

same nation, much less can it be expected among different nations, necessarily of opposite interests, and naturally jealous of each other's prosperity and growing greatness; it is, therefore, clearly for the interest of France and England, for political as well as commercial purposes, secretly to foment and nourish, if possible, an eternal enmity between the United States of America and the *Barbary Powers*, and to shut us out from all direct intercourse and communication with the immense trade of the Mediterranean; that they may check our growth, and continue the carriers of our fish, tobacco, wheat, naval stores, and other American produce; these probable difficulties, or intrigues, will require all our art, address and management effectually to counteract. The trade of the Mediterranean, and of those countries bordering thereon, is of vast importance to the United States, perhaps not inferior to any other object that now presents; *Italy* is a vast and fertile field for commercial speculations, supposed to contain at least twenty millions of inhabitants; the French and English know by long experience the sweets of that trade; and it is probable they are not ignorant of our abilities to rival them, and every other nation, not only by carrying our productions cheaper to every market, but as carriers for other nations, if our vessels could navigate with equal safety; and it is well known that one immediate effect would be the total ruin of their Newfoundland fisheries and settlements.

Every man in the least acquainted with trade, and of its importance to America, cannot but be convinced of the innumerable advantages arising from a permanent uninterrupted peace with all the powers on those inhospitable Barbary shores; and as some of the most powerful Princes in Europe do now condescend, through policy, to pay an annual tribute to those nations, it can be thought no disgrace or degradation in the United States of America, in their present infant state, to stoop to buy their friendship, which, though it should cost us dear, yet commercially considered, it can hardly be purchased too dear; nor can this important business be negotiated too soon, or too secretly. And while this momentous object occupies the mind, it is impossible not to feel for the distressed situation of some of our fellow-citizens now in slavery in *Algiers*; their sufferings, supplications, and past services are loud, and will, I hope, prove irresistible calls on the justice and humanity of their country.

With innumerable advantages peculiar to our country, and which may be said in some respects to hold all other nations dependent, it is hoped that our trade will soon be relieved, and that we may ever long make a more important and respectable figure in the commercial world. It is unnecessary at this time to note all the present productions of the United States, with those which might be transplanted with ease and advantage, and made capital articles of export; suffice it therefore only to enumerate some of the principal articles now in our possession for use and exportation—Whale-fins and oil, spermaceti oil and candles, cod-fish and liver oil, lintseed and linseed oil, pickled salmon, shad, mackerel, herrings, and other pickled fish, pot and pearl ashes, beef, pork, butter, cheese, flax, hemp, masts, timber, and all other kinds of wood or lumber, with the almost exclusive possession of that invaluable tree called the *LIVE OAK*, which seems to have been ordained by Heaven for the sole use of the American navy, as almost every attempt to transplant it to foreign countries has proved unsuccessful. Tar, pitch, turpentine, rosin, bees and myrtle wax, tallow, silk, cotton, sheep's wool, hides, skins, furs, grain and pulse of all kinds, hops, iron, saltpetre, sassafras, sarsaparilla, ginseng, snake-root, pink-root, with a great variety of other roots, abounding in South-Carolina and Georgia, that possess most astonishing medicinal virtues, and which would prove a most important and valuable acquisition to the *Materia Medica*; tobacco, rice, and indigo; yet with all these advantages, in almost all our commercial enterprises, our present portion is in general little more than fruitless toil, loss, insult, and contempt.

Hic vivimus ambitiofa

Paupertate omnes. Juv. Sat.

As revenue is the main-spring, without which no power on earth can put the most perfect political machine in motion; so *Commerce*, situated and circumstanced as we are, must be the principal source of revenue; but it cannot be expected that our dejected commerce can instantly revive, or that new projects, however wisely planned, will immediately be sufficiently productive to answer all the demands of Government: The fruits of commerce are necessarily progressive, and while we are waiting on her various operations, it will be both wise and necessary to bear heavy burdens for a short time, and to strain every nerve, in order to furnish Government with sufficient means to carry into effect those prudent and salutary measures, on which the success of our future hopes and prospects must materially depend.

