

The RIGHT CONSTITUTION of a COMMON-WEALTH EXAMINED,

(IN CONTINUATION.)

THE example of Paulus Æmilius is equally hostile to our author's system, and equally friendly to that which we contend for. The first consul of that name, the conqueror of Illyricum, in 533, although he returned to Rome in triumph, yet, at the expiration of his office, he was cited before the people, in their tribes, and accused of having converted part of the spoils to his own use. Æmilius had great difficulty to escape the condemnation which his colleague suffered. This great patrician and consul commanded, and was killed at the battle of Cannæ. His son, of the same name, whose sister Æmilia was married to the great Scipio, distinguished himself by avoiding those intrigues, solicitations, carefies, and other artifices, practised by most candidates, even at this time, 562. His pains were employed to make himself esteemed by valour, justice, and ardour in his duty, in which he surpassed all the young men of his age. He carried the ædileship against ten competitors, every one of whom was so distinguished by birth and merit as afterwards to obtain the consulship. By his wife Papiria he had two sons, whom he procured to be adopted into the most illustrious houses in Rome; the eldest by Fabius maximus, five times consul and dictator; the younger by a son of Scipio Africanus. His two daughters were married, one to a son of Cato the censor, and the other to Tubero. In 563 he gained a complete victory over the Lusitanians, in which he killed them eighteen thousand men, and took their camp, with thirteen hundred prisoners. In the offices of ædile, and of augur, he excelled all his contemporaries in the knowledge and practice of his duty: and military discipline he carried to greater perfection than had ever been known: nevertheless, when he stood for any office, even in those virtuous times, there was always an opposition; and he could not obtain the consulship till after he had suffered several repulses. Why? Because his virtue was too severe; not for the senate, but the people; and because he would not flatter and bribe the people. Before the end of the year of his first consulate he fought the Ligurians, and gained a complete victory over them, killing more than fifteen thousand men, and making near three thousand prisoners, and returned to Rome in triumph: Yet with all his merit, when he stood candidate, some years after, for the consulate, the people rejected him: upon this he retired to educate his children. He was frugal in every thing of private luxury, but magnificent in expences of public duty. Grammarians, rhetoricians, philosophers, sculptors, painters, equerries, hunters, were procured for the instruction of his children. While he was thus employed in private life, in 583, fourteen years after his first consulship, the affairs of the Republic were ignorantly conducted, and the Macedonians, with Perseus at their head, gained great advantages against them. People were not satisfied with the conduct of their consuls of late years, and began to say, that the Roman name was not supported. The cry was, that the command of the armies must no longer be given to faction and favor. The singular merit of Æmilius, his splendid services, the confidence which the troops had in his capacity, and the urgent necessity of the times for his wisdom and firmness, turned all eyes upon him. All his relations, and the senators in general, urged him to stand candidate. He had already experienced so much ingratitude, injustice, and caprice, that he shunned the present ardor, and chose to continue in private life. That very people who had so often ill used him, and rejected him, now crowded before his door, and insisted on his going to the forum; and his presence there was universally considered as a sure presage of victory, and he was unanimously elected consul, and appointed commander in Macedonia. He conquered Perseus and his Macedonian Phalanx, and in the battle he formed Fabiuses and Scipios to be the glory and triumph of his country after him. He plundered the immense wealth of Macedonia and Epirus: he plundered seventy cities, and demolished their walls. The spoils were sold, and each soldier had two hundred denarii, and each of the horse four. The soldiers and common people, it seems, had little of that disinterestedness for which Æmilius was remarkable. They were so offended at their general for giving so little of the booty to them, and reserving so much to the public treasury, that they raised a great cry and opposition against his triumph; and Galba, the soldiers, and their friends among the plebeians, were determined to teach the great men, the consuls, generals, &c. to be less public-spirited—to defraud the treasury of its wealth, and bestow it upon them: they accordingly opposed the triumph of this great and disinterested general, and the first tribes absolutely rejected it.—Who, upon this occasion, saved the honour, justice, and dignity of the republic? Not the plebeians but senators. The senators were highly enraged at this infamous injustice and ingratitude, and this daring effort of popular licentiousness

