

The Gazette.

PHILADELPHIA, THURSDAY EVENING, JANUARY 30.

Influ et tenacem propositi virum, Non civium ardor prava jubentium, Non vultus infantis tyranni, Mente quatit solida.

For the GAZETTE of the UNITED STATES.

COMMUNICATION.

To Doctor Priestley.

IT is with respectful attention, Sir, that the Grecians are represented as listening to the aged Nestor. In his garb, dignified by acknowledged services, the voice of wisdom is recognized as speaking by a paternal veteran, attached to the country of his progenitors, experienced in the affairs of war and of state, and solicitous for the honor of those whose councils he wished to influence.

Can the partiality of personal friendship discover the character of Nestor in the garb of Doctor Priestley when speaking of American affairs?

It is, Sir, the misfortune of those who are covetous of fame, to mistake the nature and extent of their own powers. Had Doctor Priestley confined his publications to the detail of his philosophical experiments, he might have been honored, not, I presume, as the first of men, but as a scholar whose industry had made respectable additions to the general stock of human knowledge.

Was it then wise, to hazard your character by affecting the distinction of a theological, and political heresiarch?

With relation to theology, are you not disesteemed both by revelationists and anti-revelationists? Is not the name of Priestley bandied between them, like a shuttlecock, which both parties would equally drive from their own side? To prove how unacceptable you are to revelationists, what more is necessary than the fact of your exclusion from the desks of the American clergy? To fit up your mind by way of remembering the repulsive spirit in which you are sported with by anti-revelationists, let it suffice to mention your pamphleteering squabble with Volney!

For achievements in the field of political warfare, you appear to deem yourself worthy of civil laurels. If egotism would support such pretensions, perhaps you might aspire to rival your friend in England so well known by the name of counsellor Ego. But has it never occurred to you, that Americans might possibly hesitate to believe in your political preaching, notwithstanding your numerous asseverations in praise of yourself?

Doctor Priestley! When you arrived in America men of science in this country were disposed to respect you for attainments in natural philosophy. The waste of character, in a person who once had claims to esteem, is a species of prodigality which sensible minds will not witness without regret. Wherefore, then, should you thus act the prodigal?

Do you imagine yourself a profound statesman? And do you therefore imagine it your duty to publish your thoughts on American affairs?

Although this vision of self-admiration may be your mentis gratissimus error, let your charity pardon the person who deems it for your health that you should be freed from the delusion! Permit me, therefore, to say, with the sincerity of conviction, that no duty requires you to publish your thoughts on the political affairs of America; for indeed, Doctor, if you manifest great talents for any thing, you do not manifest great talents for politics. With respect to America, be assured, that you do not understand the subject!

Admit my candor, Sir, when it is to this cause principally that I ascribe the political heresies contained in your recent Letters to the inhabitants of Northumberland and its vicinity. If the REV. REVD. JOSEPH PRIESTLEY, L. L. D. F. R. S. A. C. I. N. P. PETROP. R. PARIS. HOLM. TAURIN. ITAL. HARLEM. AUREL. MED. PARIS. CANTAB. AMERIC. ET. PHILAD. SOC. had known better than he has written, is not charitable to suppose, that his titular reverence would have written better? To ascribe your heretical doctrines to the perverseness of the heart without any allowance for the defects of the head, might be condemned by yourself as illiberal.

On your propensities for altering the constitution of the United States, and on your objections relative to their course of policy, it is needless at present to make particular comment. Those crudities are so many proofs of your deficiency in political wisdom; and while they prove this, they also prove the abundance of imported vanity which stimulates your spirit of multifarious authorship.

The letters in question, Doctor Priestley, are exceptionable not merely in the matter. The manner of them degrades you from that elevation of character which should be studiously guarded by a person so pledged, by the multitude of literary titles, to sustain the dignity of science. You let yourself down too near to the level of a demagogical instrument of party. You have too much, for a very little is too much, of a vague cant resembling the artifice of jacobinical illiberality. You talk about democrats and democracy as if demagogical whining became the character of a republican scholar.

Is it for this sort of thing that men of science have done honor to your name?

