

# Gazette of the United States.

[No. LXVI.]

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 28, 1789.

[Published on Wednesday and Saturday.]

THE TABLET.—No. LXVI.

*“Noise made to a man's honor is never shocking to him.”*

THE love of fame not only prevails as universally as any other passion, but its effects are stronger and more conspicuous, than can be produced by any other motives. An avaricious man may be active and diligent in his pursuits; but when money is the main object of his exertions, he will bear few inconveniences, and run few risks, compared with what will be cheerfully sustained by those, whom the love of applause actuates. I know of no circumstance that more emphatically marks the difference of vigor between motives of gain and motives of honor, than the different feelings that noise and bustle can excite on persons, who are stimulated by one or the other of those passions.

Whoever has observed a candidate for a popular election, in his attempts to carry his point, must have seen a striking demonstration of the efficacious influence of the love of honor. My friend HONORCAPTUS, whom I once supposed a very quiet, domestic man, has lately become ambitious of political distinction. When I was first informed that such a spark of ambition began to kindle within him, I imagined he would soon be disgusted, if he really made an experiment, in the course of life, to which he was aspiring. I have however been deceived. No man of my acquaintance bears the clamors and tumult, which attend public business, with more apparent tranquility and fortitude than HONORCAPTUS. This is the more extraordinary, as he appears, when at home, to be averse to any kind of noise or disturbance. The prattle of his children meets with a frown; and his servants can never hope to escape punishment, should they laugh or sing in his hearing. This good man, when he is engaged with his neighbors at a country tavern, tranquilizes his spirits and bears the rudest frocks of impertinence without a complaint. Though in his own house, when only attended by his family, he loves silence and quietude, yet he is the first man to promote wagging and merriment, in circles of men, whose votes he wishes to obtain.

I could point the reader to innumerable instances of men, whose actions afford a proof that the love of influence and fame is one of the most active springs of human nature. But who is there to doubt the truth of the observation, even if I had been silent on the subject? It will not, I believe, be doubted by any one. There is however a useful inference to be drawn from the belief that the passion, to which I allude, exists in the breasts of all men, and operates in most men, as their strongest impulse to action. A little reflection will convince us that the passion itself should neither be concealed nor extinguished. It should early be encouraged and controlled. The first dawn of it, in an infant, should be diverted from improper objects, as far as is practicable, and turned into those channels where it can run with safety and advantage. It can seldom be detrimental to a man to possess vigorous passions, if he has been taught, on what occasions, and in what manner it is proper to exercise them. Ambition, when it prompts men to vicious or dishonorable courses, proves pernicious to the person himself, and to the community. But even this is less to be feared, than the conduct of a man, in whom ambition has been destroyed. From improper ideas of merit, a man may seek applause by mean and perverse actions. The fault is not to be ascribed to his love of fame, but to his ignorance of what really is praiseworthy. Youth should be inspired with honest and generous sentiments, and learn to distinguish actions of real worth and excellence from those which catch momentary applause from the ignorant and undiscerning. The force therefore of the passion need not be abated, but the objects to which it is directed should be chosen with great precaution, and managed with great care and address.

LETTER from Dr. FRANKLIN to the late Dr. MATHER, of Boston.

REVEREND SIR,

I RECEIVED your kind letter, with your excellent advice to the people of the United States, which I read with great pleasure, and hope it will be duly regarded. Such writings, though they may be lightly passed over by many readers, yet if they make a deep impression on one active mind in a hundred, the effects may be considerable. Permit me to mention one little instance, which, tho' it relates to myself, will not be quite uninteresting to you. When I was a boy I met with a book, entitled, “*Essays to do good*,” which I think was written by your father. It had been so little regarded by a former possessor, that several leaves of it were torn out; but the remain-

der gave me such a turn of thinking as to have an influence on my conduct thro' life; for I have always set a greater value on the character of a *Doer of Good*, than any other kind of reputation—and if I have been, as you seem to think, a useful citizen, the public owes the advantage of it to that book. You mention your being in your 78th year—I am in my 79th;—we are grown old together. It is now more than 60 years since I left Boston, but I remember, well, both your father and grandfather, having heard them both in the pulpit, and seen them in their houses. The last time I saw your father was in the beginning of 1724, when I visited him after my first trip to Pennsylvania. He received me in his library, and on my taking leave, shewed me a shorter way out of the house through a narrow passage, which was crossed by a beam over head. We were still talking as I withdrew, he accompanying me behind, and I turning partly towards him, when he said hastily, *stoop stoop!* I did not understand him, till I felt my head hit against the beam. He was a man who never missed any occasion of giving instruction, and upon this he said to me, “*You are young, and have the world before you; stoop as you go thro' it, and you will miss many hard thumps.*”—This advice, thus beat into my heart, has frequently been of use to me, and I often think of it, when I see pride mortified, and misfortunes brought upon people by their carrying their heads too high.

I long much to see again my native place, and once hoped to lay my bones there. I left it in 1723. I visited it in 1733, 1743, 1753, and 1763. In 1773 I was in England—in 1775 I had a fight of it, but could not enter, it being in possession of the enemy. I did hope to have been there in 1783, but could not obtain my dismissal from this employment here: And now, I fear, I shall never have that happiness. My best wishes however attend my dear country, *esto perpetua*. It is now blest with an excellent constitution, may it last forever!

