

# Gazette of the United States.

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THE TABLET.—No. LXII.

"There is, generally speaking, less truth in panegyrics than in satires."

WHOEVER might be the author of the remark contained in my motto, he certainly did not mean it as a compliment upon human nature. Some of the asperity, which the observation discovers, will be taken off, when we reflect that men, who write satires, draw too lively an image of the bad qualities of others; and those, who bestow panegyrics, give too favorable a coloring to good qualities. Both may be carried to extremes, though neither originated in falsehood. It is no proof that satirical writings contain more truth than panegyric, merely because the former excite more forcible impressions than the latter. The fact is, we are more strongly affected with the failings, than with the virtues of one another. If in company I draw a favorable character of my neighbor, my companions attend less eagerly to what I say, than when I present to their view an odious character. But this does not prove that I do not speak, with an equal degree of truth, in both instances. It only shews that there is a predisposition in men to attend more critically to the bad, than to the good qualifications, that are made the subject of conversation.

The enemies of a man are more active and vigilant in exposing his bad actions, than his friends are, in displaying the meritorious points of his character. This however is no proof that his friends depart from the truth, any more than his enemies. Men more readily make a common cause of spying out and reproaching the vices or defects of others, than they do, in searching for and proclaiming their virtues and excellencies. A vicious action rouses some of the most energetic passions of the soul. It produces in the mind more ferment and agitation than can be excited by any exhibition of virtuous deeds.

The truth contained in satire is generally more obvious, and more readily acknowledged, than in encomiums. Men, who draw upon themselves the pen of the satirist, often have other enemies to encounter besides the writer; for a satirical attack upon a man is of itself a circumstantial evidence, that his conduct deserves reproach. An innocent, virtuous man will commonly be shielded by his innocence and virtue. He will not be dangerously exposed to the shafts of slander while his character is really unimpeachable. This man may, for a long time, possess excellent qualities without their ever being a subject of special commendation. But let him once depart from a fair, virtuous line of conduct, and I cannot warrant he will long be exempt from reproof and invective. We cannot however infer, that praise would not have been equally just, while he yet was a good man, as blame is, after he becomes a bad one. In short, though it is a plausible theory, that there is, generally speaking, more truth in satire than in panegyric, it will nevertheless not appear so, upon a strict examination. It is only true, that blame and reproach meet with a more ready reception, and assimilate better with the usual feelings of people, than praise and applause.

As it has been before hinted, men will more eagerly hunt down their enemies, than raise up their friends. The emotions of jealousy, envy, and hatred are pungent and irritating, and produce a stronger control over the mind, than the operations of friendship and humanity, which are usually tranquil and inefficacious. The unfriendly passions have, in the natural constitution of things, a very sudden and stimulating influence over human actions. If the propriety of panegyric, bestowed on my friend, is called in question, I shall, no doubt, be disposed to vindicate his character; but it may still be impossible to convince an ill-natured, envious man, that he is bound to pay any regard, either to the panegyric itself, or to my comments upon it. When my enemy meets with reproach, I shall scarce have occasion to bring arguments to condemn him. Mankind easily believe the report of his unworthy actions, because they are predisposed to believe it. He probably is, in fact, a bad man, or he probably had not been my enemy. I cannot however imagine that panegyric has generally less truth than satire, merely because the latter meets with more attention and credit than the former.

## ANECDOTE.

MR. MORLAU, first Physician to the Duchess of Burgundy, going one day, we know not for what purpose, to the Prince's with a sword, was jocosely upon his adjustment, and said, "Monseigneur, do not you think I resemble Capt. SPEZZAFERRO, of the Italian comedy?" It is impossible to resemble him less," answered the Prince, "Spezzaferrero never killed any body."

PORTSMOUTH, OCTOBER 31, 1789.

IMPROMPTU on the approach of THE PRESIDENT of the United States.

FAME stretch'd her wings, and with her trumpet blew;  
Great WASHINGTON, is near:—What praise his due!  
What Title shall HE have; She paus'd and said,  
Not one; HIS NAME alone strikes every Title dead.

ADDRESSES TO THE PRESIDENT.

SALEM, Nov. 3, 1789.

ADDRESS of the Inhabitants of the Town of Salem, to the PRESIDENT of the United States.

SIR,

THE Inhabitants of the Town of Salem, upon receiving a visit from a personage the first object of their esteem, cannot forbear expressing those sensations, which an occasion so pleasing must naturally excite. While we view it as an high honor done us, a most obliging mark of condescension and regard shewn us, in making us this visit; most readily would we manifest the satisfaction we feel, in being gratified with an opportunity of seeing the man, whose deeds have been so illustrious; and of paying our particular respects to the character, which not only the people of America, but all the world are agreed to admire and celebrate. How great soever, Sir, we had conceived our obligations to be, and how strong soever the motives of attachments we were under to you, for those military services and achievements, from which such essential benefits have been derived, an addition to those obligations we are sensible is now made; and still further reasons of attachment are presented, from your acceptance of that important trust in our newly instituted government, which was so earnestly, and universally desired. That remarkable spirit of patriotism, of benevolence towards this people, which has been so conspicuous in your past conduct, we doubt not has determined you to this arduous undertaking.—Whatever therefore may contribute to the ease and happiness of your administration, whatever returns of respect, and dutiful submission, it becomes a grateful people to make, we wish you to receive and enjoy.

