

# Gazette of the United States.

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## THE TABLET.—No. XXIX.

"Would it not be well to have certain triers or examiners appointed by the State to inspect the genius of every particular boy, and to allot him the part that is most suitable to his natural talents?"

It is to be expected that the partiality of parents will induce them to suppose, their children can make improvements in any art or profession whatever. To gratify these fond prejudices, the regulations at academies assume not the severity of strict discipline in which they are engaged. The instructors do not practice upon the supposition that each capacity may have some corresponding science in which it could excel; while many lads by depending on a large class and employed upon tasks unfuitable for them, are called hopeless blockheads and constantly liable to punishment and reproach.—That special bias towards knowledge, which with proper care, might be discovered, is apt to be dormant, and never have an opportunity to improve or apply itself.

The objection against trying to introduce a reformation, is founded in a supposed impracticability. It is urged that no scrutiny of talents can be made, with such exactness, as to authorize the attempt. The different capacities and inclinations of youth are not to be so clearly ascertained as to make it eligible to break through established rules of study. In answer to these objections, it may be observed, that if upon experiment no method can be devised for determining the special aptitude of each particular genius, the present classical regulations will of course be continued. I proceed upon the principle that it is practicable to discover peculiar propensities; and in those cases, where no such discovery can be made, the principle is not to be applied. It follows that an alteration cannot force itself where it is not requisite. The reformation would be attempted only on those students who do not, at any rate, acquire material advantages, under the present modes of education. If they can derive any benefit from a different manner of tuition, and derive none from the present regulations, there will be something gained without hazarding the loss of any thing.

Those who have been in any degree conversant with universities need not be told, how great a proportion of students pass away their academical years in indolence and disgust. To what can this be owing? Some pretend that the natural aversion or incapacity of youth, is the cause of their reluctance against study, and that it does not proceed from injudicious treatment. This pretence is not wholly to be regarded. I have granted that some students cannot learn, merely for want of capacity; but I have asserted that others will not learn, because they are not properly managed. The object of the reformation I propose is to discriminate characters. Those who have not genius for any thing can be distinguished from those who have genius for something; and those who have an aptitude of mind to learn every thing can be designated from both the others. By suitable management it may be determined, how far the defect is to be ascribed to nature, and how far to bad institutions, that so small a proportion of students gain any substantial advantages from a public education.

In conversation with a friend upon this subject he did not coincide with my opinion, but rather supposed the difficulty proceeded from a want of proper instructors. He imagined, that the idleness and disgust observed among students were occasioned more by the austere, unaccommodating behaviour of the professors and tutors, than by any improper assignment of studies. This point shall come next under consideration.

## CHARACTER OF THE MODERN HIGHLANDERS.

[FROM KNOX'S WORKS.]

THE Highlanders have in all ages been renowned for bravery and fidelity in the cause which they espoused; strongly attached to their families, their chieftains and country, for whom they braved all dangers, and endured every kind of hardship. At present, that barbarous ferocity, which was the offspring of feral institutions, is completely extinguished; while their native valour, and military character remain unimpaired. They are intelligent, hospitable, religious, inoffensive in their manners, submissive to superiors, temperate, frugal, grateful, obliging, honest and faithful. A man may travel in perfect security from one extremity of the Highlands to the other, without taking any precaution whatever in defence of his person or property. Wherever he goes, he meets with a civility, modesty and hospitality, which would do honor to the most polished nations; wherever he reposes any confidence, he discovers an attachment and disinterested readiness to oblige, which more opulent subjects can scarcely conceive an idea of. These qualities are the universal theme of travellers of whatever nation, who have lately visited the Highlands of Scotland.

## FRUGALITY.

[A continuation of the EXTRACTS begun in No. XXV.]

"IT is of importance to teach children frugality, and to guard them when they set out in life against needless expence. The future circumstances of children, especially of daughters, may not be so affluent as those of their parents; At any rate moderation in all things is a virtuous habit.

The rules of moderation and frugality cannot be very precisely determined: If the object be to pay debts, one can scarcely be too minutely and severely frugal: "If a man would keep an even hand, (says Lord Bacon,) his ordinary expences should be but half his income." There are many extraordinary expences.

Parents should look forward to the expence of Education. We are subject to diseases, and should have something in reserve for a time of need.—We may be involved in a law suit: Additional taxes may be imposed, and the price of provisions raised. Those who are indebted to us may be in straits, and by living frugally we can afford to have patience with them.

