

AMSTERDAM, OCTOBER 26, 1780.

SIR,

QUESTION eighteenth.—“Does sufficient tranquility, contentment, and prosperity, reign in those places where the war does not rage? Can one sufficiently subsist there without feeling the oppression of the taxes? Does plenty abound there? Is there more than is necessary for consumption? Are the people well affected and encouraged to pursue the war, and endure its calamities? or is there poverty and dejection?”

There has been more of this tranquility and contentment, and fewer riots, insurrections, and seditions, throughout the whole war, and in the periods of its greatest distress, than there was for seven years before the war broke out, in those parts that I am best acquainted with.—As to subsistence, there never was or will be any difficulty. There never was any real want of any thing but warlike stores and clothing for the army, and salt and rum both for the army and people; but they have such plentiful importations of these articles now, that there is no want, except blankets, clothing and warlike stores for the army.

The taxes are rising very high, but there never will be more laid on than the people can bear, because the representatives who lay them tax themselves and their neighbours in exact proportion.—The taxes indeed fall heaviest upon the rich, and the higher classes of people.

The earth produces grain and meat in abundance for the consumption of the people, for the support of the army, and for exportation.

The people are more universally well affected and encouraged to pursue the war, than are the people of England, France, or Spain, as far as I can judge.

As to poverty, there is hardly a beggar in the country.—As to dejection, I never saw, even at the time of our greatest danger and perplexity, so much of it as appears in England, or France, upon every intelligence of a disastrous event.

The great source of grief and affliction, is the fluctuation of the paper money; but this, although it occasions unhappiness, has no violent or fatal effects.

I have the honor to be,  
JOHN ADAMS.

MR. CALKOEN.

LETTER XIX.

AMSTERDAM, OCT. 26, 1780.

SIR,

QUESTION nineteenth.—“Is not peace very much longed for in America? Might not this desire of peace induce the people to hearken to proposals appearing very fair, but which really are not so; which the people might be too quick in listening to, and the government forced to accept?”

The people, in all ages and countries, wish for peace; human nature does not love war—yet this does not hinder nations from going to war, when it is necessary, and often indeed for frivolous purposes of avarice, ambition, vanity, resentment, and revenge.—I have never been informed of more desire of peace in America, than it common to all nations at war. They in general know that they cannot obtain it, without submitting to conditions infinitely more dreadful than all the horrors of this war.

If they are ever deceived, it is by holding out to them false hopes of independence, and Great-Britain's acknowledging it.

The people of America are too enlightened to be deceived in any great plan of policy. They understand the principles and nature of government too well to be imposed on by any proposals short of their own object.

Great-Britain has tried so many experiments to deceive them, without effect, that I think it is scarcely worth her while to try again. The history of these ministerial and parliamentary tricks would fill a volume.—I have not records nor papers to recur to; but if Mr. Calkoen desires it, I could give him a sketch from memory of these artifices, and their success, which I think would convince him there is no danger from that quarter.

I have the honor to be,  
JOHN ADAMS.

MR. CALKOEN.

EFFECT of COLD BATHING.

A VERY beautiful young Lady of Glasgow lately met with a most extraordinary accident, by the drawing of one of her eye-teeth. The nervous system was so much deranged on that side the face, that the upper eye lid fell over the eye, without the power of the muscles to raise and depress it at pleasure, in the usual way. After trying several remedies without effect, a medical gentleman, who had long declined public practice, recommended the cold bath, and the effects of it were wonderful indeed! In a few days the nervous power and force were restored, and the eye lid now performs its functions as well as ever.

ODE,

By JOHN RANNIE.

I cannot but remember SUCH THINGS WERE,  
And were most precious to me. SHAKESPEARE.

SCENES OF MY YOUTH! ye once were dear,  
Though fadly I your charms survey:  
I once was wont to linger here,  
From early dawn to closing day,  
SCENES OF MY YOUTH! pale Sorrow flings  
A shade o'er all your beauties now;  
And robs the moments of their wings  
That scatter pleasures as they flow.  
While, still, to heighten every care,  
Reflection tells me, SUCH THINGS WERE.

