

# Gazette of the United States.

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## THE TABLET.—No. LIX.

"In free countries, it is a branch of liberty, claimed by the middling and lowest classes of the people, to be as wicked and profigate as their superiors."

THE subject introduced in my last number has some remote connection with that, which is now brought into discussion. It has been remarked that economy, as a general virtue, has more utility in promoting the interest of individuals, than mere sagacity in acquiring property. But though this quality contributes to the prosperity of all men, it is more essentially requisite with persons in low circumstances, and who have small advantages for making them better.

It is not my intention to indulge undistinguishing censure against the extravagance or vices of the times; or to examine how far the luxury of individuals may be considered as a public benefit or injury. Perhaps no investigation can bring the matter to any definite point. Waving therefore the consideration of the influence of profigate, expensive manners upon the public prosperity, I will only shew that such excesses counteract the happiness and success of individuals.

It is very certain that no gratification can afford a pleasure, that will not be more than balanced by the pains of debt and embarrassment. Whether it is simply the love of pleasure, or an ambition to make a figure in polite life, that tempts people to live beyond their income, they are bad calculators of happiness, who thus involve themselves. A very considerable part of the wretchedness and disgrace, into which some families are plunged, is occasioned by their taking too high a tone in their expences. Had they pitched upon a style of living one grade lower, they would have gained more real satisfaction and respect, and would not so often lose their character and estate. There is a great proportion of the misery, that infests society, derived from this unfortunate source. This ardor to imitate superiors creates a general confusion and miscalculation; it seduces people into a habit of progressing too fast in their expences, and straining too hard upon their income.

Perha ps it will be urged that the community gain to o much advantage by the luxury of individuals to attempt any restraints upon it. Far am I from supposing that any legal interference, pointed directly to this object, will produce any reformation. It is more than probable that such a remedy will prove worse than the disorder itself. But I am not yet willing to believe that this evil is totally incurable. If attempts were made, in the education of children, to render a prudent mode of living reputable, and to enstil into their minds an aversion to contract debts, there would be less temptation to spend faster than they earned. There is a peculiar relaxation in the present practice of educating children, with respect to their habits of expence. It is an evil, in some measure, rising out of the nature of a free government, and therefore it is of the more importance to guard against it, in the early periods of life.

In the United States, there are many causes to elevate the hopes of men, whether they are pursuing objects of avarice or ambition. The idea of assuming a more important stand in society is impressed on the minds of people, from their very infancy. They expect, at some future day, to move in a sphere higher than they do at present. The fascinating influence of such a hope draws some people into an anticipation of the property which they hereafter intend to acquire. By this means, many persons, in every grade of life, spend too profusely, and involve themselves in debt and perplexity. In short they have been left to believe that there is less disgrace in losing their punctuality, than in retrenching their expences. Nothing can effectually restrain these mischiefs but a more rigid attention to the habits and opinions of youth on the interesting points of economy and self-denial.

BOSTON, October 28, 1789.

To the PRESIDENT of the UNITED STATES.

SIR,

IT is with singular pleasure that we, the President and Fellows of Harvard University in Cambridge, embrace the opportunity, which your most acceptable visit to this part of the country gives us, of paying our respects to the First Magistrate of the United States.

It afforded us the highest satisfaction, to find this large and respectable Nation unanimous, in placing at the head of the new Government, the firm and disinterested Patriot—the illustrious and intrepid Soldier, who, during her struggles in the cause of liberty, braving every difficulty and danger in the field, under the smiles of a kind Providence led her armies to victory and triumph, and finally established her freedom and independence. Nor were we less gratified, when we found, that the person whose military skill and exertions had been so happily succeeded, actuated by the same spirit of patriotism, did not decline the arduous and toilsome office, but listening to the

voice of his country, left the tranquil scenes of private life, to secure those national blessings, we were in the utmost danger of losing. We were fully persuaded, that the man, who during so great a length of time, and in the most trying circumstances, had been accepted by the multitude of his brethren, would, in this new station, enjoy their entire confidence, and ensure their highest esteem: Nor have we been disappointed.

Permit us, Sir, to congratulate you on the happy establishment of the government of the Union, on the patriotism and wisdom, which have marked its public transactions, and the very general approbation, which the people have given to its measures.

At the same time, Sir, being fully sensible, that you are strongly impressed with the necessity of religion, virtue and solid learning, for supporting freedom and good government, and fixing the happiness of the People upon a firm and permanent basis, we beg leave to recommend to your favorable notice, the University entrusted to our care, which was early founded for promoting these important ends.

When you took the command of the troops of your country, you saw the University in a state of depression—its members dispersed—its literary treasures removed—and the Muses fled from the din of arms, then heard within its walls. Happily restored, in the course of a few months, by your glorious successes, to its former privileges, and to a state of tranquility, it received its returning members, and our youth have since pursued, without interruption, their literary courses, and fitted themselves for usefulness in Church and State. The public rooms, which you formerly saw empty, are now replenished with the necessary means of improving the human mind in literature and science, and every thing within the walls wears the aspect of peace, so necessary to the cultivation of the liberal arts.

While we exert ourselves in our corporate capacity, to promote the great objects of this institution, we rest assured of your protection and patronage.

We wish you, Sir, the aid and support of Heaven, while you are discharging the duties of your most important station. May your success, in promoting the best interests of the nation, be equal to your highest wishes! And after you shall have long rejoiced in the prosperity and glory of your country, may you receive the approbation of Him, who ruleth among the Nations!

JOSEPH WILLARD, President of the University,  
October 27, 1789.

