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THE TABLET.—No. XIX.

"Sensible men as well as others oftner have occasion to repent of saying too much than too little."

THOUGH I place a new motto at the head of this number, yet I am continuing my last speculation rather than introducing a new one. There is such a diversity of appearances in human life, that the most diligent enquirer after truth may come to a stand in his researches. He will say to himself, I may as well remain idle, as perplex my mind with enquiries, which cannot terminate in a satisfactory solution. This difficulty peculiarly attends the case now under consideration. It has been shewn that in some instances obvious advantages result from a cold, reserved deportment; while on other occasions, the success of a man seems to have originated in an open, unrestrained communication of his thoughts. I will dilate a little upon the circumstances that attend such a difference of behavior, and leave the reader to draw his own conclusions. He will recollect, that in this paper, I am remarking upon characters that deserve some eminence for their abilities.

The different views men entertain of applause and influence lead them to strike upon different expedients for promoting their reputation. One man has an ardour of spirits that thirsts constantly after fresh drafts of flattery; and like a drunkard, he has a spark that always wants quenching. This induces him to captivate attention wherever he falls into company; and he had rather be gratified with momentary applause, than to acquire that which may be durable, if the acquisition will subject him to a temporary self-denial. The character the reverse of this gains slowly upon the admiration of others; but he holds fast what he does gain: He never loses any part of the influence he obtains; and increases the veneration of the world by appearing very indifferent about it.

While one man is ambitious of exciting admiration by the brilliancy of his wit, and the gaiety and elegance of his conversation; another avoids those methods of allurements, and only wishes to be respected for solidity of judgment, and for a sparing, but pertinent, communication of his sentiments. If one were asked which of these characters were most desirable, he may reply that each of them may be most desirable to different men, whose taste and views run in a different direction. The person of reserve, who seldom speaks at all, and never but when he can say something judicious and singularly adapted to the subject, has more weight and influence in society than he who always speaks, and often wanders from the real merits of the question. It frequently happens that men of the most active powers of oratory are dazzled by their own lustre, and make many unimportant or erroneous remarks merely for the sake of displaying their eloquence. Those who fall into the practice of speaking a great deal may be certain they will let drop many things that are neither just or interesting. Every error in opinion, and every false or improbable assertion will bring a man into disrepute, and render his judgment as well as veracity liable to suspicion. By this means, when he makes an observation that is judicious, it does not receive that credit which it deserves, or that it would receive, if he had been accustomed to speak with precaution. It is true the fascination of oratory, in many instances, gives a popularity to speeches beyond what they merit; but no substantial or permanent influence can result from such captivations of applause. Men guarded in their conversation establish a more beneficial influence; their word is equivalent to truth, and their opinions are cited as authority to direct the conduct of others. Upon the whole, a sensible man, if he talks a great deal may often be applauded; if he talks but little, he will always be respected.

N. B. In TABLET No. XVIII, the sixth paragraph, eleventh line, for "wisdoms" read demeanor.

A SKETCH OF THE POLITICAL STATE OF AMERICA.

[Continued from No. XVII.]

AS method and system, in conducting the common concerns of private life, are attended with every advantage, and found to assist greatly in the attainment of the objects we have in view, this argument applies with additional force to the vast and important concerns involved in the economy of a nation. These being various and complicated in their nature, and indefinite in their number, without order and system, would be peculiarly liable to derangement and confusion. Hence arises the propriety of establishing the great executive departments of government, of defining their appropriate powers, and the

objects of their attention and management. As, affairs relative to revenue and national income to a financier—military matters to a secretary at war—foreign affairs to a person specially appointed—domestic concerns to their peculiar department—to a marine board the interest of an navy, &c. Upon the requisite qualifications for these several offices and on the objects of their commission, I venture a few general observations. In a financier we hope to find a critical acquaintance with mankind, and the various things which govern the heart—a knowledge of the history of foreign nations—with a more particular information of that of his own country—the genius of its inhabitants—different interests of the community—the various sources from which to derive an income to the public—the practical philosopher, and profound mathematician—acquainted with the operation and fluctuation of money in a State, and with the means of extending and equalizing its circulation to common benefit; and in general, with a capacity to economize public expenditures, and by other means to establish and support national credit and consequence. The mechanical business of the department of treasury or finance will be to keep a fair and accurate statement of the national debts and credits, and so contracted as to avoid embarrassment, prevent error, and detect fraud. In the war-office we are led to look for a person of ability and information, acquired by a long experience in martial pursuits, a disciplinarian, and well acquainted with the economy of a camp and military tactics—capable of directing to the best means for preserving the health of the soldiery, of supplying them with necessaries, of supporting garrisons and forts, and pursuing every mode for his country's defence, with propriety, and economy; his attention to method will enable him (whenever called upon for that purpose by government) to present a full and accurate estimate upon every subject comprised within his department.