Dependants may be unfortunate, and the landlord who lives within his income can feel for his

tenants' misfortunes, and abate his demands in a bad season.

Our friends may come to want, and it is a desirable thing to be able to assist them. There are works of benevolence and public utility, to some of which every good man would wish to contribute. By providing for extraordinary expences we are seldom obliged to borrow, which is a humiliating and expensive course to pursue. One may have no friends; or those we esteem such may deceive us; or those we have obliged may prove ungrateful: These suppositions are unpleasant, but not impossible. We may meet with losses, and it is prudent to expect them.

But left frugality should tend to avarice, let it be practised rather with a view to keep, than from a desire to accumulate. Let us use with cheerfulness what we can fairly call our own, and cultivate habits of generosity—for there is a time to keep, and a time to give away. In a just discernment of these times, consists the difference between frugality and avarice."

## FOR THE GAZETTE OF THE UNITED STATES.

### ILLIBERAL POLITICAL CONDUCT OF BRITAIN TOWARDS AMERICA.

ALTHOUGH we cannot be insensible of the prejudices of a part of the English nation against the people of the United States of America; yet we ought in all our conduct to shew such magnanimity as shall convince them, that we are neither ignorant of their unreasonableness, or unmindful of our own duty. Let us teach that haughty nation that we are capable of being injured, without retaining resentment. Let us charitably impute to the policy of endeavoring to prevent their inhabitants from migrating to America, the false representations which they are constantly giving, in their News Papers, of the state of this country. It is true, their representations have, in many instances, been made up of such extravagant and incredible falsehoods, as have operated in the nature of an antidote against the poison, which they were designed to have infused into the minds of the Europeans. Notwithstanding this has not always been the case; yet we ought to remember that truth is mighty, and will at last prevail.—Let the real circumstances of the United States of America, in the year 1789, be known to the world; and then let the world determine, whether it is for the Politicians and Critics of the Island of Britain, sarcastically to deplore our miseries, impudently to contradict the facts which are established by incontestible evidence, and malevolently to ridicule our future prospects!

The preceding observations are made partly for the purpose of introducing the following beautiful lines, which were written before the end of the late war, by DR. DWIGHT, in his Poem, called the *Conquest of Canaan*; as well as partly for the purpose of annexing a malevolent Note written by the London Reviewers on these words, "Here UNION'D CHOICE."

## EXTRACT.

"In that dread hour, beneath auspicious skies,  
To nobler bliss yon Western world shall rise:  
Unlike all former realms, by war that stood,  
And saw the guilty throne ascend in blood.

"Here UNION'D CHOICE shall form a rule divine;  
Here countless bands in one GREAT system join,  
The sway of law unbroke, unrival'd grow,  
And bid her blessings ev'ry land o'erflow.

"In fertile plains behold the tree ascend,  
Fair leaves unfold, and spreading branches bend!  
The fierce, invading storm secure they brave,  
And the strong influence of the creeping wave;  
In heav'nly gales with endless verdure rise,  
Wave her broad fields, and fade in friendly skies.  
There safe from driving rains, and batt'ring hail,  
And the keen fury of the winter gale,  
Fresh spring the plants; the flow'ry millions bloom,  
All ether gladd'ning with a choice perfume;  
Their hall'ning pinions birds unnumber'd spread,  
And dance, and wanton in the aerial shade.

"Here EMPIRE'S LAST and BRIGHTEST THRONE SHALL  
And peace, and right, and freedom greet the skies: (RISE,  
To morn's far realms her ships commercing sail,  
Or lift their canvas to the evening gale;  
In wisdom's walks her sons ambitious soar,  
Tread starry fields, and untried scenes explore.  
And hark what strange, what solemn breathing strain  
Swells wildly murr'ing, o'er the far, far main!  
Down time's long, less'ning vale the notes decay,  
And, lost in distant ages, roll away."

## NOTE OF THE LONDON REVIEWERS.

"Here UNION'D CHOICE—Mr. Dwight is always very sanguine when he talks of America; but much better political philosophers than he seems to be, are afraid that the time when America's

—union'd choice shall form a rule divine—

and her

—countless bands in one great system join—

is at an immense distance.  
"Nor can we pass over uncensured the illiberal spirit which breathes through the paragraph immediately preceding. It is not enough, it seems, that America must be complimented as a second Paradise; the land of Millennium; but to strengthen the contrast, the great eastern Continent, and

its Islands, must be doomed by our bard to the most deplorable state of slavery and misery. But all this will come to pass, we suppose, when the prophecy of America's "UNION'D CHOICE JOINING IN ONE GREAT SYSTEM, AND FORMING A RULE DIVINE," shall be fulfilled."