and avarice, and were obliged to make a noise, and excite a tumult. Servilius, too, who been consul, and had killed three and twenty enemies who had challenged him in single combat, made a long speech, in which he shewed the baseness of their conduct in so striking a light, that he made the people ashamed of themselves; and at length they consented to the triumph, but to all appearance more from a desire to see the show of Perseus laden with chains, led through the city before the chariot of the victor, than from any honest and public spirited design to reward merit. The sum which he caused to be carried into the public treasury on the day of the triumph was one million three hundred thousand pounds sterling, and caused the taxes of the Roman people to be abolished. At his death, after the sale of part of his slaves, moveables, and some farms, to pay his wife's dower, the remainder of his fortune was but nine thousand three hundred and seventy-five pounds sterling. As he was descended from one of the most noble and ancient houses of Rome, illustrious by the highest dignities, the smallness of his fortune reflects honor on his ancestors as well as on himself. The love of simplicity was still supported in some of the great families, by extreme care not to ally themselves with luxurious ones; and Æmilius chose Tubero, of the family of Ælii, whose first piece of plate was a silver cup of five pounds weight, given him by his father-in-law. These few families stemmed the torrent of popular avarice and extravagance.

EUROPEAN ACCOUNTS, BY LATE ARRIVALS.

ST. PETERSBURGH, MAY 15. The son of General Kameskoy, who commands the army in Moldavia, arrived here yesterday with the news, that on the 27th of April, General Derfelden compelled the Turks to retreat to within twenty wersts of Brailla, near Macksumene, on the river Sireth. In this action 400 of the enemy were killed, and a considerable number drowned. A Pacha of Two Tails, who commanded in Moldavia, was taken prisoner, with about 100 men, one piece of cannon, and three standards.

A second Courier arrived this day from General Kameskoy, with an account that on the 30th April, General Derfelden had attacked the enemy in the camp near Galata, on the Danube, and that after an obstinate engagement of more than three hours, he had totally defeated them. Fifteen hundred Turks were killed, and a Pacha of Three Tails, with a considerable number of officers, and above 1000 men taken prisoners. The camp, with the artillery, standards, &c. fell into the hands of the conquerors, whose loss amounted only to 60 men killed, and 100 wounded.

VIENNA, MAY 30. Intelligence has been received that the Grand Vizir, with an army of 100,000 men has left Rutchuck, and is advancing along the banks of the Danube, towards Cladova, in Servia.

LONDON, JULY 1. According to advices from Gibraltar, the arrival of Admiral Peyton's cruizers inform, that the States of Barbary, Algiers, Tunis, Tripoli, Barca, &c. are making much more formidable naval preparations than were ever before known at any period of time whatever; all in aid of the Ottoman Porte in its war against the two Imperial Courts. It was even said that these conjoint forces are meant to attack some of the Imperial or Tuscan ports in Italy.

By the last advices from Madras, we learn that General Meadows was on his way from Bombay, to succeed Governor Campbell, but that he had not then arrived.

General Meadows is to be succeeded by General Abercrombie, in the government of Bombay.

Much praise is due to Sir Archibald Campbell, for the excellent state of defence in which he has left the Carnatic. The disposition of the troops stationed in that province, is such as does honor to his military skill, while it effectually secures, at the same time, that province from the sudden insults of Tippoo Sultan.

July 2. An attempt is said to have been made on the life of Mons. Necker, by poison! The Minister however, happily discovered the matter in time to prevent its effects; for the dish which he had tasted, upon further trial, killed a dog; and some snuff, which had been conveyed into a box before him, in a few minutes destroyed another animal!

In the last attempt, the artifice was this:—The box was a fac simile of Mr. Necker's, and it was placed, according to that gentleman's custom, on the mantle-piece. He had a narrow escape, for the box was in his hand, when he discovered his own in his pocket!!!

It is needless to add, that Mr. Necker is now on his guard; his chief food is hen's eggs, which Madame Necker sees boiled in her own room.

The spirit of the people, now urged on by desperation, seems capable of the most daring attempt. The Tiers Etat, of the Commons, as they are proud to call themselves, are prevailing more and more. The only question now is, whether the soldiery will or will not adhere to the Court. If the army prefer the interests of their fellow-citizens to those of the Crown, there is an end to the despotism of the French Monarch!

