

The RIGHT CONSTITUTION of a COMMON-WEALTH EXAMINED,

(Continued from our last.)

TARQUIN, by his ambassadors, solicited at least the restoration of his property. Brutus opposed it. Collatinus, the other consul, advocated the demand of his royal banished cousin. The senate was divided: The question was referred to the people assembled by centuries. The two consuls zealously supported their different opinions. Collatinus prevailed by one vote. Tarquin's ambassadors rejoice and intrigue. A conspiracy was formed, in which a great part of the young nobility was concerned: two of the Vitellii, sons of Collatinus's sister, and brothers of Brutus's wife; two of the Aquilii, sons of another sister of Collatinus, as well as two of Brutus's sons, were engaged in it. When the conspiracy was discovered, Brutus alone was inexorable. Collatinus endeavored to save his nephews.—Collatinus, as the husband of Lucretia, appears to have been actuated by resentment against the person of Tarquin, but not to have been very hearty in the expulsion of the family, or the abolition of monarchy. His warmly contending for the restitution of Tarquin's effects, and his aversion to the condemnation of the conspirators, completed his ruin with Brutus. He assembled the people, and was sorry that the Roman people did not think their liberties safe while they saw the name and blood of Tarquin not only safe in Rome, but vested with sovereign power, and a dangerous obstacle to liberty. Collatinus was amazed at such a speech, and prepared to defend himself against this attack; but finding his father-in-law Spurius Lucretius join Brutus, and other principal men, in persuading him, and fearing that he should be forced into banishment, with the confiscation of his estate, he abdicated the consulship, and retired to Lavinium: but he carried all his effects with him, and twenty talents, or £. 3,875 sterling, to which Brutus added five talents more, a most enormous sum, if we consider the universal poverty of that age, and the high value of money.—Is it possible to find, in this character and conduct of Collatinus, such disinterested and magnanimous virtue as our author speaks of? Is this an example to prove that disinterested virtue was frequent in that state? He must have been dead to every manly feeling, if he had not repented the rape and death of his wife. He did not retire but to avoid banishment; nor was he contented without his whole estate, and a splendid addition to it: So that there is scarcely a character or anecdote in history less to our author's purpose in any point of view.

There is an extravagance in many popular writers in favor of republican governments, which injures much oftener than it serves the cause of liberty. Such is that of our author, when he cites the example of Regulus. Let us first remember, however, that Regulus was a patrician and a senator, and that he was appointed to his command, and continued in it, by the senate; and therefore, instead of being an example in honour of a simple or a representative democracy, it operates in favor of an aristocracy, or at most it favors of a mixed government, in which an aristocracy has full one third part. Regulus had been in a course of victory, which the senate would not interrupt, and therefore continued him in the command of the army. He wrote to the senate to complain of it. The glory of it to himself, the advantage to the public, was not reward enough to him. He demanded a successor; and what was his reason? A thief had stolen his tools of husbandry used in manuring; his tenant was dead, and his presence was absolutely necessary to prevent his wife and children from starving. Is it possible to read this without laughter and indignation; laughter at the folly of that government which made so poor a provision for its generals, and indignation at the fordid avarice of that senate and people, who could require a threat of resignation from the conqueror of Carthage to induce them to provide for his wife and children. The senate decreed that his field should be cultivated at the public expence, that his working tools should be replaced, and his wife and children provided for. Then, indeed, Regulus's aversion to the service was removed: To such fordid condescensions to the prejudices and meanness of the stingy and envious parts of the community are such exalted souls as that of Regulus obliged sometimes to submit; the eternal panegyrics of Republican writers, as they call themselves, will never reconcile mankind to any thing so ridiculous and contemptible. The labourer is worthy of his hire: he who labours for the public should live by the public, as much as he who preaches the gospel should live by the gospel; and these maxims of equity are approved by all the generous part of mankind. And people whose heads are turned with contracted notions of a contrary nature, will forever be the dupes of the designing; for where you will find a single Regulus, you will find ten thousand Cæsars.

(To be continued)

FOREIGN MISCELLANEOUS ARTICLES.

LONDON, MAY 15.

