

"Debate and Dissention not only flow from civil liberty, but contribute to preserve it."

IN my last No. I mentioned having passed an evening with two foreigners. The remarks, made by one of them, have been communicated. The reply of the other equally deserves notice. It is to the following effect.

"I confess that your observations appear to be founded in fact. No inference, however, to the discredit of this country, can be drawn from such circumstances. There may be assigned two reasons why the citizens of the United States are prone to speculative controversy. One of them proceeds from the nature of their government, and acts as a permanent cause. The other results from particular incidents, which may be considered adventitious; but which unites its influence in producing the general effect.

"In a despotick government, where the subject has no voice in making the laws, or in establishing modes of religion, he has little occasion to be a disputant. His whole attention is employed, in performing the duties that are laid upon him. The case is totally the reverse in a country of freedom. Every man knows that he may be eligible to legislation. Every man feels a pride and independence of spirit, that he can choose his own religion. This operates as an established cause of speculative enquiry and investigation. No restraint can safely be put upon an indulgence, which is in itself so salutary. There is less danger from excess than from restriction.

"The peculiar situation of this country has afforded great scope for the discussions of theoretick men. It has infused a spirit of altercation into all ranks of people. Time and experience will correct those extremes of such a temper, which have been excited by special causes. It must have its own course, and work its own remedy. The love and the practice of dispute, strike out light upon the various subjects, relative to government. It habituates men to reflection. I acknowledge it has been carried so far, as to militate with useful operations, and prevented acts of real utility being introduced. Many of the States have totally new modelled their governments. This could not be produced without great deliberation. The fervour has hardly yet subsided.

"The entire toleration of religion has given a large range to persons prone to controversy. Each sect naturally wishes to extend its influence. The forms of government and religion will be better ascertained, and men will have determined what side to take, in both. When this happens, the evil you complain of, will in part be removed. But while the spirit of liberty exists, controversy is unavoidable."

Thus spoke my two companions. The one pointed out errors, and the other accounted for them. Their observations, whether they are new or not, appear to be just. Such hints amuse some people, while they do injury to none.

A HINT.

ONE striking feature in the political complexion of the Dutch Republic is, that the children of both sexes are, from the moment of the earliest capability, initiated in some line of industrious avocation among them. Solon and Lycurgus could not have chalked out a wiser line for the service of the Grecian States. It was an opinion with Alexander the Great, that boys nurtured and bro't up in the camp, were ever after fond of arms—and practice gave sanction to the theory. It holds equally good, that children, early trained up to industry, ever incline to it in maturity—for, in the language of the poet, "it grows with their growth, and strengthens with their strength." To our countrymen, we hope the application is evident. If they accustom their little ones to honest employments (such as will suit their years, constitutions and choices) they will thereby render them virtuous and independent citizens, a credit to themselves, and an ornament to society. The consequences of a different conduct are evident.

ANECDOTE OF LORD MANSFIELD.

THIS Judge being in one of the counties, on the circuit, a poor woman was indicted for witchcraft. The inhabitants of the place were exasperated against her. Some witnesses deposed, that they had seen her walk in the air, with her feet upwards. Lord Mansfield heard the evidence with great tranquility, and perceiving the temper of the people, whom it would not have been prudent to irritate, he thus addressed them. "I do not doubt that this woman has walked in the air, with her feet upwards, since you have all seen it; but she has the honour to be born in England, as well as you and I, and consequently, cannot be judged but by the laws of the country, nor punished but in proportion as she has violated them. Now I know not one law that forbids walking in the air with the feet upwards. We have all a right to do it with impunity. I see no reason, therefore, for prosecution; and this poor woman may return home when she pleases.

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P L A N
OF THE
GAZETTE of the UNITED STATES.
A NATIONAL PAPER.

To be published at the SEAT of the FEDERAL GOVERNMENT, and to comprise, as fully as possible, the following Objects, viz.

