

MR. ADAMS'S LETTERS.

LETTER XIII.

AMSTERDAM, OCT. 26, 1780.

S I R,

THE thirteenth enquiry is, "Of what resources might America hereafter still make use of?" There are many resources, yet untried, which would certainly be explored, if America should be driven to the necessity of them.

1. Luxury prevails in that young country, notwithstanding all the confident assertions of the English, concerning their distress, to a degree, that retrenching this alone would enable them to carry on the war. There are expences in wheel-carriages, horses, equipage, furniture, dress, and the table, which might be spared, and would amount to enough to carry on the war.

2. The Americans might, and, rather than the English should prevail against them, they would be brought to impose duties upon articles of luxury and convenience, and even of necessity, as has been done by all the nations in Europe. I am not able at present, and upon memory, to entertain you with accurate calculations: but in general it may be said, with certainty, that if as heavy duties were laid upon articles of consumption and importation as are laid in England, or even in Holland, it would produce a revenue sufficient to carry on this war, without borrowing at all. I hope, however, they will never come to this: I am clear they need not. Such systematical and established revenues are dangerous to liberty; which is safe, while the revenue depends upon annual grants of the people, because this secures public economy.

3. If there should be hereafter any accession to the population of America, by migrations from Europe, this will be a fresh resource; because, in that country of agriculture, the ability to raise a revenue will bear a constant proportion to the numbers of people.

4. There are immense tracts of uncultivated lands. These lands are all claimed by particular States: But if these States should cede these claims to the Congress, which they would do in case of necessity, the Congress might sell these lands, and they would become a great resource: No man can say how great, or how lasting.

5. There is a great deal of plate in America; and if she were driven to extremities, the ladies, I assure you, have patriotism enough to give up their plate to the public, rather than lose their liberties, or run any great hazard of it.

6. There is another resource still. The war may be carried on by means of a fluctuating medium of paper money. The war has been carried on in this manner hitherto: and I firmly believe, if the people could not find a better way, they would agree to call in all the paper, and let it lie as a demand upon the public, to be hereafter equitably paid, according to its fluctuating value, in silver, and emit new bills, to depreciate, and carry on the war in the same way. This, however, would occasion many perplexities, and much unhappiness; It would do injustice to many individuals, and will, and ought to be avoided, if possible.

7. A loan from Europe, however, would be the best resource, as it would necessarily extend our trade, and relieve the people from too great a present burden. Very heavy taxes are hurtful, because they lessen the increase of population, by making the means of subsistence more difficult.

8. There are resources of agriculture, manufactures, and labor, that would produce much, if explored and attempted.

9. The resources of trade and privateering ought to be mentioned again. The real cause of our doing so little hitherto is this: The Congress, in 1774, agreed upon a non-exportation, to begin in 1775. This induced the merchants, in every part of America, to send their ships and sailors to England from whence the most of them never returned. The consequence of which was, that the Americans have been distressed for want of ships and seamen ever since. But the number of both has increased every year, in spite of all that the English have taken and destroyed. The vast number of ships and seamen taken this year, will repair those losses; and no man can say to what extent trade and privateering will be carried the next and succeeding years.

I have the honor to be, &c.

MR. CALKOE.

LIBERTY OF THE PRESS.

IT is said, "There are crimes not cognizable in Courts of Justice. Are not these fair game?" If they are crimes, let laws be made to punish them. If they do not merit this name, and are only foibles, I still deny the right to attack an individual on account of them. Foibles which do not amount to crimes are the proper objects of Satire and the Drama. But let us "spare the person and expose the vice." Most satirists have fallen into the error of attacking the agent and not the act. This entirely frustrates the end of satire. It should be general, not local. What applies to one only can extend its effects to him alone. But when a vice or folly is depicted in proper colors, the satire will apply equally to all persons who are guilty of it, and its effects be perpetual.

CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES. Begun and held at the City of New-York, on Wednesday the Fourth of March, One Thousand Seven Hundred and Eighty-Nine.

AN ACT making APPROPRIATIONS for the Service of the present YEAR.

BE it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That there be appropriated for the service of the present year, to be paid out of the monies which arise from the requisitions heretofore made upon the several States, or from the duties on import and tonnage, the following sums, viz. a sum not exceeding two hundred and sixteen thousand dollars for defraying the expences of the civil list, under the late and present government; a sum not exceeding one hundred and thirty-seven thousand dollars for defraying the expences of the department of war; a sum not exceeding one hundred and ninety thousand dollars for discharging warrants issued by the late board of treasury, and remaining unsatisfied; and a sum not exceeding ninety-six thousand dollars for paying the pensions to invalids.