ABRIDGMENT of the STATE of POLITICS for last week.

FRANCE.

AMIDST the various figures that fill up the political scenery for this week, the most conspicuous still is the commotion in France. The dissensions in that kingdom seem now to be ripening fast to some catastrophe. We wait, in anxious suspense, for the eventual issue. The Third Estate, equal in number to the Nobility and the Clergy united, have assumed to themselves all the powers of the States General.—They have endeavored to convert their decrees into laws, which they have printed, published, and distributed in the provinces. Detachments, to speak in the military style, which must soon be too powerful, from the Nobility and Clergy have joined their corps: and thus a foundation is laid for a civil war, which, it now appears, is altogether inevitable: for the order of the Nobles, formidable by their numbers, wealth, high spirits, and connections in the army, have sent a remonstrance to the King, in which they express their resolution to maintain the prerogatives of the Crown, and the prerogatives of their own order. This body, rendered compact and indivisible by a military spirit and a sense of honor, presents a front of opposition that is not to be appalled by threats, nor easily cajoled by concessions. The French nation is therefore divided into two great parties; or rather they have fallen into two divisions. The King, under the influence of Mr. Neckar, and the Commons form one division; the great body of the Nobility and the Clergy the other. In these circumstances an appeal will naturally be made to the army. It is said that several gentlemen of the army have caught the infection of freedom, as well as the mass of the people. The French regiments that served in America, in the late war, are particularly distinguished, as might have been naturally expected, by their zeal for liberty. Were this enthusiasm general among the military gentlemen, the matters in dispute would be settled at once. But this, we have been assured by private intelligence, which we cannot doubt, is by no means the case. The great part, by far, of the officers of the army, commissioned and non-commissioned, dependent on the crown for their subsistence, their consequence in society, and their future views, see with jealousy the rising power of an order of men whom they were accustomed to treat with insolent contempt. And though the present Monarch, Louis XVI. leans towards the Commons, they consider this as a dereliction of the Royal Prerogatives; as a temporary phrenzy which cannot be lasting. They make a distinction, in short, between the person of the Sovereign, whose sentiments and inclinations are uncertain, and the Throne, which they consider as fixed and permanent.

EAST-INDIES.

By late advices from India, we have been informed, that our affairs in that quarter wear a flourishing aspect, though there be a pretty general dissatisfaction among the servants of the Company, as might be expected, at the rigorous reforms carried on by Lord Cornwallis. In a political view it may be questioned, how far it is prudent, before the powers of our government be more accurately defined, and our authority more firmly rooted in India, to dry up the resources by which individuals acquire fortunes; or to discourage men of family and spirit from entering into the Company's service. Presents and perquisites are natural in Asia.

THE NATIONAL MONITOR.—No. XVIII.

- “Combine ye sons of freedom, ah, combine,
“The people are invincible who join;
“Factions and feuds will overturn the State,
“Which UNION renders flourishing and great.

AT the commencement of the revolution, UNION was the word.—We justly considered this as the great axis on which our political existence turned. Our experience verified the idea; for,

“Twas UNION sav'd us in the trying hour.”

Can it be thought less important that we should be as fully impressed with this important sentiment now? It cannot.—This led us to empire and independence.—This has given us a CONSTITUTION, the glory of this western region, and the envy and admiration of the world. UNION alone can preserve and perpetuate this inestimable jewel—without which FREEDOM is but a name.—Laws, and government being perhaps more necessary to its preservation, than they are for the security of life and property.—The Constitution has passed a fiery trial, and like gold has come forth with additional lustre—it is now the “SUPREME LAW OF THE LAND”—that great uniting bond that holds the States together, and on which all our hopes of national happiness and glory depend.—Let us then view with abhorrence and indignation, every attempt to sow the seeds of jealousy, distrust and disunion among ourselves—every effort to injure, deface, or depreciate the merits of the Constitution. In an especial manner let us spurn every attempt to sully the reputation, wound the feelings, or destroy the usefulness of those patriotic characters, which THE PEOPLE have appointed to administer the new Government. There are persons in every community whose element is confusion—but for the people to countenance such incendiaries, is to set their own house on fire.

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