It is expected Mr. Neckar will be very hard run in the Assembly of the States. The nobility of Paris have shewn great skill and intrigue in the choice of their deputies, to the States-general. It can scarcely be believed, though it is a fact, that they have chosen Monf. D'Eipremenil as their first representative, in preference to the prince of the blood and the first nobility in the kingdom.—This gentleman not long since, declared in parliament, that he was the enemy of M. Neckar, and said, *Let his friends withhold their votes from me, since I will never cease till I unmask him.*

The opinion of the city of Paris may be judged of from this election.

In the mean time, Paris swarms with periodical publications in opposition to government, and the king has found it necessary, notwithstanding the declaration in M. Neckar's speech, that the liberty of the press should be allowed, to publish an ordinance for their suppression, as well as notice to all booksellers who shall sell them, on the penalty of forfeiture of their estates.

JUNE 3. Yesterday morning advices were received from Hamburg, confirming the intelligence, that Admiral Wrangell has put to sea from Carlscroon, with thirty men of war, great part of which were line of battle ships, from 66 to 100 guns. The Admiral was proceeding up the Baltic, towards the coast of Finland, in order to make a cruise in such a situation as to block up the port of Revel, and to prevent the squadron from Confrat forming a junction with the Russian fleet, in the harbour of Copenhagen: In such case, one engagement may settle the fate of this year's campaign by sea.

Extract of a letter from Madrid, June 1.

"The Hon. W. EDEN, commercial negotiator from London, having finished the system of commerce which is about to take place between Spain and England, left this city last week, and is gone from hence to London. All restrictions on the commerce between the two nations will be removed, and a plan of trade settled. No articles have yet appeared, but they are expected to be nearly similar to those with France."

The benevolent and philanthropic Mr. HOWARD is preparing to leave his native country on a three year's tour. One year he purposes to spend in Egypt. Should this truly valuable member of society live to return, and that he may must be the sincere wish of every good man, his great work on Lazarettos will be enriched by an appendix, in which the history of the plague will make a conspicuous figure.

It is now pretty clear to every discerning mind that nothing decisive will be done in the slave-trade this session, several days having been already taken up in examining a few witnesses when such a multitude remained behind. The reports before the privy council too, now printed for the use of the members, are all so contradictory—so much the effect of interest, of passion, of hear-say, &c. that it would be next to drawing lots for justice to come to a ready conclusion either way. It is to be hoped, however, some temporary measures will be adopted, and that the tried efforts of those measures, with a clearer view of the general question will enable Parliament to effect that reform next session, which will do credit to the legislature of Great-Britain.

FRANCE JUNE 8.

The payments at the Hotel de Ville are begun for the last six months of 1788, as Mr. NECKAR had mentioned in his speech. It is wonderful how government keep up their credit, when the finances are so very low. It is true that the half-yearly dividend has been due these five or six months, but it is likewise too true that when Cardinal LOMENEY, Archbishop of Sens, quitted the administration, not half a million of livres were found the treasury. It is a guardian angel; it is the director general; it is a Neckar, who *nobis defundit vivum per membra vigorem*, exclaimed enthusiastically, the commons!

JUNE 21. At the moment when France thought herself happy in the establishment of her RIGHTS and LIBERTIES, every thing is again thrown into confusion.

On Friday the national assembly (that is to say, that part of the states, late called the commons) had finally voted the provisional grant of taxes, till the end of the sessions; the consolidation of the national debt; a loan for the immediate payment of the arrears due from government: and considerable sums of money to be forthwith sent into the provinces for the relief of the poor;—at the same time the clergy had determined to join the third estate on the next day, Saturday.

In the morning, at three o'clock, an officer with sixty men was posted at the door of the assembly room, to prevent the entrance of the deputies; and at nine o'clock the heralds proclaimed a suspension of the meeting till Monday, when his majesty would go to the house, to receive them.

The president and several members arriving at their usual hour, and finding the doors shut against them, remained some time in the street, but at length adjourned to the Tennis-court, and there held their assembly till late in the evening, when they separately took the following oath:

"WE SOLEMNLY SWEAR NEVER TO SEPARATE FROM THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY, BUT TO UNITE OURSELVES IN EVERY PLACE, WHEREVER CIRCUMSTANCES MAY REQUIRE, UNTIL THE CONSTITUTION IS ESTABLISHED ON A SOLID FOUNDATION."