FREDERICK AUGUSTUS MUHLENBERG, Speaker of the House of Representatives. JOHN ADAMS, Vice-President of the United States, and President of the Senate.

APPROVED, SEPTEMBER THE 20th, 1789. GEORGE WASHINGTON, President of the United States.

AN ACT providing for the Payment of the INVALID PENSIONERS of the UNITED STATES.

BE it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That the military pensions which have been granted and paid by the States respectively, in pursuance of the acts of the United States in Congress assembled, to the invalids who were wounded and disabled during the late war, shall be continued and paid by the United States, from the fourth day of March last, for the space of one year, under such regulations as the President of the United States may direct.

FREDERICK AUGUSTUS MUHLENBERG, Speaker of the House of Representatives. JOHN ADAMS, Vice-President of the United States, and President of the Senate.

APPROVED, SEPTEMBER THE 20th, 1789. GEORGE WASHINGTON, President of the United States.

FROM THE VIRGINIA INDEPENDENT CHRONICLE.

ELEGY.

On the Death of Col. JOHN DARBEY, of Northampton county, Virginia.

YES, 'tis a glorious thought! The worthy mind, Matured by wisdom and from vice refin'd, In various scenes of social life approv'd, Of man the lover, and by God belov'd, Must, sure, divested of its kindred clay, Soar to the regions of empyreal day. Such Darbey shone; to deck whose mournful hearth, The Muse lamenting pays her grateful verse; The Muse, long wont to love, as to reverse The Judge impartial and the friend sincere! How has she oft with fixt attention hung On the great truths that grac'd his flowing tongue! Truths that he joy'd with candid warmth to draw Fair from the moral, or the christian law! How oft beheld him glad the friendly scene, Without all cheerful, and all calm within; And, far from mad ambition's noisy strife, Fix the pure blessings of domestic life; How oft, in him, with pleasing wonder view'd A soul, where lawless passions sunk subdu'd; Where virtue still her rightful rules maintain'd, While generous zeal, by bigotry unstain'd, And freedom, that protects with watchful care Man's sacred rights, securely triumph'd there. Sprung from a race, that crown'd with honest praise, By virtuous deeds adorn'd a length of days, For him we hop'd kind temperance long would wield Defensive arms, and o'er him spread her shield. Fallacious hopes!—ah! see! the dire disease Comes borne insidious on the tainted breeze. Soon from her seat imperial reason thrown, No more the friend, or son, or comfort, known; The fer'rous pest victorious winds its way, Till spent, o'erpow'r'd by its resistless sway, Frail nature yields.—O! parent, husband, friend! Must then th'endearing names forever end?—Heav'n calls him hence—at that all pow'rful call Tho' sighs will spring, and tears unbidden fall, Yet let us upward look (twill give relief, 'Twill check the torrent of impetuous grief) With mental eyes his radiant course explore, And view him landed on th' ethereal shore; Where envy's storms and factions ne'er molest The native peace that calms the patriot's breast; Where the great Judge determines ev'ry cause, And blesses as he gives the just applause.

NEW-YORK, NOVEMBER, 25, 1789.

TREASURY DEPARTMENT, SEPT. 19, 1789. GENERAL ACCOUNT OF ANTICIPATIONS.

A PARTICULAR STATEMENT of WARRANTS drawn by the late Board of Treasury on MICHAEL HILLEGAS, late Treasurer of the United States, which remain unpaid, and were comprised in the Estimate made by the Secretary of the Treasury of the United States, and by him reported to the House of Representatives of the United States.

Table with columns: Date of Warrants, No., In whose favor, Department, and for what drawn, Dol. 90ths. Includes entries for Richard Butler, John Woods, and others.

Table with columns: Date, Description of warrant or payment, and Dol. 90ths. Includes entries for Comfort Sands, Arthur St. Clair, and John Cochran.

PENSIONS ANNUITIES and GRANTS.

Table with columns: Date, Description of pension or grant, and Dol. 90ths. Includes entries for Samuel Hodgdon, Doctor John Warren, and Joseph Morgan.

CONTINGENCIES of the WAR DEPARTMENT.

Table with columns: Date, Description of contingency or expense, and Dol. 90ths. Includes entries for Henry Knox, Doctor Joseph Waldo, and James O'Harra.