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THE TABLET.—No. XX.

"However romantic it may seem, it is very true, that there are a sort of people who take great pains to be idle."

It is worthy of remark that men, who have nothing to do, seldom have any leisure; while those, who are in good earnest engaged in business, have spare time enough. The latter have leisure because they attend to their own business, and nothing else; the former want leisure because they do not attend to their own business, but to every thing else. I have among my acquaintance a character of each of these descriptions; one of them is named ATTENTUS, the other UBIQUITUS. It happened the other morning they both called on me, nearly at the same time.

ATTENTUS informed me, that having a little leisure, he had waited on me to adjust an account that lay between us. He tarried but a few minutes, proceeded deliberately, and accomplished what he came for.—UBIQUITUS ran up to the door to acquaint me with the great hurry he was in, and to apologize for his not being able to make me a visit; he continued with me upwards of an hour, without having any business, and spent most of the time in lamenting his amazing haste.—It may not be amiss to observe that ATTENTUS is largely concerned in mercantile affairs, and is an extensive dealer in West-India goods. No person ever managed his concerns with more method and prudence; and by doing every thing as it ought to be done, and finishing one thing before he begins another, he is at no time in hurry and confusion, and often finds moments of leisure and relaxation.

UBIQUITUS, on the other hand, though his whole life is spent in trifles, takes hold even of trifles at the wrong end; engages in many trivial things at once, and finishes no part of what he undertakes. He seems to have no determinate object of pursuit, and his friends are at a loss to conjecture how he employs himself; while he is incessantly complaining of the pressure and anxiety, which are occasioned by the multiplicity of his affairs. The reader will form a clearer idea of the difference of these characters, if I relate exactly the conversation that passed the other morning.

ATTENTUS called just at nine o'clock, and found me at breakfast. After informing me what he wished, he requested me to take my breakfast leisurely, as he could, without inconvenience, wait a few minutes. I rose from the table and handed him the account I had stated, and mentioned that he could examine it, at his leisure.—"It is my practice," said he, "to complete every thing of this kind on the spot." He soon went through the examination, made his remarks, and was again at leisure. I enquired of him if he knew how the wind stood, and whether the British Packet would sail that day? "I know very well," said he, "how the wind is, because I am looking for a vessel from the West-Indies; but I know nothing of the Packet, as I do not deal at Europe. It runs in my mind, however, that I heard somebody speaking of the matter; but who the person was, or what he said, I do not remember, as I never charge my memory with what does not relate to my own affairs." In examining some papers I was rather slower than common, and desired ATTENTUS to excuse me, as I was at the Theatre the evening before, and had not taken my usual hours of sleep. "Theatre," cried he, "are the players in town; how long have they been here?" Six weeks replied I. "Have they indeed," said ATTENTUS, "I never heard a word of it before." But, continued I, do you not read the newspapers? "I take the newspapers," answered he, "but I only peruse such parts of them as give information about my particular line of business." It happened in the course of conversation, that I asked him if he had attended the debates of Congress. He told me he had once been in the gallery, that his neighbours should not say he was an Antifederalist; but that he thought the business would go on as well without his company, as with it, and he should attend no more. If you have leisure, said I, you should be present at some of the debates, as they concern the mercantile interest, who in the first instance must pay the duties. "As to leisure," said he, "I have some, but my attending at the gallery will neither make the duties more or less. I shall find out what they are fast enough. The old duties were laid without my knowledge, but I soon had people after me to put me in mind of the business. Besides the members of Congress will not stay in my store and watch for customers while I am in their gallery." ATTENTUS was about leaving me, when I mentioned that I would walk a little way with him. "Well," said he, "if you are going my way I have no objection." Just as

we were at the door, UBIQUITUS came up and interrupted my walk.

He took me by the hand, and with a perplexed countenance, said he never was in such a hurry in his life, that he could scarce stay to apologize for not staying longer. However, while he was making these complaints, he followed me fairly into the house. I urged him to take a chair and tarry a few minutes. "No," replied he, I could not wait ten minutes, if you would give me ten guineas. I have every thing to do this morning. It was my intention to have wrote half a dozen letters before this hour of the day, but I shall not write one before dinner; and after all, shall not find leisure to hear the debates of Congress." I continued to urge him to take a seat and recover a little from his fatigue; but he seemed offended at the request, and fell into a run of conversation that I thought he never would have finished. He held one of the buttons of my coat with his left hand, that my impatience should not force me from him; and extended his right arm, that he might the more emphatically express the necessity of leaving me immediately. As nearly as I can recollect, the following are a few of the remarks and queries he made: "Have you heard of the arrivals at Philadelphia from the East-Indies? There was an excellent play last night, but I could not find time to attend. Do you not think the address from the Methodist Clergy to The President, was modestly done? The Bank I am told are sparing of their discounts now a days. Who do they talk of as Chief Justice of the United States? I fear I shall lose a beaver hat respecting the issue of the election for governor. What a perplexity it is to be so hurried; you see my hair is not combed, and I suppose my barber will call several times before I can be ready for him. My letters are unanswered for a long while past." But, enquired I, do you not notice your letters as soon as you receive them? ATTENTUS tells me he never leaves any thing undone, after the proper time of doing it. "Well he may," replied UBIQUITUS, "for he has nothing to do but to take care of his business. The case is quite otherwise with me. I have a whole chest of papers lying in heaps and confusion, and I do not even recollect the contents of half of them." I began to be weary of standing, and as my friend could not tarry long enough to sit down, I proposed a walk by way of relief to myself. UBIQUITUS joined in the proposal, and as he had much business abroad, and I had none, I left it with him to direct the course of our rambles. "We will go," said he, "stop! I have so many places to visit I hardly know which to call at first. Upon the whole I will accompany you wherever you please." My walk did not give the relief I expected, for UBIQUITUS stopped to speak with so many persons in the streets, that I was almost as still, as before I left the house; and I am not certain I should have escaped from my confinement for several hours, if a gentleman had not invited UBIQUITUS to go with him to a billiard table. This suggestion so pleased him, that he took his leave of me, and I did not imagine I should see him again that day. However it happened UBIQUITUS and myself were to dine at the same place. I called at the hour of invitation, and none of the company were missing but UBIQUITUS. When dinner had waited for him nearly half an hour, he came in so extremely exhausted with the fatigues of the morning, that I feared he had lost his appetite. He expressed a little regret that the company had waited for him, but observed, that they knew so well how difficult it was for him to be exact to his appointments, that no apology was requisite. I perceived, however, that his hurry did not prevent his doing justice to the dinner and wine, and indeed before evening he seemed well satisfied with the position he had taken.

