

The Gazette.

PHILADELPHIA,

TUESDAY EVENING, April 3.

Philadelphia, March 30th 1798.

LETTER II.

TO THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE UNITED STATES.

GENTLEMEN,

When the legislature of a great and free people convened at an important and threatening crisis we naturally expect from it some uncommon protection to their rights and liberties.

If we are deceived, and instead of great exertions for security, a shameful neglect of even ordinary means takes place; we are led to enquire the cause of such desertion of duty; and the mind is uneasy if it cannot assign a proportionate apology.

Perhaps it may be thought too bold if I publicly declare my opinion; but as I am sincere I scorn to suppress the inclination. It is the first privilege in a free government to speak your mind; it is a privilege I glory in and which I shall now exert; truth under whatever signature loses none of its force it carries conviction to kings and peasan.

I conceal not my name from fear of punishment; for I mean not to violate any one law of my country; I respect and revere them and it is for their preservation I write. Why I do not disclose myself is to avoid personalities which would unavoidably happen and thus divert the attention from the main object of these letters.

The aid which the French government gave to America in her contest with England was repaid on our part (and justly too) with esteem and gratitude; from that period there has subsisted a mutual attachment; and the revolution which has just been effected there, joined to the brilliant success that has constantly attended their arms; has heightened this attachment (in the breasts of a large portion of our citizens) to the most extravagant enthusiasm.

This growing affection was observed by the French republic with peculiar satisfaction—they were too cunning not to take advantage of it. Dazzled by the splendor of their victories and the novelty of the scene, which a sudden change from one extreme to another must produce—a change by which the absolute government of twenty-four millions of people is wrested from one man and divided amongst themselves; they yielded up the control of the passions and indulged in all the excesses of vice and folly—for their follies an apology from the impartial and thinking man can soon be obtained.

Human nature is not endowed with fortitude sufficient to withstand to great a torrent of prosperity, it tumbles giddy and almost incapacitates us for thinking. But for vices such as theirs no excuse can be framed, they must proceed not from an over heated imagination that magnifies an error into a crime, but from villainy deep rooted in the heart; for they stop not after the first impulse of zeal in the new cause had subsided; but continued to wade deeper and deeper in human blood and lay one another in a cool and deliberate manner.

Thus, skilled in the blackest crimes and heated with an insatiable ambition, it is no wonder that she is not satisfied with the conquest of near half of Europe, but that the subjection of America must decorate her pompous list.

To obtain this desirable end she has pursued the same method in this country as in every other—she wanted to subdue; she has sent her emissaries abroad to bribe those base but influential characters who, discontented with their present situation and of restless tempers would sacrifice the dearest interests of their native country to their own ambitious views. By her gold and her infamous suggestions of future rewards she has been too successful in fanning dissensions among the people, dividing them from their government, in short, in subverting their constitutions and substituting in the room a mean and servile dependence on a foreign power. This game is now playing here, and I blush to own, with too much success. It has even penetrated the walls of your assembly, where a large junto of servile Jacobins furiously oppose every measure of the executive, are striving to subvert the constitution and destroy the confidence which the people have reposed in the constituted authorities.

This is evident from the whole tenor of their conduct, uniform in every thing hostile to the true and acknowledged interest of their country—this is the cause of your distracted councils—this is the source from which has sprung our present unprepared, defenceless condition.

But thanks to Heaven there is a majority of enlightened, real patriots in congress who refuse to maintain inviolate our liberty and independence and who will risk both life and fortune in the noble cause.

On you the people of America lean, as their prop, their pillar in the hour of danger—to you they look up for protection—O! guard their rights! defend their dignity!—hassle the villainous conspiracies of your prostituted colleagues.

The smiles of an approving conscience will be your reward—the hearts of a generous people will ever flow with gratitude, and your names will stand recorded in the annals of history “the firm defenders of the people’s rights.”

EUGENIUS.

From the AMERICAN DAILY ADVERTISER.

Messrs. CLAYPOOLE, The following very interesting letter from Mr. Webster, of New-York, to his friend in this city, is sent to you for publication, by consent of the author. It contains information upon the origin and nature of malignant fevers, that is worthy of the notice of every legislator and merchant in the United States. Mr. Webster’s discoveries upon this subject are entitled to the more respect, as they are the result of investigations unfettered by previous theories in medicine.—He writes as a philosopher, and his sole objects appear to be the health and lives of his fellow citizens, and the prosperity of his country.

