

Gazette of the United States.

[No. LIII.]

W E D N E S D A Y, O C T O B E R 14, 1789.

[Published on Wednesday and Saturday.]

PLAN

Of the GAZETTE of the UNITED STATES. (A NATIONAL PAPER.)

Published at the SEAT of the NATIONAL GOVERNMENT,
CONTAINING,

I. EARLY and authentic Accounts of the PROCEEDINGS of CONGRESS—its LAWS, ACTS, and RESOLUTIONS, communicated so as to form a HISTORY of the TRANSACTIONS of the NATIONAL LEGISLATURE.

II. IMPARTIAL SKETCHES of the DEBATES of CONGRESS.

III. ESSAYS on the great Subjects of Government; also upon the national and local Rights of the AMERICAN CITIZENS, as founded upon the National or State Constitutions; also upon every other Subject, which may appear suitable for newspaper discussion.

IV. A SERIES of PARAGRAPHS, calculated to catch the "LIVING MANNERS AS THEY RISE," and to point the public attention to Objects that have an important reference to domestic, social and public happiness.

V. The Interests of the United States as connected with their literary Institutions—religious and moral Objects—Improvements in Science, Arts, EDUCATION and HUMANITY—their foreign Treaties, Alliances, Connections, &c.

VI. Every Species of INTELLIGENCE, which may affect the commercial, agricultural, manufacturing, or political INTERESTS of the AMERICAN NATION.

VII. A CHAIN of DOMESTIC OCCURRENCES.

VIII. A SERIES of FOREIGN ARTICLES of INTELLIGENCE.

X. THE STATE of the FUNDS—Courses of Exchange—Prices Current, &c.

CONDITIONS.

I.

Published every WEDNESDAY and SATURDAY.

II.

The price to Subscribers (exclusive of postage) THREE DOLLARS per annum.

III.

The first semi-annual payment to be made in three months from the time of subscribing, and future payments to be made every six months.

SUBSCRIPTIONS

Will be received in all the capital towns upon the Continent; also at No. 9, Maiden-Lane, near the Oldgo-Market, New-York.

TO THE PUBLIC.

AT this important Crisis, the ideas that fill the mind, are pregnant with Events of the greatest magnitude—to strengthen and complete the UNION of the States—to extend and protect their COMMERCE, under equal Treaties yet to be formed—to explore and arrange the NATIONAL FUNDS—to restore and establish the PUBLIC CREDIT—and ALL under the auspices of an untried System of Government, will require the ENERGIES of the Patriots and Sages of our Country—Hence the propriety of encreasing the Mediums of Knowledge and Information.

AMERICA, from this period, begins a new Era in her national existence—"THE WORLD IS ALL BEFORE HER"—The wisdom and folly—the misery and prosperity of the EMPIRES, STATES, and KINGDOMS, which have had their day upon the great Theatre of Time, and are now no more, suggest the most important Mementos—These, with the rapid series of Events, in which our own Country has been so deeply interested, have taught the enlightened Citizens of the United States, that FREEDOM and GOVERNMENT—LIBERTY and LAWS, are inseparable.

This Conviction has led to the adoption of the New Constitution; for however, VARIOUS the Sentiments, respecting the MERITS of this System, all GOOD MEN are agreed in the necessity that exists, of an EFFICIENT FEDERAL GOVERNMENT.

A paper, therefore, established upon NATIONAL, INDEPENDENT, and IMPARTIAL PRINCIPLES—which shall take up the premised Articles, upon a COMPETENT PLAN, it is presumed, will be highly interesting, and meet with public approbation and patronage.

The Editor of this Publication is determined to leave no avenue of information unexplored.—He solicits the assistance of Persons of leisure and abilities—which, united with his own assiduity, he flatters himself will render the Gazette of the United States not unworthy general encouragement—and is, with due respect, the public's humble servant,
THE EDITOR.

POSTSCRIPT.

SIX Months have now elapsed since this paper was ushered into existence—how far the spirit of the plan has been exhibited, and adhered to, is not for the Editor to say.—A generous and candid public has awarded its approbation, by a subscription which is said to be more extensive than usual on similar occasions.—An acknowledgement of the favor is therefore due from the publisher.—The expense attending an undertaking of this kind is always great; in the present instance, it has not been counterbalanced by any of the customary receipts on account of advertisements—the object being an extensive circulation, the Editor conceiving that their insertion would have counteracted that part of his plan, has never admitted any. This consideration if it was necessary to be suggested, would point out the importance of punctuality on the part of the subscribers—it appears to have been very generally attended to, as the payments have been unusually prompt.

It is necessary to observe that the number of names which have honored the subscription, (at the present time about 650,) is not sufficient to defray the expense of the publication, and to afford the Editor a competent support, on a supposition that the whole should be collected.—Additional subscriptions are therefore solicited; and when it is considered, that the paper is new in its construction; contains intelligence of the most interesting nature; abounds with more originality than any other periodical publication; and, viewed as a miscellany, is cheaper than any magazine, register, &c. it can not be doubted but that it will receive an adequate patronage.