That you make no inconsiderable pretensions to classical literature, will not, I presume, be denied by yourself. May it not then fairly be inquired, Sir, whether you have read the works of the philosopher of Stagira, especially what he has written on politics? Have you also read the works of Cicero, not merely his orations, but his other works such as offices, dream of Scipio, Tusculan questions, and rhetorical and philosophical disquisitions? If you have read them

in the original Greek and Latin, and are master of the languages so as to apprehend the force of terms with classical accuracy, you must be sensible, Doctor Priestley, that democrat and republican are not synonymous terms. The character of a person as a man of erudition and a man of candor, could not be easily reconciled with confounding these terms in a series of political letters nominally addressed to neighbors but obviously intended for general circulation. Then, Sir, admit the distinction between them, whenever you write again, or take your choice for passing, with men of real knowledge, as uncanonid or as ignorant!

But perhaps what has now been said may be thought by you to have less claim to regard than what has been said by a professed advocate for the French revolution. Allow me, therefore, to submit, to your careful attention and practical improvement, some observations made by a person in England, who wrote in the time of the French National Assembly, and who appears to have exceeded yourself in admiring the French revolution and in condemning Mr. Burke's reflections on that subject. "Stanhope may rummage conventicles for fairs to haul an approaching millennium on the principles of the English revolution! When Priestley, with the zeal and verbiage of a Baxter, and Price, with the meek and holy ambition of Praise-God Barebones, may trample on the Lands, the Bonnets, the Horseleys, and the Barringtons of the time. Even Brand Hollis, emancipated from the just punishment of detected bribery, may gratulate the immaculate purity of future Parliaments! These are the artifices of self-interested empirics; who, like the fly in the fable, place themselves on the wheel of human events, and buzz to the ideots around them, that they influence and regulate its rotations."

FONTAINE.

The name of captain Williamson's ship, which lately engaged a French privateer, is the Washington, and not the Perseverance.

On Thursday last the Senate of this State elected Samuel Mickle Fox, Kearney Wharton, and Charles Jolly, Esquires, Directors of the Bank of Pennsylvania.

Our rosy-gilled Gov. tells us that it has been the constant aim of his life to live well. The mention of this obvious fact, was surely a work of supererogation.

It is needless for a man to tell us he has studied to live well, who has contrived to be supported, all his life, at the public charge.

The desire in the breast of our Great Mogul to live well, need not have been spoken of as a past passion. The same rabies is obviously still extant. Hence the ardor with which he so lately aspired after a lucrative office.

Mr. Fisher, one of the spirited and active Representatives in the State Assembly, from the city, has, we learn, moved for an examination of the accounts of A. J. Dallas, late paymaster of the forces.

After sitting nearly two months, the Barratarian Assembly have passed one private act. The Talgols, Sidrophels and Whackums, who crowd this once respectable Body, appear to deem themselves in the execution of their highest office, when babbling with Revolutionary praises, the Democratic defects of citizen M'Kean.

As the eulogists of Judge M'Kean seem to have nearly exhausted their whole store of adulation, I would recommend to them to resort to some well-approved models of former days;—The addresses of the sovereign citizens of Rome to Augustus, for instance.

"Cum magnis vixisse" was the boast of the divine Horace. Some of our democratic grandees may say the same: but in what capacity was it they lived with the great?

The uniformly liberal disposition manifested by the merchants of Baltimore, during the commercial embarrassments of that place, towards their brethren in distress, reflects everlasting honor upon the city, and upon the mercantile character: for though it will be admitted to be the truest policy in the creditor to exercise lenity towards the debtor and to afford him a chance to retrieve his affairs by allowing time, it is nevertheless rare to find a large body of men influenced by generous considerations, where individual interest is immediately concerned; on the contrary, a scramble often takes place, each creditor hoping to secure for himself the largest share.

The democrats of this country, should they find Buonaparte established in power, will shout his triumph and applaud his aims. As tenderly as they loved King Robespierre, so tenderly will they love King Buonaparte. And why should they feel attachment to the interests and successes of these King-citizens? Because they have succeeded in the same design, in which our citizen friends have for ten long years incessantly been engaged.

A private letter from Charleston, dated the 13th of January inst, written by a near connexion of Governor Rutledge's to a gentleman in the Senate of the United States, makes no mention of the death of the Governor; so that there is good ground to believe that the report of that melancholy event's having taken place on the 11th of January, as heretofore published in the New York papers, was totally unfounded.

PRICES OF STOCKS.

