

"It is by no means fortune that rules the world; for this we may appeal to several nations, who have had a long series of prosperities, when they acted upon a certain plan; and an uninterrupted course of misfortunes, when they conducted themselves upon another. There are general causes, natural or moral, which operate in every state; which raise, support or overturn it."

IT is the opinion of many philosophic men, that society has not seen its best days. Such an idea must not be considered as the rhapsody of an enthusiast, or the dream of a poet. The fatal declension of states may be rationally accounted for, without presupposing any essential propensity, in individuals or communities, to fall into excessive depravity. It strikes the view of even a careless observer, that no age or nation has exhibited a perfect specimen of a people, who have combined a full knowledge of the human character, with a thorough knowledge of the principles of government. In all periods of the world, there has been an astonishing deficiency in one of those respects, and very often in both. Morality has seldom been held in estimation as a science. Men of genius and leisure have too much employed their attention, upon those abstract sciences, which have no influence upon the happiness of society; or in framing systems of religious delusion, which are not calculated to promote the best interest of rational beings. The improvements of the moral faculty have not kept pace with the attainments of the intellectual. This important acquisition seems to have been reserved for the present, or some future age. It will be the result of a superior degree of knowledge, both with respect to men and government.

The human mind seems to be changing its course of thinking. Legislators know how to manage more skillfully the vices, the passions, and the weaknesses of men. They do not as formerly waste their time in lamenting, in unavailing complaints, the want of patriotism, which, according to the common application of the word, has been one of the most terrible scourges, that ever punished the wickedness or tormented the peace of society. When we look back to the history of nations, the most celebrated for this virtue, we should conclude from their conduct, that men were only born to make each other wretched. We will however shut our eyes against these horrid scenes of antiquity; and anticipate the period, when reason and philosophy shall bear some sway, in the management of human affairs. It will then begin to be known, that the human race were created for some other purpose, than to persecute and devour one another. Should that happy hour ever arrive, good men will wish, that for the honor of human nature, a veil might be forever thrown over past transactions.

"Warm from the heart—and true to all its fires."

The following ADDRESS was presented to his Excellency GEORGE WASHINGTON, soon after his departure from Mount-Vernon, on his journey to this city.

To GEORGE WASHINGTON, ESQUIRE, PRESIDENT of the UNITED STATES, &c. &c.

AGAIN your country demands your care.—Obedient to its wishes—unmindful of your own ease, we see you again relinquishing the bliss of retirement; and this too, at a period of life, when nature itself seems to authorize a preference of repose.

Not to extol your glory as a soldier: Not to pour forth our gratitude for past services: Not to acknowledge the justice of the unexampled honor which has been conferred upon you, by the spontaneous and unanimous suffrage of three millions of freemen, in your election to the Supreme Magistracy: Not to admire the patriotism which directs your conduct, do your Neighbours and Friends now address you.—Themes less splendid, but more endearing, impress our minds.—The first and best of citizens must leave us! Our Aged must lose their Ornament! Our Youth their Model! Our Agriculture its Improver! Our Commerce its Friend! Our infant Academy its Patron! Our Poor their Benefactor! And the interior Navigation of the Potomac, an event replete with the most extensive utility, already, by your unremitting exertions, brought into partial use—its Inaugurator and Promoter!

Farewell!—Go—and make a grateful people happy—a people, who will be doubly grateful, when they contemplate this recent sacrifice for their interest.

To that Being, who maketh and unmaketh at His will, we commend you; and, after the accomplishment of the arduous business to which you are called, may He restore to us again the best of Men, and the most beloved Fellow Citizen.

In behalf of the People of Alexandria,  
DENNIS RAMSAY, Mayor.

April 16, 1789.

To the MAYOR, CORPORATION, and CITIZENS of ALEXANDRIA.

GENTLEMEN,

ALTHOUGH I ought not conceal, yet I cannot describe, the painful emotions which I felt, in being called upon to determine whether I would accept, or refuse, the Presidency of the United States.