SKETCH OF THE POLITICAL STATE OF AMERICA.

[Continued from our last.]

IN my last number I ventured a few general observations on the nature of some of the executive departments, and now proceed to suggest some further ideas on the subject of a secretary of domestic affairs and commissioner of trade, to be permanently established at the seat of government; whose duty it shall be to collect into one focus all possible information, from the various parts of the continent, which immediately or virtually respects agriculture, manufactures, and commerce, those pillars of national prosperity—and towards this design he shall correspond with the custom-house officers in the different States, and from them obtain accurate details of the amount of our exports, and imports, and their specific qualities—the number of American vessels employed in our commerce, with the number of men navigating them—their rates of ton-

nage, and the nature of the trade they carry on; also how many foreign vessels, and their channels of trade:—And in estimating the value of our imports, not to include the charge of duties—they being paid by the internal consumer, ought not to stand as a debit against the nation—but the duties on manufactures exported may be included in the credit, being paid by the foreign consumer:—This officer will also pay a nice attention to the increase of the raw materials and progress of the manufactures of the country—ascertaining what each State annually produces and manufactures, and what proportion the raw materials of home growth bear to those imported—and be able, well to discern what species of manufactures can in our present state be with advantage promoted, and without injury to other interests of the community—for this end he will encourage the introduction of machines so beneficial in a country having but few hands—he will also notice the population of the United States, their annual consumption, and the ratio of supply and demand—he will devise means to improve our agriculture—and promote our navigation—form plans for sailing our vessels least expensively—thereby assisting our carrying trade—he will explore the various channels for the extension of our commerce, &c.—When we consider the many difficulties which have attended the construction of our revenue system, for want of proper information from the several States in the Union, on many subjects included in this plan—when we view the advantage that must result from having persons officially possessed of such an accurate knowledge in the general state of the community, as to be able on a proposition for levying any imposts or other taxes, to determine how particular interests will be effected thereby—when we contemplate the benefit of having a trial-balance of our national trade, for correcting present and avoiding future errors—when we reflect on the great spring which the encouragement of trade and commerce gives to agriculture and manufactures—when in general we know the need of guarding the various fluctuations of the different interests in a State—of ballancing them and directing them to one common centre—the public good:—I think these united considerations will evince the propriety of such an establishment as above alluded to, from the tendency it will have to communicate general information, to diffuse national views, establish national sentiments, to promote national interests, and to produce that concentration, system, and harmony, which must form the basis of our country's future prosperity and happiness.

In respect to a land-office, I have my doubts of the principle which in a degree leads to the necessity of such an establishment, viewing any encouragement to emigrate in the present state of our population, as building up the interior part of this country at the expence of the atlantic settlements, as totally opposed to an early attempt for manufacturing, as producing an undue proportion of certain interests, and being at present of no essential advantage to the progress of agriculture; but it has been here objected, that the spirit of emigration cannot be well stopped, or greatly checked—this being granted, it will be doubtless most politic to methodize the settlement of this western country, and pursue every means to encrease their future attachment and obedience to the present government.

A MERICANUS.

SKETCH OF PROCEEDINGS OF CONGRESS.

In the House of REPRESENTATIVES of the UNITED STATES.

TUESDAY, JUNE 16, 1789.

[A SKETCH of the DEBATE on the BILL for establishing the EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT for FOREIGN AFFAIRS, which took place on Tuesday last, upon Mr. WHITE'S moving to strike out the words "to be removed from office by The President of the United States.]"

Mr. WHITE observed, that the constitution had provided specifically only for the removal of the Judges of the Supreme Court—but as it had associated the Senate with the President in the appointment of officers, it was proper that the power of removal in the latter case, should be jointly exercised, as in the former.

Mr. SMITH (S. C.) was in sentiment with Mr. WHITE—he observed, that one of the two ideas are just, either that THE PRESIDENT had the power by the constitution, or he had not—if the power is vested in him by the constitution, the clause is nugatory—if it is not, the House can have no right to give it—This delegation of power is unconstitutional, agreeably to the idea of some very ingenious commentators upon the subject, who have asserted, that the Senate should have a voice in the removal as well as the appointment of officers.—The author of the pieces under the signature of PUBLIUS, one of the most valuable performances extant—has fully expressed this sentiment.

If the constitution is examined with attention, we shall find that no such power is directly or impliedly given to the President—the departments of government are defined—the powers