This powerful monarchy continues its friendship for the United States. It is a friendship of the utmost importance to our security, and should be carefully cultivated. Britain has not yet well digested the loss of its dominion over us, and has still, at times, some flattering hopes of recovering it. Accidents may encrease those hopes, and encourage dangerous attempts. A breach between us and France, would infallibly bring the English again upon our backs; and yet we have some wild heads among our countrymen who are endeavoring to weaken that connection.

Let us preserve our reputation by performing our engagements, our credit by fulfilling our contracts, and our friends, by gratitude and kindness—for we know not how soon we may again have occasion for all of them.

With great and sincere esteem,  
I have the honor to be,

Reverend Sir,  
Your most obedient and  
most humble servant,  
B. FRANKLIN.

Passy, May 12, 1784.

PHILADELPHIA, Oct. 26, 1789.

At a meeting of the Pennsylvania Society for promoting the Abolition of Slavery, &c. An essay of a Plan for improving the condition of Free Negroes, was presented by the committee appointed to prepare it, which after deliberate consideration was adopted as follows:

## A PLAN FOR IMPROVING THE CONDITION OF THE FREE BLACKS.

THE business relative to Free Blacks shall be transacted by a committee of twenty-four persons, annually elected by ballot, at the meeting of this Society in the month called April; and in order to perform the different services, with expedition, regularity, and energy; this committee shall resolve itself into the following sub-committees, viz.

I. A Committee of Inspection, who shall superintend the morals, general conduct, and ordinary situation of the Free Negroes, and afford them advice and instruction; protection from wrongs; and other friendly offices.

II. A Committee of Guardians, who shall place out children and young people with suitable persons, that they may (during a moderate time of apprenticeship, or servitude) learn some trade or other business of subsistence. The committee may effect this partly by a persuasive influence on parents, and the persons concerned; and partly by co-operating with the laws which are, or may be enacted for this, and similar purposes; in forming contracts on these occasions, the committee shall secure to the society, as far as may be practicable the right of guardianship, over the persons so bound.

III. A Committee of Education, who shall superintend the school instruction of the children, and youth of the Free blacks; they may either influence them to attend regularly the schools already established in this city, or form others with this view; they shall in either case provide that, the pupils may receive such learning, as is necessary for their future situation in life; and especially a deep impression of the most important, and generally acknowledged moral and religious principles. They shall also procure, and preserve a regular record of the marriages, births and manumissions of all Free Blacks.

IV. A Committee of Employ, who shall endeavour to procure constant employment for those Free Negroes, who are able to work: as the want of this would occasion poverty, idleness, and many vicious habits. This committee will, by sedulous enquiry, be enabled to find common labour for a great number; they will also provide, that such as indicate proper talents, may learn various trades, which may be done by prevailing upon them to bind themselves for such a term of years, as shall compensate their masters for the expense and trouble of instruction, and maintenance. The committee may attempt the institution of some useful, and simple manufactures, which require but little skill, and also may assist in commencing business, such as appear to be qualified for it.

Whenever the committee of inspection shall find persons of a particular description, requiring attention, they shall immediately direct them to that committee, of whose care they are the proper objects.

In matters of a mixed nature the committees shall confer, and if necessary act in concert. Affairs of great importance, shall be referred to the whole committee.

The expense incurred by the prosecution of this plan, shall be defrayed by a fund to be formed by donations, or subscriptions for these particular purposes, and to be kept separate from the other funds of this society.

The committee shall make a report of their proceedings, and of the state of their stock to the society at their quarterly meetings, in the months called April and October.

## PROGRESS OF THE FRENCH CONSTITUTION.

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY, FRANCE, OCT. 8.

THE two following articles of the constitution were voted without any debate.

“7. The legislative body shall present their decrees to the King to be sanctioned, in order, as they shall be presented, or all together at the end of each session.

“8. The Royal assent to each decree shall be expressed by this formula, signed by the King, *Le Roi consent, et fera executer*. The King's suspensive negative by this formula, *Le Roi examinera*.”

A third, directing that after assenting to a decree, the King should order it to be sealed with the Great Seals, and transmitted to the courts of justice, Assemblies of Administration, and municipalities, to be registered, published, and executed, occasioned much debate.

It was observed, that in settling the form of promulgating laws, such despotic phrases, as *Nous voulons et nous plaît; de notre certaine science, pleine puissance et autorite royale*, should be abolished, and a form introduced expressive of the right and authority of the people, exercised by their representatives.

Accordingly M. Freteau proposed the preamble to be “*Louis par la grace de Dieu, et par la loi du Royaume, Roi de France, &c.*” “*Louis by the grace of God, and the law of the Realm, King of France, &c.*”

After an amendment by M. de Mirabeau, passed in the affirmative.

“*Louis by the grace of God, and the constitutional law of the State, King of the French, to all men, present and to come, greeting:*

“*The National Assembly has decreed, we will, and ordain as follows.*” And after this preamble, the decree to follow.

The words the King of the French, instead of the King of France, were adopted, being the literal translation of the old words *Rex Francorum*, which expressed the idea of King of Freemen.

FRIDAY, OCT. 10. The following letter was received from the King.

GENTLEMEN,

The instances of attachment and fidelity which I have received from the good city of Paris, and the invitation of the commons have determined me to fix my permanent abode there; and in the confidence which I have, that you will not separate from me, I invite you to chuse Commissioners to select the most proper place for the Nation-