To the PRESIDENT and FELLOWS of HARVARD  
UNIVERSITY in Cambridge.

GENTLEMEN,

REQUESTING you to accept my sincere thanks for the Address with which you have thought proper to honor me, I intreat you to be persuaded of the respectful and affectionate consideration with which I receive it.

Elected by the suffrages of a too partial country to the eminent and arduous situation, which I now hold, it is peculiarly flattering to find an approbation of my conduct in the judgment of men, whose reverend characters must sanction the opinions they are pleased to express.

Unacquainted with the expression of sentiments which I do not feel, you will do me justice by believing confidently in my disposition to promote the interest of science and true religion.

It gives me sincere satisfaction to learn the flourishing state of your literary republic—assured of its efficiency in the past events of our political system, and of its further influence on those means which make the best support of good government, I rejoice that a direction of its measures is lodged with men, whose approved knowledge, integrity and patriotism, give an unquestionable assurance of their success.

That the Muses may long enjoy a tranquil residence within the walls of your University, and that you, Gentlemen, may be happy in contemplating the progress of improvement through the various branches of your important departments, are among the most pleasing of my wishes and expectations.

GEORGE WASHINGTON.

Boston, October 27, 1789.

The ADDRESS of the INHABITANTS of the  
TOWN of BOSTON, to THE PRESIDENT of the  
UNITED STATES of AMERICA.

SIR,

WE beg leave to express our happiness in the honor you confer upon us by your visit to this capital.

We are happy in the opportunity of again making our personal acknowledgments to a character, to which, on every principle, we are so deeply indebted.

Every motive of esteem, duty and affection have conspired to form in our minds the strongest attachment that the freest people can feel to the most deserving citizen.

As men, we have long since considered you, under God, as the great and glorious Avenger of

the violated rights of humanity—As citizens we have observed with peculiar satisfaction, that you have invariably respected those liberties, which you have so successfully defended: And as inhabitants of a great commercial town, we attribute the security we enjoy, to the singular merit and success of those measures, in the progress of the war, which you had the honor to conduct.

It cannot but afford you the highest pleasure, when you compare our present situation with the signal distresses to which we were exposed during the period in which this town was in the possession of an exasperated enemy. Indignant at the multiplied restraints of hostile domination, we sought an asylum among our friends and connections in the country, and cheerfully abandoned our property and possessions in the common cause of America—that we were so soon happily reinstated, may be justly imputed to the wisdom of those arrangements which compelled our invaders in their retreat, to adopt a less destructive policy than that, which on other occasions, they so wantonly practised.

In every trying vicissitude we have remarked the conspicuous and unaffected piety of your heart, and the wisdom and moderation of your counsels.

We have seen you relinquish the ease and independence of private fortune to lead in the untried dangers of a war, at the risque of your life and reputation. With pleasure we have viewed you retiring in victory, and exhibiting a new example of patriotic virtue to an admiring world; and we now feel a still higher satisfaction at your having once more sacrificed the sweets of domestic retirement in obedience to the united voice of your countrymen.

These, Sir, are the sentiments and reflections which naturally occur on an attentive consideration of your past conduct. To the future we look for those virtues which adorn the man, and mark the wise and accomplished Legislator. We anticipate from your discernment the happy union of liberty and law, lenity and vigor, mercy and justice: The enlightened policy of a mind calm amidst the influence of power, and uncorrupted by the fascinating allurements of avarice or ambition.

With these impressions the preservation of your life through the varied scenes in which you have been engaged, demands our grateful acknowledgements to the beneficent disposer of human events.

It is one of the first wishes of our hearts, that you may be as happy in your present elevated station, as you have been distinguished in your military character, and it is our fervent prayer to the Almighty Ruler of the universe, that the invisible hand which led the citizens of America through the dangers and calamities of war, may still guard and protect you as an ornament to human nature, and a blessing to your country.

To the INHABITANTS of the Town of BOSTON.

GENTLEMEN,

THE obligations which your goodness has imposed upon me, demand my grateful, and receive my sincere acknowledgments. Your esteem does me honor, and your affection communicates the truest pleasure—by endeavoring to deserve, I will indulge the hope of retaining them.

Over rating my services, you have ascribed consequences to them, in which it would be injustice to deny a participation to the virtue and firmness of my fellow citizens of this respectable town, and Commonwealth.

If the exercise of my military commission has contributed to vindicate the rights of humanity, and to secure the freedom and happiness of my country, the purpose for which it was assumed has been completed, and I am amply rewarded.—If in the prosecution of my civil duties, I shall be so fortunate as to meet the wishes of my fellow citizens, and to promote the advantages of our common interests, I shall not regret the sacrifice, which you are pleased to mention in terms so obliging.

The numerous sensations of heartfelt satisfaction, which a review of past scenes affords to my mind, in a comparison with the present happy hour, are far beyond my powers of utterance to express.

I rejoice with you, my fellow citizens, in every circumstance that declares your prosperity—and I do so, most cordially, because you have well deserved to be happy.

Your love of liberty—your respect for the laws—your habits of industry—and your practice of the moral and religious obligations, are the strongest claims to national and individual happiness—and they will, I trust, be firmly and lastingly established.

Your wishes for my personal felicity impress a deep and affectionate gratitude—and your prayer to the Almighty Ruler of the Universe, in my behalf, calls forth my fervent supplication, to that gracious and benevolent Being, for every blessing on your temporal pursuits, and for the perfection of your happiness hereafter.

G. WASHINGTON.

Boston, October 27, 1789.