The London Reviewers are called upon, as they would support any pretensions to the character of honest and candid men, to acknowledge, that, at least, some part of this prophecy has been fulfilled, in the CHOICE OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES by the suffrages of more than three millions of people, WITHOUT ONE DISSENTING VOICE.—Say, ye Critics, is not this UNION'D CHOICE!

Thus are men of letters, who ought indeed to consider themselves as citizens of the world, warped from the line of rectitude by political or national prejudices; and often, under the influence of those prejudices, do these British Literati endeavor to BELITTLE the productions of America. Yet, here, justice requires that the commendation which they have given, in the last paragraph of their review, of Mr. Dwight's Poem, should be cited.

"Mr. Dwight informs us in his motto, and his Poem evinces, that he is a young man. As he is undoubtedly possessed of poetical powers much above mediocrity, it may justly be hoped, that experience and cultivation will one day render him truly classical. At present his work is a promising blossom of polite literature sprung upon the American Continent; and, as citizens of the world, we rejoice to see it, and sincerely hope Mr. Dwight will improve by our strictures. He may be assured, that had we not thought his muse capable of improvement, we would by no means have been so particular, or paid her the attentions we have done."

## EXTRACT.

TO divide honest and well meaning citizens has not been found so difficult a task in many countries as might have been wished—no extraordinary genius is requisite—a low cunning and some small share of experience among men are too often found to be sufficient, and the consequences, to a benevolent mind, appear truly distressing.—Rancor, malice, hatred, envy, ill will, a disposition to persecute and destroy, prove fatal to the peace, the comfort and satisfaction of social life—a system of fraud and seduction follows of course, and in this situation the dissocial passions have full play. Uninfluenced by the principles of virtue and true patriotism, the state is in a perpetual ferment—the noisy and most boisterous have the control of public measures—anarchy and confusion are consequent, and to them the most despotic government may succeed.

These being the consequences of party rage and violence, it certainly must be considered as the duty of every one who desires the prosperity of his country to seize every opportunity to cultivate and improve a spirit of harmony and unanimity—to eradicate those principles which inspire animosities—breed rancor and malice, create divisions, destroy the internal peace, weaken the strength and fully the glory of our government. Every good citizen should exert his utmost abilities to heal political divisions, and change the narrow prejudices of a party spirit into the pleasing, diffusive, happy spirit of true patriotism and universal benevolence.

WORCESTER SPECTATOR.

## BIOGRAPHICAL.

ON the 17th of last January died at Grand Cairo, in Egypt, Mr. JOHN LEDYARD, a native of the State of Connecticut. He served under Capt. Cook, in the last voyage which that able navigator performed, and was one of the witnesses to his tragical fate on the island of Owyhee; an account of which, with the material occurrences of the voyage, he published in America, before that great and splendid relation of it appeared in England, in which honorable mention is made of Mr. Ledyard. He had a most insatiable desire to visit unknown countries, and offered his services to the Empress of Russia, through her Ambassador at Paris, to explore the continent of America, and to attempt to pass from the north west coast to the northern parts of the United States, or the Atlantic. Being disappointed in these views, he undertook the journey, with the assistance of a few friends, and found his way from Paris to Petersburg, and from thence to Kamptschatka, were, by order of the Empress, he was put, without any previous notice, into a sledge drawn by dogs, and after returning to the southward, was sent out of her Majesty's dominions. Being thus again disappointed, he went to London, and proposed to the Royal African Company to make a journey through Africa, and to examine the unknown parts of that quarter of the globe.—He accordingly arrived at Grand Cairo, under the auspices of this Company; and thinking himself on the moment of pointing his way towards Abyssinia, from whence he expected to have continued his rout to the Cape of Good Hope: he made all his arrangements for this long journey, and engaged the protection of a caravan, which was to set out in a few days towards the southward. Here, however, he finished his career, and is gone to "that undiscovered country, from whose bourn no traveller returns." Mr. Ledyard was strong and active, bold as a lion, and gentle as he was bold. By his intrepidity, perseverance and patience under hardships, he seemed calculated to execute such enterprises as he was always in pursuit of; and the miscarriage of his project for exploring either America or Africa must be felt as a very general and public loss.