New-York, March 20, 1798. SINCE issuing proposals for publishing my Enquiry into the Origin of Epidemic Diseases, I find many people have the impression that this work is to be a revision and enlargement of the Letters which I published last Autumn on the subject of the Yellow Fever. It is necessary to remove this impression from the public mind. The work proposed is altogether new; tho’ a few of the facts and conclusions stated in my printed letters will be wrought into the intended volume.

The question to be decided, is not simply what are the origin and phenomena of the disease which has alarmed and scourged our cities; but what is the reason why malignant or pestilential diseases prevail at some times more than at others? If the cause is imported infection, why is infection imported into all parts of America in one season, or in one period of four or five years, and then for a long series of years, is not imported at all? Are malignant epidemics confined to particular places or countries; or are they prevalent in many or most parts of the world at the same time? If so, and we find that they spring up in different parts of the world at the same time, communication by infection cannot be the principal cause, and we must resort to other principles.

I hinted at this circumstance in my printed letters, but was not then prepared to discuss the subject. I have however ascertained the fact, that epidemic diseases usually appear in many or most parts of the civilized world at the same time, and not only on land, but on the ocean, and on the opposite side of the globe.—It is equally ascertained, as I suspected from my own observation, that violent and destructive epidemics are always preceded by diseases of a less malignant type, and nearly in the order in which they have prevailed in the United States, viz. Catarrh, anginas, bilious remittents of increased malignity or peritonal fevers, yellow fever, or plague. This progress or something similar is observable of all the great pestilences that have ravaged the world. The facts to prove this principle in epidemics, and the order of them, will be so clearly ascertained, as to render it impossible not to foresee the approach of a pestilential period.

From this fact will be deduced most satisfactory explanations of some points which now occasion controversy among medical men. It is also demonstrated beyond all controversy or doubt, and I possess full evidence of the fact, that when any great pestilence is laying waste those countries most obnoxious to it, as Cairo or Constantinople, the mortality is augmented in all parts of Europe.—But this is not all; the influence of the pestilential state of the atmosphere, which, in Grand Cairo, produces plague, produces in America some malignant disease which swells our bills of mortality.

I do not speak of slight plagues which prevail in the Levant cities almost yearly, from the operation of powerful local causes; but of those great and general plagues which in the course of every period of twenty or thirty years, carry off thousands in a day in Cairo and Constantinople, and often extend to more healthful cities. So uniform is this phenomenon, that give me correct bills of mortality for the principal cities in Europe and America, and I can tell when a destructive plague has ravaged the Levant, without one particle of other intelligence of the fact.—The same dreadful plague in Egypt in 1736, which carried off several thousands in a day in Grand Cairo, was cotemporary with that destructive fever that in America, which our old people still mention with horror.—The yellow fever of 1741 in Philadelphia, and of 1743 in New-York, correspond in time with another general pestilence which ravaged the Levant cities.

The same was the case with the yellow fever of 1761, or 2 in Philadelphia, which was during the great plague of which Russia has given so particular an account. At the same time the bills of mortality in London were swelled from the usual number of about 20,000 to 25,000, and in 1740, to 30,000. The last epidemic under which we are yet suffering, and which I am afraid is not yet at an end, the evidently lighter than many that have happened within two centuries, has been felt in the West-Indies, South America, on the African coast, and our unhappy countrymen, who have been prisoners in Algiers, can witness for me that its effects have been fatally experienced in that country.

Why these great and interesting phenomena have been nearly overlooked and disregarded, while rulers of nations have been busy in combating the importation of pestilence in bags of cotton and old rags, is to me astonishing.—But it is often the destiny of man to overlook the most obvious things.

The primary causes of general pestilence, it may be difficult to ascertain; but I have no hesitation in saying, that it must be an alteration in the chemical properties of air. It is clearly demonstrated by evidence in my possession, that changes of seasons are not adequate causes; for the worst plagues have broken out in high northern latitudes, in the midst of winter.

The seasons have material influence on the general state of health; and local causes have still more influence on ordinary annual diseases. But it will be made clear that some more powerful cause is always combined with these subordinate ones, in producing the more general and malignant epidemics. What this cause is I will not undertake to decide. The question has hitherto baffled enquiry; but there are hopes that some light will be thrown on this part of the subject.

This enquiry is extremely interesting to the happiness and prosperity of our country; and I hope to find a subscription that will indemnify me for the labor and expense I must incur in prosecuting it.

NEW-YORK, March 27.

The author of the residence in France, now publishing by a Mr. Davis, and who is said to be a lady, has a very happy talent at describing the scenes that took place in France, as well as the characters of the actors. The following description of the different characters of the French and English is extremely just and exact.

