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## THE TABLET.

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### SKETCH OF THE POLITICAL STATE OF AMERICA.

*The fear of punishment may restrain some people from the commission of atrocious crimes; but it is expecting too much from that passion, to imagine that it is alone capable of guarding youth against immoral or imprudent actions.*

To determine how far it is proper to lay prohibitions upon the conduct of children, constitutes one of the most difficult parts of education. Too much severity or too much indulgence produce respectively a train of very serious consequences. It is however much more easy to complain of this difficulty, than to remove it. There are two important points of view, in which the subject shall be considered.

In the first place, it is requisite to distinguish between habits that may be denominated good or bad; and secondly what are the most suitable methods to prevent the one, and promote the other. Having determined what actions are improper, it will of course be enquired, what is the best way to secure a child against the temptation to commit them. Indolent or austere parents will be apt to conclude at once, that severe prohibitions are the most effectual security against the allurements of vice and folly. Those who are indolent wish to avoid the trouble of examining the different springs of the human mind, and therefore remain so ignorant of the true character of a rational being, that it is very doubtful whether their children are ever taught to love or practice the moral duties. To make the matter easy and cut short the labor of enquiry and investigation, arbitrary regulations are adopted, which suggest no other motive to shun evil actions, than what results from the fear of breaking through prohibitions. Austere men being destitute of fine feelings, and an amiable disposition, take delight in rigorous precepts and discipline. Their temper is so morose and unindulgent, that they characterize as vicious and reproachful, many customs and habits, which in the view of other people are innocent and even useful. It is obvious to a moderate capacity that takes any pains to reflect on the subject, that such people will generally find their children perverse and prone to an excessive career of vice.

The great point to be accomplished is to counteract and divert temptation to bad actions, by rendering an opposite conduct more desirable. This can only be effected by creating motives to a good conduct, that shall be stronger than what impel to a bad one. If children do not take such pleasure in the company and approbation of their parents, as to make it their chief delight to obey and gratify them, there is an end to every reasonable hope of their being virtuous or amiable. By accumulating rigorous prohibitions children take a disgust against their parents, and acquire an habitual inclination to thwart and disregard their injunctions.

Every person should conclude that he is pursuing a wrong mode of education, if he finds that his child does not prefer home to any other place, and consider his parents as his best friends and most entertaining companions. As soon as a youth dislikes the company of his father, he will feel an inclination to disobey his commands, and oppose his wishes. In proportion as prohibitions are rigid and numerous will the young reprobate strengthen his fortitude to break them, or improve his sagacity to elude them. He acts upon the presumption, that they are all useless and arbitrary.

A youth let loose upon a world full of temptations and intrigues, with a persuasion that he has been hood-winked and duped in his education, has nothing to guide his future steps. It is altogether a matter of accident whether he makes a virtuous man or a knave and vagabond. One cannot pronounce with any certainty what will be the destiny of such an adventurer. If he falls into good company before he has been seduced by bad, it is possible he may form good principles and habits. But should he on his first escape from parental authority, meet with profligate associates, there is little hope he will preserve his morals or his character. Whatever new connections he forms, he will be obliged to assume different notions and manners from those under which he was educated. It is to be expected he will imitate the actions of those with whom he associates. He will soon imagine that his parental reproofs and counsels were founded in error of judgment, and in an utter ignorance of human life. In this however he is mistaken. Many of the admonitions were proper in themselves, but by being blended with others that were merely capricious and unnecessary, the whole are rejected and disowned.

The subject is capable of being thrown into so many different lights, that I shall venture once more to resume it.

WHILE among the various objects which claim the attention of government, none can be esteemed of more importance in their nature and consequences than the finances of this country; perhaps in no other instance have the sanguine hopes of individuals led them into so wrong conclusions, as to the immediate practicability of making the proper arrangements of this comprehensive subject; there can be no doubt, that for the revival, establishment and support of public credit, provision ought to be made as early as possible for the discharge of at least the interest of both the foreign and domestic debt; but we are on many accounts not yet ripe for these appropriations: The doctrine of anticipating funds, is equally ruinous to public as private measures: We have already experienced great inconvenience and loss of credit, by promising more than we have been found able to perform: We ought therefore, in future, to avoid by wiser plans of administration, an evil of such a dangerous tendency—let time be given to ascertain the nett product of our customs and ability from other sources to answer the demands on government.—To shun the evil just mentioned, would be a sufficient consideration to justify the policy of this mode of procedure; but an object of still greater consequence, prior to making our appropriations, will be to have the fiscal department of this country more completely systemized and simplified; as in its present deranged and confused state, it seems almost impossible to have a due idea or knowledge of it. Requisitions totally complied with—others in part, and others not at all—the accounts between the States not yet adjusted, appear on the face of the present schedule.—But considering the harassed situation of the country during the late war—the confusion introduced by a fluctuating currency—our youth and inexperience in the science of fiscal legislation—the weakness of the federal compact, &c. &c.—a derangement of our finances was rather to be expected than admired at: But as we now feel a more perfect consistency in our political situation, and as the present government possesses most of the resources of the country, it will be found not only expedient, but indispensably necessary to form a general liquidation of our domestic debt, consolidating the whole into one great national mass—by which we shall avoid much future confusion in its management—prevent a division of the public interests—promote that general equality of circumstances among the inhabitants of the Union, which will produce a harmony both of sentiment and exertion in their duty to the public.