And as a stimulus to our immediate and strenuous exertions, and punctual obedience to the revenue laws, in order that full scope and power may be given to Government to set every engine

at work; let every citizen of the United States consider, that abstracted from the common benefits of a public revenue, which will ultimately be produced by a well regulated and flourishing commerce, there are other blessings flowing therefrom, which are necessarily diffusive, and which constantly communicate a large portion of their happy influence and effects to every individual in the community.—In great commercial States, individuals of every rank are continually rising from obscurity into light, and from small beginnings frequently become rich, and riches invariably carry with them a proportionate degree of influence, which cannot be gained by one, without taking away, or diminishing in some degree the influence of others; this continual rotation of property and influence naturally produces frequent rotations of civil officers, or rulers; the idle and absurd dreams of the divine origin, or exclusive right of particular names, or families, to preference, or pre-eminence, which swayed the superstitious sons of *Greece* and *Rome*, no longer bias or infatuate mankind; every man feels his own individual consequence, and with a laudable emulation asserts his equal natural rights and pretensions; detached from the narrow views and servile ideas of hereditary claims to public favors or honors; his enlarged mind is more nobly directed to the aggrandizement of his country; and he acknowledges no just claim but merit. Thus *Commerce* naturally tends to correct the evils common in States not commercial, where particular opulent families often enjoy, for many successive generations, the exclusive possession of riches; and though they do not always inherit the virtues or abilities by which their ancestors justly acquired pre-eminence, yet they continue to possess exclusively, unjustly, and often by violence, every post of honor, profit and power in the State, and thereby hold every subordinate class of their fellow-citizens, or fellow-men, in a state of absolute dependence and servility—but where *Commerce flourishes*, such a state of vassalage cannot exist; no citizen is necessarily confined to a particular employer; he is always free to pursue his own inclination and interests; he can give ample scope to aspiring genius; and is sure to reap the just reward of his labour: Though he may be a servant, he cannot be a slave; and while he obeys the laws of his country, he may defy the power, or the weakness of any master.

Where *Commerce flourishes*, arts, agriculture, and manufactures will also flourish; the weak are protected; genius encouraged; revenue sufficient; peace preferable, because most profitable; the people quiet, because constantly employed, and well paid; war amply equip'd, and vigorously pursued when necessary; and Government liberally supported.

E. C.

(To be continued.)

*SALEM, May 19, 1789.
Extract of a letter from a gentleman in Congress to his friend in this town, May 11.*