“The conduct of Fouquier Tinville, has led me to some reflections on a subject which I know the French consider as matter of triumph, and as a peculiar advantage their national character enjoys over the English—I mean that smoothness of manner, and guardedness of expression which they call “amiable,” and which they have the faculty of attaining and preserving distinct from a correspondent temper of the mind. It accompanies them through the most irritating vicissitudes, and enables them to deceive even without deceit, for though this suavity is habitual, of course frequently undesigning, the stranger is nevertheless thrown off his guard by it, and tempted to place confidence, or exact services, which a less conciliating deportment would not have suggested. A Frenchman may be an unkind husband, a fever patient, or an arrogant master, yet never contract his features or aspire his voice, and for this reason is, in the national sense, “un homme bien doux.”—His heart may become corrupt, his principles immoral, and his temper ferocious; yet he shall retain his equability of tone and complacent phraseology, and be “un homme bien amiable.”

The revolution has tended much to develop this peculiarity of the French character. Fouquier Tinville was a man of gentle exterior. Couthan, the execrable associate of Robespierre, was mildness itself.—Robespierre’s harangues are in a style of distinguished sensibility, and even Carrier, the destroyer of 30,000 inhabitants of Nantz, is attested by his fellow students, to have been of an amiable disposition. I know a man of most insinuating address, who has been the means of conducting his own brother to the guillotine. The philopoc Condorcet pursued his patron, the Duc de la Rochefoucault, with malignancy, and Collet d’Herbois dispatched at one discharge of cannon three hundred people together, to “spare his sensibility,” the talk of execution in detail.

Without deciding whether the English are more gentle in nature than the French, I am persuaded this *donneur* of the French is no proof of the contrary. An Englishman is seldom out of humor, without proclaiming it to the world; and the most forcible motives of interest or expediency, cannot always prevail on him to assume a more engaging exterior than that which delineates his feelings. If he has a matter to refuse, he usually begins by fortifying himself with a little ruggedness of manner, by way of prefacing a denial. “The hows and whens of life” corrugate his features and disharmonize his periods, “contradiction fairs and passion ruffles him.”

It is this difference of character which has a prodigious influence over the political fates of the two nations. If an Englishman has designs upon you, his manners tell of the plot—and the stratagem carries with it its own defeat. If he means to do you a favor he does it with such an ill grace, that it is a chance you do not thank him for it. If a Frenchman has a plan to effect, it is all the same in his manner, whether to do you a favor or to plunder you—the same civility of manners, the same ease of deportment and fascinating smile, introduce the proposed scheme; and even after he is detected in a villainous trick, you are so pleased with his address; as to almost forgive him.”

LONDON, Nov. 20.

There is no nation that equals the British for strength of character—no nation so capable to contend with adversity. The presumption of France, in imagining that it rivals Rome, is only to be surpassed by the falsehoods of the supposition. The French possess a degree of enthusiasm, that has a splendid outside, but falls very short of that equanimity which characterized the Romans. The proof of genuine courage, is the fortitude with which it sustains a reverse of fortune. It is that unshaken constancy which animated that great people, at a time when Hannibal besieged their very gates, that taught them even in that extremity, to despise the conqueror, and absolutely to sell the ground on which he had encamped his army. Fear was a stranger to their souls.—Are the French such a nation? Let but a battle or a stratagem fail, and where is this Roman resolution? Have they not fled like hunted stags, before armies of Germans, inferior, both in numbers and discipline?

Again, the Romans were a magnanimous and a generous people. Do the French resemble them in this? On the contrary, are not all their victories tarnished with wanton and deliberate cruelty. Of this, both the Rhine and Italy supply abundant examples. Victorious only by dint of numbers, they are cruel by inclination. Their piratical depredations on the seas, and the cowardice they display in every engagement, are incontrovertible proofs that their pretended valor is that of barbarians, who trull in multitudes to crush and overwhelm discipline.

What the Frenchmen are not, the British are—a manly, persevering courage, equally undimmed by adversity, and unextinguished by success, is their constant disposition. It is this temper of our islanders that makes us so terrible to our Gallician neighbors, who, vast as their territory is,

and numberless as their armies appear to be, are yet incapable of approaching our coast. Nor will they dare to annoy us, though an hundred directors instead of five should prompt them to the enterprise. While the lion lives, though wounded, and a prisoner in his den, he is still the lord of the forest; and though the wolves may howl round his cave, the ruddy bear still keeps them at bay by his well known reputation: a *courage* unfaded by accident, and expiring only with life.

