old Man (Mr. Coffin), Rufina (Mrs. Tompkins), Dorcas (Miss Robinson), and And Phoebe (Mrs. Durang).

EQUESTRIAN EXERCISES.

By Mr. Ricketts and Mr. F. Ricketts, on three Horses, who will carry Master Hutchins and Master Snider on their shoulders, as Flying Mercuries.

And, for this night only, The whole to conclude with a Comic Pantomime, called

VULCAN'S GIFT;

Or, The Bower of Hymen.

Table listing performers for Vulcan's Gift: Harlequin (Mr. Sully), Pantaloon (Mr. Durang), Sportman Lover (Mr. Tompkins), Gamekeeper (Mr. Coffin), Pierrot (Mrs. Spinacuta), Fille de Chambre (Miss Robinson), and Columbine (Mrs. Spinacuta). Vulean, (with a Song) Mr. Sully. Cyclopes, Servants, Cootables, Goalier, &c. by the rest of the Company.