"Much will depend on gentlemen in the commercial line, for supporting the public measures. You justly observe, that an impost appears almost the only practicable method of raising monies, for the exigencies of government. Therefore, if the duties are laid so low that they will fall far short of those exigencies, in case the whole should be collected, how is the deficiency to be supplied? The duties which have been agreed to by the House of Representatives, according to the highest estimate that has been made, will not much exceed two millions of dollars; and the supplies necessary for the current expences of the year and the annual interest of the national debt, will amount to about 2,800,000 dollars. One great object which the States had in view, in instituting the new government, was the advancement of justice, and support of publick credit: If these objects are not attained, they will be disappointed. The duties imposed will be paid by the consumers; so that the tax will not be borne by the merchants; they will consider the duties as part of the prime cost of the goods, and make their profits on that as well as on the purchase money. Nor do I think the burthen will be very sensibly felt by the people—the payment will be gradual, as they shall have occasion to consume the goods. The temptations to smuggle will not be so great as heretofore, in proportion to the amount of the duties: Under the British government, it was thought a virtue to evade payment in this country, because they were unconstitutionally imposed, by Parliament. The duties that have been laid under the State governments were unequal, some States laying them higher than others, which was an embarrassment to commerce—and the monies raised were only for the benefit of the State where they were collected—which operated inequitably when the goods were consumed in other States: But now the duties will be equal in all the States; they will be laid by the Representatives of the people, and be applied for the benefit of all, to support the government which they have established, and to pay the interest of the debt incurred for establishing their liberties and independence. These considerations, I trust, will have sufficient weight with every honest and virtuous citizen, to induce him cheerfully to pay the duties. Much attention has been paid to equalize them upon the several articles, so that the citizens of one State, or one branch of commerce, may not be burthened more than another. There has been considerable debate upon the article of Molasses; and it would doubtless have been rated lower, were not so great a proportion of it distilled into rum. As it affects the distilleries, it is supposed that that branch will be not burthened more than other branches, or the proportion between imported rum and N. England rum be much altered, and what alteration is made will be in favour of N. E. rum. I suppose the duty on molasses confirmed in substance should have been about 4 cents per gallon, to make it equal to salt, in proportion to the value of each article. But molasses, tho' a very useful article, is not quite so necessary as salt; so that if the people reduce the consumption of it one gallon in six, it will not cost them more than if no duty had been laid on it; but if we consider the extra duty above 4 cents, and lessen the consumption 1 gallon in 18, it will remedy the evil, and not lessen the profit of the importer, for he will make his advance on the duty as well as on the prime cost.

The duties on articles imported from the British W. Indies will be only in British bottoms, and the importer must pay them in the first instance, and probably must bear a part of them ultimately. The importation of dutied articles will be from foreign countries, and consequently in pretty large vessels; so that the collection may be more easily secured than in small boats and coasting vessels.

EXTRACTS.

[As it must excite the attention of Farmers, and Country Traders, they being immediately interested, and the public good connected with it, we publish the following information (received from a gentleman lately returned from the East Indies) respecting the sale of Butter in that country.]

From THOMAS'S MASSACHUSETTS SPY, &c.

LARGE quantities of Butter, exported from this State to the East Indies were sold as low as 4 coppice pr. lb. owing to the following errors, and inattention in putting up that article, viz.—not working out the buttermilk—putting large quantities of salt between the layers—salting it with coarse daily unsuitable salt—not soaking the kegs with strong brine before the Butter is put in, by which reason that next to the wood is much injured, some kegs made ofappy unfit timber, and butter of different complexions put down indiscriminately, which exceedingly injures the appearance.

It is of the utmost consequence to have our Butter and Beef superior in quality (as they soon will be in quantity) to that of Ireland, otherwise we shall be deprived of foreign markets, or when exported, must be sold, as above, to a great loss. If the following directions be attended to, they will soon establish the reputation of our Butter, and raise its value.

Let the Butter be made while the milk or cream remain sweet; the buttermilk entirely worked out; a quantity of clean, white, fine salt, sufficient to keep it perfectly sweet, worked into it; packed, without any salt between the layers, into kegs that will contain fix or eight gallons, made of white oak timber, free from sap, tight and full bound; let the kegs be well soaked with strong brine, and then tarred, before the butter is packed; and endeavor to fill each keg, as near as possible, with butter of one complexion.

It would be best to have all Butter put up at the dairies, soon after it is churned and prepared for packing; but as a considerable part is carried in lumps to the country shopkeepers, and soon becomes rancid, if suffered to lay exposed to the air in their shops (which is too frequently the case)—much therefore depends on their attention to pack it immediately, observing the above directions, and deposing it afterwards in cool cellars.

AN OLD SIMILIE EXAMINED.

"THE world has been long amused with a trite and hackneyed comparison between the life of man, and that of States; in which it is pretended that they both proceed in the same irrevocable manner; from infancy to maturity, from maturity to death: A comparison, perhaps as groundless as it is common. The human body contains, in its very texture, the seeds of certain dissolution. That is, though you set aside all the possible accidents arising from intemperance, from the influence of the elements, the climate, and every other external and contingent cause, the human frame itself, after a certain period, would grow into rigidity; the fluids would decrease, the solids accumulate, the arteries stiff, the blood stagnate, and the wheels of life stand still.