PICTURE OF PARIS

(FROM A FRENCH JOURNAL.) If you are fond of dancing, you may have abundance of it. In every quarter you will find a place, where you may enjoy this active amusement. Are you an admirer of plays? Paris offers you at least thirty Theatres. They are no longer, it is true the fine pieces of RACINE or VOLTAIRE; but you may see plenty of new pieces, which are forgotten the next day. Are you given to play? You will find in Paris abundance of gaming tables, and players, who will cheat you at them. Are you tempted to the enjoyment of the fox? Paris swarms with fair seal-ones; there are at least twenty for one when CHADWICK professed at once the holy and the profane; and attacked at the same time the Saints of the Church, and the Venues of the public places.—If you are attached to religious solemnities, you will find some of all kinds.—Catholics who offer up their prayers to the Deity with the sound of musical instruments; Lutherans who calmly listen to the lessons from the Bible and the Gospel; the Philanthropists, who flourish in language, and sing as if they were at the Opera.—If you like to frequent reading-rooms and academies, Paris has more than formerly flourished in Athens.—Are you fond of reading? We no longer, indeed, make books, but we translate abundantly. Scarcely does a dark, gloomy, horrible romance issue from the Press in London, before twenty drudges set to work to cloth it in a forty French dress.—Are you fond of music? There is the harmonic Circle, and I don’t know how many concerts every week.—Do you respect good sense, wit, and understanding? You will find them with difficulty; but if you search diligently, you may find them.—Do you cherish virtue, candour, frankness? Where you will discover there, I know not.

BOSTON, March 23.

COMMUNICATION. According to Roxbury logic, while there is the possibility of one person’s abusing the means of protection if put into his hands for his security on the high way or seas, every one should be exposed to robbery, insult and perhaps murder. We have never defiled the commerce of France, and yet we find her equipping and arming vessels for offensive operations against our trade and our rights. She is not afraid of incurring hostilities with us, but as a magnanimous great Republic, she should behave just from principle not from fear.—Well then, perhaps they do not think their conduct unjust—if not—our arming on the defensive to protect our property, would not only be justifiable but commendable. It is our right and duty. Then let it be done; and let us trust to the Omnipotent Being who knows our motives, to protect us in any possible consequences. If excesses are committed, the government not authorizing such, can say, as the friends of the French said by them, as long as there remained a chance of their being believed, that the government knew nothing of the atrocities committed by wicked and intemperate individuals. This was thought a fine extenuating argument. If necessary it may be repeated for our government, and those who have long used it, ought to be the first to accredit it, especially, as it would be unequivocally true.

On Tuesday, the 10th day of April next, at 7 o’clock in the evening, at the City Tavern, Second Street, in the City of Philadelphia,

WILL be exposed to public sale, fourteen tracts or parcels of land situated in Point township in the county of Northumberland, and containing in the whole six thousand seven hundred and sixty-four acres and three quarters, with the usual allowance for roads.

Terms of sale, $\frac{1}{3}$ of the purchase money on the execution of the deed, $\frac{1}{3}$ in three months, and $\frac{1}{3}$ in six months, in good notes or other approved security.

CONNELLY & Co. Auctioneers.

March 9.

Valuable Stands for Business.

FOR SALE—by the Subscriber,

Two Lots of Ground,

Situate on the fourth side of Chestnut-Street, between Second and Third Streets:—one containing eighteen feet, and the other fifteen feet more or less, on the said Street, and both extending the same breadth, one hundred and forty eight, more or less, to Carter’s alley.

There are, on Chestnut-Street, two two-story BRICK HOUSES (Numbers 80 and 82.)

Which may readily be made into one; and, on Carter’s alley, there is a convenient, well built three-story Brick House and Kitchen,

Almost new, which has two rooms on a floor and a front of eighteen feet on 23d alley.

This property is clear of ground-rent, and an indisputable title will be given to the purchaser.

The three Houses will be sold separately or together. Further particulars may be known on application to ZACHARIAH POULSON, Junr. No. 23, Chestnut-Street, or at the Library, march 23. 1798.

A Negro Boy for sale.

C O N G R E S S .

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

CALL UPON THE PRESIDENT.

FRIDAY, March 30.

(Concluded from yesterday’s Gazette.) Mr. LIVINGSTON said, there appeared to be two objections to going into a committee of the whole on the state of the union; some think the proposition before it is of too trifling a nature to consume time; others, that it is of too great magnitude, that they wish to gain farther information, and to have time to consider it.