Table with 2 columns: Stock Name and Price. Includes Philadelphia, December 28, Six per Cent. 16, Three per Cent. 9 1/2, Deferred 6 per Cent. 15 1/2, 8 per Cent Stock—2 per Cent. advance, BANK United States, 24, Pennsylvania, 20, North America, 20, Insurance comp N.A. Shares 5, Pennsylvania, shares, 22, East-India Company of N. A. par, Land Warrants, 32 dolls. per 100 acres.

CONGRESS.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 29.

Mr. Nicholas said, however painful it was to him to make the motion, he felt himself compelled to do it, in order to have a free circulation of air, and therefore moved, that after this day, no stranger should be admitted within that part of the House where they were now introduced by a member.

No objection appearing to the motion, Mr. Speaker said he would give directions to have it carried into execution.

Mr. G. if would, from the committee of revival and unfinished business, reported the following resolution, which was adopted by the House, viz.

Resolved, That a committee be appointed to prepare and report a bill to continue in force the act intitled "An Act providing for the means of intercourse between the United States and foreign nations."

The committee who reported the resolution were ordered to prepare the bill.

Mr. G. from the same committee, reported a bill declaring the assent of Congress, to certain acts of the state of Maryland and Georgia, which was read a first and second time, and committed to a committee of the whole House on Monday next.

The House then proceeded to the consideration of the resolutions reported by the select committee to whom were referred the message of the President of the 14th inst. and a letter of Mr. Randolph.

The first resolution was agreed to without debate, in the following words:

"Resolved, That the House entertain a respectful sense of the regard which the President of the United States has shown to its rights and privileges in his message of the 14th inst. accompanied by a letter addressed to him by John Randolph, jun. a member of this House."

The second resolution reported by the committee was read as follows:

"Resolved, That in respect to the charge alleged by John Randolph, jun. a member of the House in his letter addressed to the President of the United States, on the 11th inst. and by him submitted to the consideration of the House, that a sufficient cause does not appear for the interposition of this House, on the ground of a breach of its privileges."

Mr. Nicholson moved to strike out the word "not" in the 7th line, for the purpose of adding the following words to the resolution—"but the House considering the conduct of capt. M'Knight and lieut. Reynolds, as an indiscretion of youth, are unwilling to exercise their constitutional right of privilege, under a hope that instances of similar misconduct will not occur in future."

Mr. Speaker said, the motion was not in order, as it amounted to a complete substitute of the resolution reported by the committee.

Mr. Nicholas appealed to the House—and upon the question, there were 67 members in favour of the decision of the Speaker.

Mr. Harper said, altho' he believed the resolution reported by the committee ought not to be rejected—yet he did not think it went far enough. He was clearly of opinion that the conduct of these officers, was indelicate and improper,—and such as might have led to disgraceful consequences, and to a breach of the privileges of this House. As that, however, had not been the case, and altho' he believed there was no premeditated design to insult Mr. Randolph, yet it arose from what had fell from that gentleman upon this floor, and therefore merited censure, which he intended to convey in an amendment to the resolution which he was about to propose, and hoped it would operate as a warning to others, to avoid similar conduct in future.

Mr. H. then moved to insert after the word "that," in the 6th line of the resolution, the following words—"altho' the conduct of capt. M'Knight and lieut. Reynolds was indelicate and improper, yet," &c.

This amendment was strongly opposed, on the ground that the House had no right to pass a censure on any person when the crime committed did not extend to a breach of its privileges—and that those agreeing to it might influence the decision of the Court Martial by which the officers were to be tried—and on the other hand it was contended the House had the right of giving their opinion on any subject—they were bound to particular cases on which they were to legislate, but an opinion upon any subject, could be given by them at any time—with respect to the influence it might have upon the President, or a court martial, it was a consideration which should have no weight here; as, if one wanted for the decision of the other, least it might have an influence, there would be no decision at all—and the greatest crimes would escape unpunished.

Mr. Dana suggested the adding of the words "further" after that of the word "the" in the 7th line, so as to read the further interposition, &c. which was agreed to.

Mr. Randolph said, that as the committee to whom this business had been referred, had been to examine the accounts, and neglected to propound questions to Mr. Nicholson and others, witnesses, and their words had been misquated and perverted, he wished to know from the chairman whether it would be in order to propound questions to those gentlemen at the bar of the House.

Mr. Speaker said it would not.