But in societies, of whatever kind, there seems no such necessary or essential tendency to dissolution. The human body is naturally mortal; the political, only to *accident*: Internal disorders or diseases may arise; external violence may attack or overpower; but these causes, though always to be expected, are wholly incidental: the first is precisely of the same nature as intemperance, the second as the influence of the external elements, on the human body. But there appears nothing in the internal construction of any state, that tends inevitably to dissolution, analogous to those causes in the human frame, which lead to certain death.

This observation seems confirmed by history: where you see States, which, after being sunk in corruption and debility, have been brought back to the vigor of their first principles: but you must have recourse to fables, for medicated old age, restored to infancy or youth."

ON THE USE OF TEA.

"TEA appears, from the best experiments, to produce sedative effects upon the nerves, diminishing their energy, and the tone of the muscular fibres, and inducing a considerable degree, both of sensibility and irritability, upon the whole system. It also promotes the thinner evacuations very powerfully, and diminishes the flesh and bulk of those who use it. These effects tend to impair the strength, and promote the other consequences of it upon the nervous system above described. Hence the use of Tea has been found very agreeable to the studious, especially those engaged in the composition of works of genius and imagination; and hence it is emphatically styled the poet's friend. But, on the other hand, I believe that, at least with us, it has had the effect of enfeebling and enervating the bodies of our people, and of introducing several disorders that arise from laxity and debility; and has been still of worse consequence in making way for the use of spirituous liquors, which are often taken to relieve that depression which Tea occasions.

"From these effects of Tea, I cannot but think that its consequences on the whole, have been highly prejudicial. It evidently injures the health, and, by the consequences last mentioned, tends to corrupt the morals of the people; and, in my opinion, by the effect it produces upon the nerves, contributes to abate courage, vigour, and steadiness of mind; circumstances surely of themselves sufficient to discredit its use, with those who are engaged in any situation of life that requires exertion and resolution. Perhaps, however, in the hot climates of China and India, the use of this liquor may not be so prejudicial as in the colder ones: It may there tend to abate the weariness occasioned by heat, and, as a grateful diluent, promote the thinner evacuations; which possibly may, by cauſing it to pass off quickly, counteract, in some measure, its bad effects. But the noxious qualities of this plant are not unknown even in its native countries. The Japanese are subject to the diabetes, and to consumptive disorders, resembling the atrophy, from its use; and the Chinese, it is said, are so sensible of their consequences, that they rarely drink green tea at all, which is the most remarkable for these effects. Perhaps the diminutive stature, and cowardly, and at the same time acute and tricking disposition of the Chinese, may be owing, in no small degree, to the use of this vegetable."

COFFEE.—A SCRAP.

"WHEN Coffee was first introduced among the Arabians, a scruple arose among the devout (perhaps from feeling its exhilarating quality) whether it was not forbidden by the Alchoran, under the article of wine. A council of Mahometan Divines was called upon the occasion, who luckily decreed for the legality of its use.

ON THE ARRANGEMENT OF THE FEDERAL TREASURY.

[The Observations contained in the following speculation relate to so important a subject, as to justify their appearance in our paper, although published yesterday in the Daily Advertiser.]

I believe it may safely be laid down as a maxim, that in proportion as obscurity and uncertainty prevail in the administration of a government, it will be more or less corrupt, weak and despotic: But this observation is more particularly applicable to the management of the Finances of a State. To place our reliance, in affairs of this nature, on the innate probity of any man or body of men, would certainly argue a want of an accurate knowledge of the human character. It is pride, ambition, the dread of the laws of reputation, and a variety of other selfish and interested motives, which impel the far greater part of mankind to a due performance of their duty. Nay, these motives not only deter us from doing wrong, but they are, in fact, the most powerful stimuli to