In the present number, the publication of the Journals of the Senate is commenced. As there is no gallery in the Senate Chamber, all that can be known of the proceedings of that Most Honorable branch of the National Legislature, is from their Journals; in this view of the subject, it is supposed they will be interesting to the public. The price of the Laws and the Journals of the two Houses only, which will be given in the course of one year, amounts to more than the subscription.

The Editor is determined to prosecute the publication, upon its original principles: He hopes to make it more interesting, by the communications of his ingenious correspondents: He solicits the aid of every friend to science, freedom and government: And such speculations as bear a friendly aspect to the peace, honor and prosperity of our rising nation, will be received with gratitude by the public's humble servant.

J O H N F E N N O.

New-York, October 14, 1789.

THE TABLET.—No. LIII.

"The desire of knowledge, like the thirst of riches increases with the acquisition of it."

MANY philosophers have doubted whether learning, distributed among the great mass of the people, contributes to the real happiness of society. The inquisitive mind of man can never be satisfied with attainments in knowledge; and every new acquisition only encreases his natural restlessness of spirit. There is a plausibility in this mode of reasoning; but nevertheless it is fallacious. Though it must be confessed that learning does not produce contentment, still it affords a source of satisfaction, which positively adds to the quantity of human happiness. It renders the mind active as well as contemplative: Its pleasures and pains become more numerous and intense. The happiness of an ignorant man can be called nothing more than an exemption from misery.

But whether as individuals we should be more or less happy, as our understanding is more or less improved, yet as members of a community, the utility of men, may be generally said to be proportioned to their knowledge. This remark however admits of exceptions. Those men whose curiosity pushes them into vain researches of literature may arrive at great attainments and still be very useless members of the community. A spirit of enquiry among a people will in time regulate itself, and the bulk of the citizens will fall into pursuits that are beneficial. The reason why demagogues in some of the antient governments blew up a flame in society so frequently was, that the mass of the people were uninformed. They could not distinguish the honest remonstrances of a real patriot from the petulant clamours of pretended ones. In the United States the inhabitants are less liable to be deceived, as there are so many men of information that the value of characters can be fairly estimated. This diffusion of knowledge promises one of the best safeguards as well as one of the brightest ornaments of our new government. There can be little danger either of oppression or insurrection in a country where the inhabitants generally know how to read. The public opinion becomes so just and respectable that rulers durst not make oppressive laws, and the people wish not to violate such as are wise and salutary.

It is a pleasing circumstance to observe legislators attempting to guard the liberties of their country by bills of rights, and checks and explanations upon the constitution. Such precautions have no doubt a good effect. But all the political constitutions that the art of man can frame will never perpetuate the freedom of an ignorant people; nor can any original defects in a form of government subject an enlightened people to slavery. It is worthy the serious attention of legislators to make provisions in all parts of the country for public schools. Most of these should extend little further than teaching children to read and write, and perhaps to understand some of the lower branches of mathematicks. It would not be amiss at the same time, to have a political or moral catechism introduced that should instruct children in the great duties which men as well as citizens should observe to each other. By this means a foundation would be laid for laboring people to reflect and gain further knowledge as opportunity offers. They might gradually progress without interfering with pursuits of business; and when once they had tasted the sweets of learning, their ardor would generally keep pace with their advantages for gaining improvement.

ANECDOTE.

The following STORY in half a century more, will scarcely be believed.

NOT very many years ago, the French King's taylor, having acquired a princely fortune, purchased a chateau in the neighborhood of Versailles. In that neighborhood lived likewise a little Marquis, whose pride and poverty were equally on a par. The taylor turned gentleman, dined in a large party at the house of a friend; there too dined the Marquis. After dinner the quondam profession of the former was accidentally brought on the carpet, and the Marquis felt all the indignance of nobility stained by such an association, he stepped up to the bourgeois gentilhomme, and without any ceremony enquired if he could make him a suit of clothes? "Volontiers," said the other, "an honest man should never be ashamed of his profession—my servant," added he, pulling the bell, "will fetch me paper and a pair of scissors, that I may proceed without loss of time to measure you." This was done, and the Marquis questioned as to the quality and richness of the stuff, &c. He left every thing to the tay-

lor, putting no limits to his commission; and the other called the company to witness the latitude he had given him. The suit of clothes in a few days was delivered to the Marquis, exactly such as is usually worn by the Dauphin on a birth-day, covered with gold, with pearls, and other precious ornaments. On this occasion, the bill, you may be sure, was not forgotten; it amounted to thirty thousand livres, precisely the value of the Marquis's estate. An action was afterwards instituted for recovery of the debt, the estate sold, and the Marquis put in possession of a suit of clothes, which constituted his whole property.