Mr. Nicholas then moved that the report be recommitted for the purpose of obtaining further testimony—which was also declared not to be in order.

Messrs. H. Lee, Edmond and Dana opposed this amendment—when the question was taken upon it, and lost. Yeas 42—Nays 56.

The question was then taken upon Mr. Harper's amendment, and carried. Yeas 61—Nays 39.

And upon the question will the House agree to the second resolution reported by the Committee as amended, it passed in the negative. Yeas 49—Nays 51.

Mr. Nicholson then moved the following resolution, to wit.

Resolved, That this House do highly disapprove the conduct of Capt. M'Knight and Lieutenant Reynolds, towards John Randolph, Junr. a Member of this House, on the evening of Friday the 10th inst. but considering it as an indiscretion of youth are unwilling to exercise their constitutional right of privilege, under a hope that similar instances of misconduct will not occur in future.

Mr. Speaker said, that as this motion embraced no new proposition, and as all the substantive parts had been already decided upon, it could not be in order.

Mr. Nicholas observed, that however unfortunate he might have been he would again appeal from the decision of the Chair to the House—and called the yeas and nays upon it.

After a few observations as to the point of order, the question "Will the House concur in the decision of the Speaker," was put and carried in the affirmative. Yeas 55—Nays 40.—Adjourned.

NEW YORK, January 29.

FRENCH PIRACY & MURDER.

We have obtained from Captain Chamming of the schooner Fair American, which arrived here yesterday, the following particulars relative to a scene of murder and piracy, which is believed to have been perpetrated on board the said schooner, by the crew of the French privateer Victor.

The schooner Fair American sailed from St. Thomas's on the 19th November last, bound to Philadelphia, under the command of Captain Davis. The 6th day after her sailing, she returned to St. Thomas's by the name of the Nancy, commanded by one Quatin, (consigned from Porto Rico to a Mr. Cassel of St. Thomas's) and under French colors. Her name was erased from her stern, and every man essayed, so to disfigure her, as not to have her recognized; a set of false papers had also been obtained—but all these appearances were not sufficient to lay the suspicions of those concerned. The evidence of her being the Fair American, was so full and positive, that upon application by Mr. Donovan, agent for the owners, who are merchants in Philadelphia, to the government at St. Thomas's, she was given up.

It appears that this schooner was captured by the French privateer, immediately after she left port, and that the privateer was soon after captured by the Southampton, British frigate; from the Captain of which, was obtained the log book of the Fair American, but no intelligence of Captain Davis, or any of his crew. The appearance of the cabin of the schooner on her return to St. Thomas's, of itself, was sufficient to excite alarming suspicions, though great pains had been taken to favour the blood-stained cabin, the traces of human gore, were very perceptible on the births and floor; but what appears to fix the massacre of the unfortunate crew of this vessel, is the large incisions on the births of the cabin from cutlasses, which are now to be seen, accompanied with the streaming marks of blood.

Extract of a letter from Mr. John Lisle, Junr. merchant, of this city, dated London, November 25, 1799.

"I departed on the 20th ult. for Liverpool, and the 28th embarked on board the Tammany, Capt. Dangerfield, bound for Savannah. We immediately set sail, but the wind heading us, we bore up for the North Channel, and had nearly cleared Ireland, when unfortunately on the night of the 31st, being unable to see the lights, in consequence of the haziness of the weather, we found ourselves close on the shore; and before we could get our ship about, she struck the rocks, and in two hours was so far broken to pieces that it was necessary to leave her. We effected our escape with much difficulty, except one of the passengers, who was drowned in the surf."

Gazette Marine List.

Port of Philadelphia. The brig Two Sisters, from hence, has arrived at the Havanna, and not the Five Sisters, as inserted in yesterday's gazette. Ship Superior Conyngham, from hence, has arrived at Havanna in 18 days. Schooner Holker, Johnson, and schooner Success, Dove, from hence, have arrived at Havanna. Brig Sally, M'Call, from hence, has arrived at St. Jago de Cuba. Schooner —, Monteith, is said to have arrived at Curacao, probably the Sincerity, Monteith, belonging to this port. Schooner Little Will, Cushing from Havanna (long passage) has arrived at Reedy Island. Schooner Ja. e. Toby, from Port Republican (via New York) and a schooner from Norfolk have arrived at New Castle. Brig Pallas, for Hamburg and a number of other vessels, went to sea on Saturday last. The ship Orono, for Limerick, lay at Reedy Island on Monday, in want of men. Ship Grace, for Madeira, lays at Mud Fort.