The first class of gentlemen, he thought, treated a subject, confessedly of great importance, with too much levity—Gentlemen say you do us wrong, when you place the question before the committee in the light of a Peace or War question; we have no idea of going to war. This was the language of the gentleman from New-Hampshire (Mr. GORDON) particularly. Had that gentleman forgotten what had been said by his eloquent friend from Massachusetts (Mr. SEW-ALL) who sits beside him? That gentleman had declared, not that war might be expected, but that *war exists*! Was it unreasonable, after such a declaration, to come to a resolution which says that it is not expedient to resort to war at this time? He thought the welfare of the country required it. But the gentleman from Massachusetts did not stop here. Though, he said, a defective war was all he wished for, under our present circumstances, yet he invoked the Supreme Being, and wished we were in a situation to carry on an offensive war. Yes, exclaimed Mr. L. the God of Peace was invoked in favour of War; the God of Mercy was called upon to favour a war of vengeance! And yet gentlemen wish to throw an odium upon the few who come forward with a proposition for peace.

Mr. L. said, he wished as much as any member for further information before the house proceeded in active measures; but he was far from being certain that complete information could be obtained; he believed great opposition would be made to the call; in the next place, if called for, he believed the information would not be sent, he supposed this from a former refusal made on the ground of Executive authority. He deprecated the decision; but he believed, as precedent would authorize it, it would be made.

Mr. RUTLEDGE thought gentlemen went much too far on this occasion, in anticipating, not only what would be the proceedings of this house, but also of the President. He rose immediately after the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. Baldwin). That gentleman’s arguments went again a postponement generally, but not against a postponement till Monday. That gentleman was surprised that gentlemen should wish for a postponement; he was one of those who excited his surprize. He was in favour of the postponement of this question, because the last had been postponed. He thought the motion for a call of papers ought to have been passed; but not having passed, he wished it to pass before the house went into committee on the proposition which had undergone some discussion, especially as he did not believe the delay would postpone the final decision upon it. If gentlemen would agree to pass over the first proposition, and go on to the next, which relates to measures for the defence of the country, he should be as ready as them to go into a committee of the whole on the state of the Union. He doubted not the gentleman from Virginia was anxious to deliver the speech which had been promised to the committee [Mr. Nicholas informed the gentleman he would hear no speech from him to-day]. Mr. R. hoped, then, he would not object to the postponement. The gentleman from Pennsylvania, said he wanted no information. Nor did he himself want it. He had received a letter from France, which convinced him of the perilous situation in which we stood with that country; he had seen the French decree; and he had seen a gazette which had informed him that the message of the Directory was passed unanimously by the Council of Five Hundred; but he supposed some other gentlemen had not sufficient information, or else it would not have been called for; and surely gentlemen would not call such to vote upon what they deemed to be a question of war or peace, without it.

Gentlemen had said, that the message of the President had produced a belief that we shall be involved in war, and that produce had fallen accordingly. He did not believe the fall was owing to the message, but that it was the effect of the decree; and asked whether the President would not have been criminal, if he had suffered the dispatches to have slept a night upon his table? He certainly would, the communication was indispensable.

Mr. SEWELL was sorry to differ in opinion from his friend from S. Carolina. He was himself against the postponement. This difference, he supposed, arose from that gentleman’s yielding to the assertion of gentlemen, that the question before the committee of the whole is a question of war or peace, which he himself did not. He never considered the question in that light. It comes in as a bar to any measures being taken for the defence of our country, or from getting into business, which really concerns the state of the union; what were the motives of gentlemen for bringing it thus in, he could not tell. The readiness of gentlemen to come to a decision upon the question without farther information, proves that they do not consider it as a question of war or peace. It cannot be doubted, that if the legislature was called upon to declare war against any nation, they would have a right to expect that every fact relative to that nation should be laid before them.

The gentleman from New York, Mr. S. said, had thought fit to allude to him as appealing to the God of Mercy to support us in a vindictive war. Punishment, Mr. S. said, was sometimes the truest mercy; and if the United States could inflict punishment on France, it might be mercy to that country. And could any American citizen consider the sufferings which the French Republic had brought upon our merchants, our seamen, and upon our country generally, without calling upon the God of Mercy to enable us to inflict punishment upon that country? When gentlemen say (and none seem to deny it) that France has given this country just cause of war, will they not say France has given us just cause of vengeance? And is there, said he a patriot in this House, who acknowledges France has given us just cause of war, and who does not wish to inflict that war upon that country in the severest and fullest man-

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Part 1