Long may you be continued, diffusing those blessings of freedom and good government, by which our prosperity shall be further promoted—Long may you be indulged a series of the best satisfactions, which the honors and enjoyments of this world can afford. And by that Almighty Being, whose agency and aid you have ever acknowledged, in those great events you have been improved to accomplish, with distinguished honors and felicities may you finally be rewarded.

THE ANSWER.

GENTLEMEN,

WOULD words express the feelings of my heart, I should have the happiness to demonstrate to my fellow citizens of Salem, that their affectionate address is received with gratitude, and returned with sincerity.—To your goodness I refer myself for a just construction of thoughts which language will not explain.

Honored by the high, yet hazardous, appointment which my country has conferred upon me, it will be my best ambition to discharge its important trusts with fidelity—for the rest I must cast myself upon her candor, and kind indulgence.

Towards you, Gentlemen, permit me to assure you, I entertain every disposition that is due to your virtue—and the promotion of your interests will be among the most grateful of my employments.

From your own industry and enterprize you have every thing to hope that deserving men and good citizens can expect.

May your navigation and commerce flourish—your industry, in all its applications, be rewarded—your happiness, here, be as perfect as belongs to the lot of humanity—and your eternal felicity be complete!

G. WASHINGTON.

SALEM, OCTOBER 29, 1789.

NEWBURYPORT, Nov. 4, 1789.

Soon after The President's arrival in this town, he was presented with the following address.

To The PRESIDENT of the UNITED STATES.

SIR,

WHEN, by the unanimous suffrages of your countrymen, you were called to preside over their public councils, the citizens of the town of Newburyport participated in the general joy, that arose from anticipating an administration, conducted by the man, to whose wisdom and valor they owed their liberties.

Pleasing were their reflections, that he, who, by the blessing of Heaven, had given them their Independence, would again relinquish the felicities of domestic retirement, to teach them its just value.

They have seen you, victorious, leave the field, followed with the applauses of a grateful country—and they now see you entwining the Olive with the Laurel, and, in peace, giving security and happiness to a people, whom in war, you covered with glory.

At the present moment, they indulge themselves in sentiments of joy, resulting from a principle, perhaps less elevated, but, exceedingly dear to their hearts, from a gratification of their affection, in beholding personally among them, the friend, the benefactor, and the father of their country.

They cannot hope, Sir, to exhibit any peculiar marks of attachment to your person; for, could they express their feelings of the most ardent and sincere gratitude, they would only repeat the sentiments, which are deeply impressed upon the hearts of all their fellow-citizens; but, in justice to themselves, they beg leave to assure you, that, in no part of the United States, are those sentiments of gratitude and affection more cordial and animated, than in the town, which, at this time, is honored with your presence.

Long, Sir, may you continue the ornament and support of these States, and may the period be late, when you shall be called to receive a reward, adequate to your virtues, which it is not in the power of your country to bestow.

To the foregoing Address, the President was pleased to reply as follows:

To the Citizens of the Town of Newburyport.

GENTLEMEN,

THE demonstrations of respect and affection which you are pleased to pay to an individual, whose highest pretension is to rank as your fellow-citizen, are of a nature too distinguished not to claim the warmest return that gratitude can make.

My endeavors to be useful to my country have been no more than the result of conscious duty. Regards, like yours, would reward services of the highest estimation and sacrifice: Yet, it is due to my feelings, that I should tell you those regards are received with esteem, and replied to with sincerity.

In visiting the town of Newburyport, I have obeyed a favorite inclination, and I am much gratified by the indulgence. In expressing a sincere wish for its prosperity, and the happiness of its inhabitants, I do justice to my own sentiments, and their merit.

G. WASHINGTON.

LONDON, September 7.

SWEDES and RUSSIANS.

A Transaction which has lately taken place between the King of Sweden and his adversaries in Finland, may probably in its consequences annihilate those distinctions it has been so much the object of all civilized nations to establish; distinctions which have been found to lessen the horrors of war, whilst not one national advantage has been lost by extending kindness to those brave men, who cease to be enemies the moment they are prisoners.

A Russian officer was taken prisoner at Hogsfors, to whom his Swedish Majesty wished to give his parole; and he was desirous at the same time of shewing some civility to the Prince Labanoff, Col. of the regiment, to which the captive belonged, he ordered Baron Klingsporre, his aid-de-camp general, to write a polite letter to the Prince, and send back the officer on his parole. This was done on the 20th of July. A trumpet, accompanied by a Swedish officer, conducted the Russian prisoner. Arrived at the advanced posts of the enemy, the trumpet sounded, and they hailed; but the only answer they received was, the double discharge of arquebuses from the Cossacs and Chasseurs, and notwithstanding a second sounding of the trumpet, the signal of truce, the firing was continued. The officers and the trumpet were obliged to retire and return.

The King was still at Hogsfors, to whom they gave an account of the reception of his trumpet. His Majesty, supposing that so strange a conduct could be owing only to the usual licentiousness of the barbarous and undisciplined hords who compose the light troops of the Russian army, and that even their own officers could not restrain them, ordered Baron de Klingsporr, to write a letter to the Prince de Nassau, who commanded the Russian squadron, then stationed off Fredericksham, to inform him of what had happened, and to send his letter to Prince Labanoff through that channel; persuaded that with an officer like the Prince de Nassau, he had no reason to fear the violation of the laws of war.

The Baron acted according to his directions; and as the Prince de Nassau was personally known to the King, his Majesty added a complimentary postscript to the letter, in his own hand writing. The Prince thought himself under the necessity