GEN. WASHINGTON'S WILL.

A letter from Virginia, to a gentleman of the first respectability, in Baltimore, makes the following mention of the General's will.

"Washington, made his will in July, 1799; he devises all his estate, real and personal to his wife for life—at her death he manumits all his slaves, and their increase, creating a fund for the maintenance of the young, aged and infirm, which assigns the reason for the intermixture of the dower and his own slaves. He devises, the shares in the Patomac and James river companies, to two colleges. He devises his manuscripts, books and papers, Mount Vernon, with 400 acres of land, and one third of a 23d part in the residum to Bushrod Washington. He then makes a schedule of the residum, which, at his low valuation, is 530,000 dollars, which he dividid into 23 shares, and divides these shares, amongst the Cullis family. He leaves L'Fayette, a pair of pistols, taken in the revolutionary war; trifling legacies to David Stewart and Dr. Craig;—but the names of John Adams, Alexander Hamilton, or Henry Lee, are not mentioned.

The will is a lengthy and masterly composition, and is all the general's own hand writing; who leaves one branch of all his relatives, his wife and G. W. Cullis's, his executors and executrix.

Mrs. Washington has announced, that after this year all the negroes are to be emancipated.

NEW THEATRE.

To-morrow Evening, January 31. Will be presented, (for the fourth time in America) a much-admired new Comedy, called

RECONCILIATION;

Or, The Birth Day. To which will be added, (for the 4th time this season) a Grand Dramatic Romance called

BLUE BEARD;

Or, FEMALE CURIOSITY. With additional Scenery, Machinery and Decorations, entirely new.]

Books of the Songs to be had at the Theatre.

NOTICE.

THIS is to give notice that the Subscriber hath obtained from the Orphan's Court of Cecil county in Maryland, letters of administration on the personal estate of Samuel Gilpin, late of the county aforesaid, deceased; all persons having claims against the said deceased, are hereby warned to exhibit the same with the vouchers thereof to the subscriber on or before the 14th day of August next—they may otherwise by law be excluded from all benefit of the said estate. Given under my hand this 27th of January, one thousand eight hundred.

JOHN GILPIN, Administrator. January 30.

NOTICE.

THIS is to give notice that the Subscriber hath obtained from the Orphan's Court of Cecil county in Maryland, letters of administration on the personal estate of Zebulon Oldham, late of the county aforesaid, deceased.—All persons having claims against the said deceased, are hereby warned to exhibit the same with the vouchers thereof to the Subscriber, on or before the nineteenth day of October next, they may otherwise by law be excluded from all benefit of the said estate.

RICHARD OLDHAM, Administrator. January 30.

FOR SALE.

By the Subscribers, No. 5 N. Third Street, A FEW BALKS OF

INDIA MUSLINS,

- German and Flanders Dowlas, White Platillas, Russia Sheetings, Tickenburgs, Patna Handkerchiefs, Irish and German Linens, Lincseys, Mill'd Gloves, Pins, Colored and white Threads, Dimities, French Kid Gloves, &c. &c.

Elegant painted Floor Cloths,

WITH A VARIETY OF Handsome Carpets and Carpeting. LORAIN & SON. January 29.

REAL ESTATE,

FOR SALE.

WILL BE SOLD, At Public Vendue, on Saturday, 15th of March next.

A large story Brick House, AND three Kitchens, with two or three building lots, adjoining the same, situate on the corner of King and High Streets. Wm. In ton. Also, a two story brick house, &c. situate on the north side of the upper market, in Wilmington. Likewise a lot of excellent maul in Brandywine, of about two acres and a half. It is thought unnecessary to particularize this property, as it is presumed the purchaser will incline to view it. The conditions will be made known on the day of sale.

SAMUEL & JOHN ADAMS. Wilmington, (Del.) Jan. 27.

For Sale, or to Let,

A two story Brick House, Situate on Duke street, or Arden lane, in the Northern Liberties.

HAVING two rooms on a floor, fire places in each, a kitchen and wash house; all in excellent order and built of the best materials. For further information inquire at No. 39, Arch street. Also, a HOUSE, No. 106, fourth Second street, to let—enquire as above. Dec. 30.