I. EARLY and authentic Accounts of the PROCEEDINGS of CONGRESS—its LAWS, ACTS, and RESOLUTIONS, communicated so as to form an HISTORY of the TRANSACTIONS of the FEDERAL LEGISLATURE, under the NEW CONSTITUTION.

II. IMPARTIAL SKETCHES of the DEBATES of CONGRESS.

III. ESSAYS upon the great subjects of Government in general, and the Federal Legislature in particular; also upon the national and local Rights of the AMERICAN CITIZENS, as founded upon the Federal or State Constitutions; also upon every other Subject, which may appear suitable for newspaper discussion.

IV. A SERIES of PARAGRAPHS, calculated to catch the "LIVING MANNERS AS THEY RISE," and to point the publick attention to Objects that have an important reference to domestic, social, and publick happiness.

V. The Interests of the United States as connected with their literary Institutions—religious and moral Objects—Improvements in Science, Arts, EDUCATION and HUMANITY—their foreign Treaties, Alliances, Connections, &c.

VI. Every Species of INTELLIGENCE, which may affect the commercial, agricultural, manufacturing, or political INTERESTS of the AMERICAN REPUBLIC.

VII. A CHAIN of DOMESTICK OCCURRENCES, collected through the Medium of an extensive Correspondence with the respective States.

VIII. A SERIES of FOREIGN ARTICLES of INTELLIGENCE, so connected, as to form a general Idea of publick Affairs in the eastern Hemisphere.

IX. The STATE of the NATIONAL FUNDS; also of the INDIVIDUAL GOVERNMENTS—Courses of Exchange—Prices Current, &c.

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I.

THE GAZETTE of the UNITED STATES shall be printed with the same Letter, and on the same Paper as this publication.

II.

It shall be published every WEDNESDAY and SATURDAY, and delivered, as may be directed, to every Subscriber in the city, on those days.

III.

The price to Subscribers (exclusive of postage) will be THREE DOLLARS *pr. annum.*

IV.

The first semi-annual payment to be made in three months from the appearance of the first number.

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Will be received in all the capital towns upon the Continent; also at the City-Coffee-House, and at No. 86, William-Street, until the 1st of May, from which time at No. 9, Maiden-Lane, near the Oldwego-Market, New-York.

N. B. By a new Arrangement made in the Stages, Subscribers at a distance will be duly furnished with papers.

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To the PUBLICK.

AT this important Crisis, the ideas that fill the mind, are pregnant with Events of the greatest magnitude—to strengthen and complete the UNION of the States—to extend and protect their COMMERCE, under equal Treaties yet to be formed—to explore and arrange the NATIONAL FUNDS—to restore and establish the PUBLICK CREDIT—and ALL under the auspices of an untried System of Government, will require the ENERGIES of the Patriots and Sages of our Country—Hence the propriety of encreasing the Mediums of Knowledge and Information.

AMERICA, from this period, begins a new Era in her national existence—"THE WORLD IS ALL BEFORE HER"—The wisdom and folly—the misery and prosperity of the EMPIRES, STATES, and KINGDOMS, which have had their day upon the great Theatre of Time, and are now no more, suggest the most important Mementos—These, with the rapid series of Events, in which our own Country has been so deeply interested, have taught the enlightened Citizens of the United States, that FREEDOM and GOVERNMENT—LIBERTY and LAWS, are inseparable.

This Conviction has led to the adoption of the New Constitution; for however VARIOUS the Sentiments, respecting the MERITS of this System, all GOOD MEN are agreed in the necessity that exists, of an EFFICIENT FEDERAL GOVERNMENT.

A paper, therefore, established upon NATIONAL, INDEPENDENT, and IMPARTIAL PRINCIPLES—which shall take up the premises Articles, upon a COMPETENT PLAN, it is presumed, will be highly interesting, and meet with publick approbation and patronage.

The Editor of this Publication is determined to leave no avenue of Information unexplored:—He solicits the assistance of Persons of leisure and abilities—which, united with his own assiduity, he flatters himself will render the Gazette of the United States not unworthy general encouragement—and is, with due respect, the publick's humble servant,
JOHN FENNO.