MR. FENNO,

As the public curiosity has again been excited respecting the MAN with the IRON MASK, who was so long confined in the Bastille, the following account of who the person was, published many years since, which appears very plausible at least, may not be unacceptable to your readers.

C. D.

IT must be recollected that Lewis XIV. was excessively amorous, and had several mistresses. Amongst the rest was one without beauty, but tall and well shaped, and whose wit and fine sense made more than amends for the deficiency of her personal graces. The King loved her to distraction, and by her had a son, on whom he conferred the title of Duke de Vermandois, and caused him to be educated with all imaginable care. He was handsome, well made, full of vivacity, but haughty and passionate, and could not bear to pay the Dauphin, the only legitimate son of Lewis XIV. the respect due to a Prince born to be his King. These two young princes, near the same age, were of very opposite characters. The Dauphin, possessed of the same personal advantages as the Duke, excelled him by his mildness, his affability, and a heart full of goodness and generosity. These qualities, as estimable as uncommon in a Prince born to hereditary power, rendered the Dauphin the object of the Duke's contempt, who missed no occasion of expressing his concern for the French nation, declined one day to obey a Prince without spirit, and unworthy to rule. The King was informed of this behavior of the Duke, and saw how blameable it was; but authority yielding to parental affection, deprived him of the power to correct his favorite son. The Duke, encouraged by this indulgence, so far forgot himself as one day to give the Dauphin a blow. The King was presently acquainted with it, and trembled for the criminal. Whatever inclination he had to dissemble this affront, the dignity of the crown, and the disturbance it made at Court, got the better of his tenderness. He assembled, not without reluctance, his favorite ministers, to whom he disclosed his concern, and demanded their advice. In proportion to the enormity of the crime, and according to the maxims of State, they all judged it merited death. However, one of the council, more sensible of the King's affection than the rest, said, there was a way to punish the Duke without taking his life. He proposed the King should immediately send him to the army, then on the frontiers of Flanders; that soon after his arrival there, it should be given out he was seized with the plague, to prevent his being visited by persons of distinction; that after a few days pretended illness, it should be reported he was dead; and that, while in the fight of the army, his funeral ceremonies being performed in a manner suitable to his birth, he should by night be secretly conveyed to the island of St. Margaret, where he should be imprisoned for life. This advice was approved by the King. Faithful persons were intrusted with the execution of it. The Duke set out for the army with a splendid equipage. The rest of the scheme was executed as laid down; and while the whole camp bewailed the imagined death of this unhappy prince, he was conducted through bye-ways to the castle of St. Margaret, and put into the hands of the governor, who had before hand received orders from the King to suffer his prisoner to be seen by no other person whatever. The Duke was allowed one single domestic, who was in the secret; but he dying on the road, the guards disfigured him with their sabres, to prevent his being known; and leaving him stripped for the same reason, continued their journey. The governor received and treated his prisoner with the greatest respect. He served him in person, receiving whatever he wanted from the servants at the door of the Duke's apartment, without suffering any of them to enter, so that he remained invisible to all about him. One day, however, he bethought himself of giving his name on the back of a silver plate, with the point of his knife; the servant who discovered this, brought it to his master, in hopes of a reward; but the unhappy wretch was killed on the spot, that the secret might die with him. The Duke remained for some years in this prison, till the governor being advanced to the government of the Bastille, at Paris, it was thought proper to transfer with him his illustrious prisoner. Both at St. Margaret's and the Bastille, whenever, on account of sickness, or any other occasion, they were obliged to let the Duke be seen, he was constrained to wear a mask. Several persons worthy of credit affirm they have seen him thus. If it be queried why the Duke, having so long outlived both the King and Dauphin, was not released, it must be considered as impossible to restore to his rank, dignity, or estate, a Prince, whose tomb existed, and of whose obsequies so many then living were witnesses; so that it would have been scarce possible to undeceive the people, who to this day believe he died of the plague in the camp of Flanders.

EXTRACT.

There is nothing more ridiculous in men, or argues greater ignorance of themselves, than to be crying, as they frequently do, we will do such a thing, or such a thing, and then have done. Alas! there is no stopping the progress of the passions without extinguishing life: A fire will as soon burn without air. While there will be desires; and these being of things to come, it is impossible to confine them to the present instant, or any stated point of time: We cannot say to them, Thus far go, and no further, since progression is necessary to their existence. There is no medium between death and motion; and when we cease to proceed, we cease to be.

To be doing, therefore, is a consequence of living; and idleness is but a diliberation of what is to be done next. Old men are generally blam'd for laying platforms and foundations of great works and buildings, which they cannot live to see finished; but I think the censure is groundless, since by this means they cut out certain business and entertainment for themselves, and open a source of perpetual new action and observation,