The unanimity in the choice—the opinion of my friends communicated from different parts of Europe, as well as America—the apparent wish of those who were not entirely satisfied with the Constitution in its present form, and an ardent desire, on my own part, to be instrumental in conciliating the good will of my countrymen towards each other, have induced an acceptance. Those who know me best (and you, my fellow-citizens, are, from your situation, in that number) know better than any others, my love of retirement is so great, that no earthly consideration, short of a conviction of duty, could have prevailed upon me to depart from my resolution, "never more to take any share in transactions of a public nature."

For, at my age, and in my circumstances, what possible advantages could I propose to myself, from embarking again on the tempestuous and uncertain ocean of public life?

I do not feel myself under the necessity of making public declarations, in order to convince you, Gentlemen, of my attachment to yourselves, and regard for your interests. The whole tenor of my life has been open to your inspection: And my past actions, rather than my present declarations, must be the pledge for my future conduct.

In the mean time, I thank you most sincerely for the expressions of kindness contained in your valedictory address. It is true, just after having bade adieu to my domestic connections, this tender proof of your friendship is but too well calculated still further to awaken my sensibility, and increase my regret, at parting from the enjoyments of private life.

All that now remains for me, is to commit myself and you, to the protection of that benignant Being, who on a former occasion, hath happily bro't us together, after a long and distressing separation. Perhaps the same gracious Providence will again indulge us with the same heart felt felicity. But words, my Fellow Citizens, fail me. Unutterable sensations must then be left to more expressive silence, while, from an aching heart, I bid you all, my affectionate Friends, and kind Neighbours, farewell!

G. WASHINGTON.

NATIONAL MONITOR.

NUMBER II.

"No incidental events can make a nation little, while the principles remain, that made it great."

AS America is just setting out in her political course as a nation, it is of infinite importance to her future welfare, that her first principles should be drawn from the best sources—that they should bear the impressions of truth and right reason—These are superior guides to all the experience of ancient times—the force of precedent and power of example.

The revolution of America is not the effect of causes that have operated to produce those mighty changes, which have marked the fluctuating periods of other nations. Ambition, fraud, and violence—faction, ignorance, and accident, have at different intervals, boasted the power to overturn one kingdom, and erect and establish another; but the dismemberment of this Western Empire from the crown of Britain, was the result of sentiment—a laborious investigation of the principles of Liberty, and the Rights of Humanity: Information and wisdom marked the road—Justice and fortitude supported our foot-steps—and the favour of Heaven to our spirit, enterprise, and bravery, carried us triumphantly through.—Crowned with Peace, Liberty, and Independence, fairy land, and utopian prospects, cheated our deluded imaginations, till we almost began to doubt the eligibility of our present situation, compared to our former one.—Happily for us and our posterity, ere the Demon of Anarchy had worked up the political follies of the day to a phrenzy, we were arrested in our career to ruin.—And now, what are our prospects? All that wisdom, virtue, and patriotism, can fancy or desire.

Dispersed in principles, manners, views and habits—Say, do we at this day feel the force of any of those maxims as a nation, which can make a people great? I think we do. It must be acknowledged, that a sense of the importance of Government, to preserve life, liberty and property, appears to pervade the mind of the people through the Union. This is a proper foundation, upon which may be reared the pillars of National Justice, National Happiness, and National Security: This principle has produced wonderful effects already—and it is the broadest basis on which to erect national habits, manners and sentiments. A proper idea of the necessity and importance of a firm, efficient Government, is perhaps the strongest barrier to licentiousness, faction, and loss of freedom, that Deity itself can create: This is that principle for America, which will render her durably great and glorious.

C.

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 authentick 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 found in 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—Price Current, &c.

CONDITIONS.

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.

SUBSCRIPTIONS

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.

POSTSCRIPT.—A large impression of every number will be struck off—so that Subscribers may always be accommodated with complete Sets.

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 untiered System of Government, will require the ENERGIES of the Patriots and Sages of our Country—Hence the propriety of increasing 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 premised 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.

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