New-York, April 15, 1789.

HIGH WATER.

AT NEWYORK TO-MORROW.
MORNING, — 2 minutes after 7.

THE Publick approbation alone can give stability and success to any undertaking which must ultimately depend upon public opinion: This idea has generally induced the Editors of new publications to attempt anticipating that approbation through the medium of professions, which, to say the least, are, too seldom realized: The Editor of the GAZETTE of the UNITED STATES would avoid, as far as possible, the imputation that has been frequently and justly incurred upon account of professions never substantiated.

Should the GAZETTE of the UNITED STATES prove a faithful register of publick transactions, especially those of the great council of the nation, the FEDERAL LEGISLATURE; he HOPES it will be patronized by those who feel interested in the welfare of the union; the patriots and independent freemen of our country.

Should it contain a competent detail of foreign and domestic intelligence; revolutions in commerce; discoveries in various parts of the globe, opening new sources of wealth to enterprising adventurers; rise and fall of stocks; prices current, &c. he HOPES it will receive the support of mercantile characters.

Should the great body of mechanics find that their important interests are attended to; that improvements and discoveries in their several branches claim an early and constant insertion.

Should this Gazette be the happy instrument of pointing out various plans, by which the music of the AX and HAMMER may again be heard in our cities, the Editor cannot but HOPE for their generous encouragement.

Should something worthy the notice of the great farming interest of our country (the bulwark of freedom and equal laws) be exhibited from time to time, the editor HOPES for their patronage. Improvements in agriculture are of the first consequence to our young, our rising country; and the labours that tend to affect this desirable object, are the result of the purest patriotism, and should demand the constant attention of the Editors of periodical publication.

The Editor HOPES that the wealthy part of the community will become patrons of this publication, as it is but just to say, that every project, which has been obviously calculated for publick utility, has met with prompt and generous encouragement from those whom Providence has blessed with affluence; without their assistance, the noble plans now on foot for the promotion of MANUFACTURES, ARTS and SCIENCES, must have proved abortive; their liberal efforts on many recent occasions, have given a spring to the publick mind. Should the Gazette of the United States suggest improvable hints, or feasible projects, which must depend upon the PURSE for their maturity, it cannot fail of being countenanced by the RICH and public spirited.

The great and momentous subject of Education is hourly appreciating in its importance: That part of the NEW CONSTITUTION, which opens the door to every man of every rank, possessing VIRTUE and ABILITIES, to the highest honours in the great American Republick, has expanded the views of every American.

This idea, places the business of Education in a point of light, in which it never has before been viewed; a point in which it cannot be considered in any other country upon the face of the earth. The MIDDLING and LOWER CLASS of CITIZENS will therefore find their account in becoming subscribers for this Gazette, should it pay a particular regard to this great subject. Full justice cannot perhaps be done to it; but every attempt to illustrate and enforce its importance, must insure the applause of every person who feels the dignity of a rational being, or who prizes the birthright of an American.

Ignorance is the parent of all human degradation; every attempt therefore to disseminate the rays of knowledge will receive the applause of the truly benevolent. The happiness of mankind being inseparably connected with the practice of religious, moral and social duties, it becomes obligatory upon the Editors of publick papers, to pay a distinguished regard to every idea that may be suggested upon these important points, upon general principles, avoiding tedious dissertations upon abstruse and metaphysical subjects; Those essays that have a natural tendency to refine our manners, humanize the heart, and exalt our natures, should claim a distinguished attention. So far as the Gazette of the United States shall be instrumental in diffusing sentiments of justice, humanity and benevolence—those great moral virtues, it will doubtless receive the support of the Reverend Clergy.

In short, should this Gazette support the character of a NATIONAL, IMPARTIAL and INDEPENDENT CONVEYANCER to all parts of the Union, of News, Politics, and Miscellanies, the approbation and patronage of a generous publick will doubtless reward the exertions of

The EDITOR.

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