To direct the concerns of the marine, will require an early and uniform education in naval pursuits; with ability to improve upon the information thus acquired—an acquaintance with the best mode for obtaining good timber, &c. for the building of ships and all the necessaries for completing them; also with the means to be pursued for encouraging the increase of seamen—the least expensive mode for supplying them, and most efficacious method for preserving their valuable lives, &c. in this department will be kept accurate registers of the men employed in the navy—estimates of their supplies and general expenditures, and upon a report of which to the supreme executive, will receive warrants on the treasury for their disbursement.

The person filling the office for foreign affairs with a knowledge of his own country, should possess a general acquaintance with the history of other nations—be able to develop the arcana of their politics, commercial pursuits, and readily see into their connection with probable effects upon those of his own country; and while corresponding with our public officers and agents abroad on these subjects, should be fully capable of rendering this information subservient to her best interests.

The department of domestic affairs, land-office, national bank, &c. will be duly attended to in a future paper.

AMERICANUS.

(To be continued.)

MESSAGE of the Governor of Massachusetts to both branches of the Legislature of that Commonwealth.

Gentlemen of the SENATE, and

Gentlemen of the HOUSE of REPRESENTATIVES,

I AM happy in congratulating you upon the return of this anniversary, established by our free and excellent constitution.

In a free Commonwealth, extensive enough for the great purposes of civil government and national defence, the sentiments and feelings of the people can be understood and consulted, in no other way, than through a representation sufficiently numerous and frequently appointed: The clear and absolute possession of this privilege, with the certain right of transmitting it inviolate to posterity, will be considered by the good citizens of this State as a full compensation for their late glorious and arduous struggle for freedom.

As my fellow citizens have seen fit to honor me with the office of Chief Magistrate, it affords me great satisfaction to find that they have committed their Legislative concerns to men, who so well understand and can so ably execute the important trust: And feeling myself well assured that the discussion of the public business will be attended with candor and unanimity. I shall readily concur in those measures which shall be by you proposed for the general good of the government, and the happiness of our constituents: And may

the great Author of mercies so bless our endeavors as that we, and the people of the Commonwealth, may rejoice in the continuance of his divine favors, bestowed upon a free and enlightened nation.

Since the adjournment of the late General Court, a new and important era has commenced; the government of the United States of America has been completely organized—at the head of our infant nation is placed, by the united voice of his country, One, who from his piety, wisdom and ability, is evidently designed by Heaven to unite the affections of all his fellow citizens, and thus united, to lead them to national glory and felicity.

From the characters which form the two branches of Congress, we must possess the highest confidence in that assembly, and are led to anticipate from their measures, the blessings of that security and dignity, which at all times are the result of national wisdom, integrity and justice; and I believe that the good people of the great confederated Republic, may assure themselves that the principles upon which the revolution was supported will so forcibly insinuate themselves into all the measures of that august Legislature, that no place will be opened to those ideas of monarchy and despotism, which have long scourged other parts of the world.

But it ought ever to be remembered, that no form of government, or mode of administration, can make a vicious people happy, and that therefore, the public felicity will in a great measure depend upon the exercise of the social and private virtues, by the people of this extensive republic.

That this Commonwealth, which constitutes so important a part of the general government, may increase its own internal prosperity, while it promotes that of the Union, we ought to support and encourage the means of learning, and all institutions for the education of the rising generation; an equal distribution of intelligence being as necessary to a free government, as laws for an equal distribution of property.

Our wise and magnanimous ancestors, impressed with this idea, were very liberal and careful in the establishment of institutions for this purpose; among which, that of our University in Cambridge, and that of Grammar Schools in our towns, were very important: Every necessary attention will certainly be paid to the former, and I cannot but earnestly recommend to your inquiry, the reason why the latter is so much neglected in the State: Should any new laws be wanted in this matter, you can not do your country a more essential service, than provide them.

Notwithstanding the just expectations we have from the government of the United States, yet the honor and credit of the several States are of vast importance to the citizens of them. In this State we have accumulated in the course of the late war, a very heavy debt; individuals of the community have loaned their property to support their distressed country.—The resources of the Commonwealth are as well known to you, gentlemen, as they are to me, and I feel myself assured of your serious attention to measures directed to the support of public credit, and the establishment of public justice.

Pursuant to a resolution passed by the Legislature in their late session, the Sheriffs of the several counties have been called upon to return, and settle the executions which have been committed to them against defective collectors of public taxes: A state of their settlements I have directed the treasurer to lay before you.

I shall communicate to you such matters, from time to time, as I may find to be necessary for the interest of government, but am very happy to inform you, that from a state of external and internal peace and quietness, no business is likely to call for your attention but the common and ordinary concerns of supporting government.

JOHN HANCOCK.

Boston, June 8, 1789.

A T A L K,

Lately sent by the Commissioners of Indian affairs in the Southern Department to the Creeks correspondent.

To the Head Men, Chiefs, and Warriors of the Creek Nation.

WE last year appointed a time and place for holding a treaty with you to establish a lasting peace between you and us, that we might again become as one people; you all know the reasons why it was not held at that time.

We now send you this talk, inviting you to a treaty on your bank of the Oconee river, at the Rock Landing. We wished to meet you at that place on the eighth of June, but, as that day is so near at hand, you might not all get notice. We therefore shall expect to meet you on the 20th of June.