"RESOLVED, That this determination shall be printed and sent to the different provinces."

At the same time Monsieur De Gocies, on the part of the inhabitants of St. Domingo, put the

colonies under the protection of the national assembly, and declared that henceforward they would call themselves Colonies Nationales.

All Paris is in the greatest consternation, and the court under the utmost embarrassment; the intention of the king in going the house, is kept a profound secret; and the people are the more alarmed, as they see no reason why any secret should be made, if his design was favorable; on the other hand, the firmness of the assembly, in their proceedings of yesterday, has evidently put the court party under the greatest dilemma; for this evening at six o'clock, no orders are yet given for his majesty's equipage, nor any notice sent to the officers who should attend him. The general report is, that the king will not go to the house to-morrow, and that a counter-proclamation will be on the breaking up of the council.

Every day brings fresh accounts of the distress of the country, for want of bread. In the neighbourhood of Senlis, Soissons, Chantilly, &c. it is credibly affirmed, that the bakers will not be able to furnish a single loaf at any price, after Wednesday. To Paris, Versailles, Marli, &c. not a cart load of flour is brought without the protection of a guard.

LONDON, JUNE 29.

Received at ten o'clock last night, by express, from VERSAILLES.

La Seance Royale, which we formerly announced, took place on Tuesday last, at which time the king abolished all the *arrets* entered into by the tiers etat. Each order of the assembly went separately to their respective chambers, the tiers etat remaining in their own.—After the king's departure, they voted in their own capacity, a confirmation of the *arrets* which they had just agreed to, notwithstanding the king had commanded them to be abolished.—They then severally took an oath, not to consider themselves as dissolved, although the king had issued his orders for that purpose!

Immediately after this, Monf. Neckar, the minister of finance, went up to the king, and entreated permission to resign the seals of his office. This was peremptorily refused by the sovereign. On going out of the palace, he was embraced by the assembly of the tiers etat, and conducted by them in a shew of triumph and adoration to his official apartments.

This proves a strange revolution in politics—and, if the phrase can be allowable, we will add, an usurpation of liberty in the very heart of the late despotic capital of France.

Twelve months ago, files of musqueteers, with drawn bayonets, were placed in, and surrounded the courts of justice and houses of parliament in Paris. At this moment the third and inferior state of the kingdom is bidding defiance to arbitrary power, and the decrees of their sovereign. This may be considered as a critical epoch in the history of nations, and France in particular; whilst famine is hastening to the very gates of the capital.

Liberty will have another feather in her cap. The seraphic contagion was caught from Britain,—it crossed the Atlantic to North America—from whence the flame has been communicated to France.

JULY 2. We are assured from respectable authority, that the great controverted question in France has received its final determination. The two superior orders have yielded to the commons, in consequence of a letter from the king. On Saturday last, the three orders met and formed a house; none of the clergy dissenting, and of the nobles only forty five; so that every thing now is peace and concord without doors.

PRICE CURRENT.—NEW-YORK.

Jamaica Spirits,	5/.
Antigua Rum,	4/6. a
St. Croix, do.	4/5. a
Country, do.	2/10.
Molasses,	2/2. a
Brandy,	5/9.
Geneva,	5/3.
Do. in cases,	28/.
Muscovado Sugar,	56/.
Loaf, do.	1/7. 1/2 a
Lump, do.	1/10.
Pepper,	2/6. a
Pimento,	1/9. a
Chocolate,	1/2.
Cocoa,	75/.
Coffee,	1/8. a
Indigo, (Carolina)	4/.
Rice,	22/6. a
Superfine Flour,	45/.
Common do.	40/.
Rye do.	24/.
Indian Meal,	18/.
Rye,	4/3. pr. bush.
Corn, (Southern)	3/9. a
Do. (Northern,)	4/3. a
Beef, first quality,	48/.
— Second quality,	43/6.
Pork, first quality,	81/6.
— Second quality,	76/6.
Hams,	7d.
Carolina Tobacco,	3d. a
Virginia ———,	4d. a

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