Though in making the arrangement, perfect justice cannot be done to each individual State, it is a partial sacrifice, which principles of patriotism and a regard to the future welfare of their country must prompt them to make to the general good: Their respective balances can be placed on the ground of other loans, subject to similar terms of payment.

Upon a proper adjustment of these great principles, and having from experience obtained an accurate knowledge of our nett income; it will be in the power of government, by the consent of the public creditors, to establish the domestic debt on an interest of at most 4 per cent. which will make a saving of 547,678 2-90ths dollars per annum compared with the present rate of interest as the debt now stands, at the same time giving satisfaction to the lenders, as 4 per cent. punctually paid; is far preferable to 6 per cent. only promised, and in proportion as the rate of interest is lowered our power for punctual payment will be increased.

Whatever necessity may arise from the nature of our contracts, to urge a discharge of the principal of the foreign debt—I do not see either our ability, the expediency or policy of attempting at present a discharge any part of the principal of the domestic; as that properly funded, on a moderate but sure interest, will form a national stock or capital, and essentially assist a general circulation—the progress of manufactures, and internal labor—in promotion of which object, the establishment of a national bank under proper regulations would be found serviceable, into which the money arising from the public revenue can be paid from time to time, and the officers of the revenue be obliged to receive its notes as cash in all payments: There is no nation better adapted than this for such an establishment, as its commerce, resources and power are upon the increase, which with the advanced rate of interest, for even 4 per cent. is above the general funds in Europe, will be to all appearance a sufficient inducement to foreigners, as well as natives, to vest their property in the public funds of this country—I feel assured, that should our inclina-

tion run parallel with our ability, we have it in our power to place them on the most respectable and solid grounds. AMERICANUS.

### PROGRESS OF MANUFACTURES.

IT must afford great pleasure to every well wisher to his country, to see the rapid progress that manufactures are making among us.—While under the shackles of Great Britain every effort of that sort was cramped, and their acts of Parliament were numerous, for preventing every attempt to promote them; but no sooner was our Independence established, than the efforts of genius prevailed, and the manufacture of WOOL-CARDS,\* in which upwards of eight hundred persons, including men, women and children, are daily employed in the town of Boston, has arrived to such a degree of perfection, by the improvements made in the machinery, invented by the native genius of the country, as to rival the Europeans in the fabrication of that article; and the States of America are supplied at near fifty per cent. less than they used to pay for British wool cards before the revolution: That although at present the manufacturers are obliged to import the wire from Europe, yet under that disadvantage they are able to make the cards, pay a second freight to Europe, and under sell them in their own markets.

Nor is the manufacture of SAIL CLOTH, lately established in Boston, the least esteemed for its great utility and public benefit; as most of the vessels fitted out of late, from this and the neighboring ports, are either partly or wholly clothed from the Boston Factory, and the proprietors of the manufactory have the satisfaction to find that it is generally approved of, and has the preference to European Duck. The short period that has elapsed since the looms were first productive, affords but a single instance of a trial being made of the cloth, which was pronounced by the fishermen, who used it upon the banks of Newfoundland, to be "the best Canvas" they ever sailed with: and such is the encouragement given to it, that, though they can turn out upwards of twelve hundred yards a week, yet for the most part of the time, the cloth is anticipated in the looms; as the public have the flattering prospect that it will not be liable to mildew, owing to the great care and pains taken in the factory to prevent the use of any ingredient that may be productive of it, and we have assurances from the gentlemen interested in it, that if attention is paid to the cultivation of FLAX, so as to afford them an ample supply, they mean to extend the manufacture so far as to turn out one hundred pieces per week, which they are encouraged to do from the disposition of the female part of the community to contribute to so great a work; and I may too assert Messrs. Printers, that the establishment of the manufactory is much more owing to their exertions in the cause of industry than to the Male part of the inhabitants.

I cannot conclude without remarking, that the NAIL MANUFACTORY has so far succeeded as totally to preclude the necessity of the importation of that article, and instead of importing near three thousand casks annually into this Commonwealth, we are able to supply our home consumption and export considerable quantities to other markets—nor should I do justice to the manufactory of Paper Hangings, not to mention the great progress made in that art: A gentleman of respectability in the town, concerned in that business, has declared, that if he can be allowed one year to provide stock, he will engage after that to make sufficient to supply the whole United States, and as to quality, the productions will sufficiently speak for themselves.—The silence that has been observed respecting our manufactures has induced the writer of this to remark upon those four capital branches; much more might be said upon many others of less importance, which will probably be taken up in some future paper. HERALD OF FREEDOM.

\* Within the last eleven months there has been manufactured by Giles Richards & Co. 61,800 pair of Wool and Cotton Cards. Boston, July 23, 1789.

### CONFINEMENT FOR CRIMES.

THE ministry of England have agreed to a partial adoption of DR. RUSH'S plan for changing the punishment of capital offenders to solitary imprisonment instead of death. In Gloucestershire, where several persons have been doomed to seven years seclusion from that society whose peace and security their bad conduct tended to disturb, the horror that has seized them is not to be described. They beg with the greatest earnestness, that they may be hanged out of their misery. Some ask to see their wives and children only for a moment, but this is not allowed them; in short no punishment ever devised seems so well calculated to soften the hearts of the hardened and inflexible.