'Twas here a tender mother strove  
To keep my happiness in view;  
I smil'd beneath a parent's love  
That soft compassion ever knew.  
In whom the virtues all combin'd;  
On whom I could with faith rely;  
To whom my heart and soul were join'd  
By mild Affection's primal tie!  
Who smiles in Heav'n, exempt from care,  
Whilst I remember, SUCH THINGS WERE.

'Twas here, where calm and tranquil rest,  
O'er pays the peasant for his toil,  
That, first in blessing, I was blest  
With glowing Friendship's open smile.  
My friend, far distant, doom'd to roam,  
Now braves the fury of the seas;  
He fled his peaceful happy home,  
His little fortune to increase.  
While bleeds afresh the wound of care,  
When I remember SUCH THINGS WERE.

'Twas here—'em in this blooming grove,  
I fondly gaz'd on Laura's charms,  
Who, blushing, own'd a mutual love,  
And melted in my youthful arms.  
Tho' hard the soul-conflicting strife,  
Yet Fate, the cruel tyrant, bore  
Far from my sight, the charm of life—  
The lovely maid whom I adore.  
'Twould ease my soul of all its care  
Could I forget that SUCH THINGS WERE.

Here first I saw the Morn appear  
Of guiltless Pleasure's shining day;  
I met the dazzling brightness here,  
Here mark'd the soft declining ray,  
Beheld the skies, whose streaming light  
Gave splendor to the parting sun;  
Now lost in sorrow's fable night,  
And all their mingled glories gone!  
'Till death, in pity, end my care,  
I must remember, SUCH THINGS WERE.

LONDON.

VALENTINE MORRIS

DIED, as the expressive common phrase is, of a broken heart!

Those changes and chances, which had been through the latter end of his life, from bad and worse, bore hard and heavy on him, till his spirit, in spite of much strong effort, quite sunk under them.

He had enjoyed in good days, great resources of temper, intellect, and good spirits. On questions of taste and the finer arts, to embellish and pleasure life, few men could be more expert and ready, either for thought or action—either to tell what others did, or indeed to do, what by others will be told.

When his days, alas! where good no more—those resources in great part failed him. His conversation-talents flagged—His mind, excelling in powers of judgment, gradually grew motionless and dim—not willing to distinguish itself—not able to contribute to the delight of others.

His temper alone lived to the last—and it is here, from the fragments of his heart, you could understand how large and valuable it was before it was broken! Unregarded to the last, by obduracy, or what is worse perhaps, the love of money, he was scarcely ever peevish—penurious he was never. Little as he had left, the writer of this article, has seen him, with admiration, give of that little; and harassed as he was by his own woes, he shewed a mind at leisure to attend to any feverish sufferings in others.

And yet, in good men's lives, not exasperated by shame or guilt, what sufferings could be more severe? He lost a wife most deplorably; who, if a Shenstone was a judge, was more amiable than himself. She had fallen into distraction long before she fell into the grave. By the coarse gripe of unrelenting law he was driven from his home, and a home with such never-cloying amenity as Piercefield! From thence he was confined to the horrors of a life between the tropics—and from the West-Indies to the King's Bench Prison!

Such alas! was poor Valentine Morris—whom M. le Duc de Nivernois said, was one of the most elegant companioned men in England—whom M. Moussin Pouschkin congratulated as having the noblest featured villa, and the sweetest minded wife—whom the frugal may blame, and whom indeed too truly, the generous must deplore!

PROCEEDINGS OF CONGRESS.

ABSTRACT of JOURNAL of the FIRST SESSION of the SENATE of the UNITED STATES.

TUESDAY, MAY 19.

THE committee to whom was referred the motion for printing the Journals of the Senate, and furnishing each Member with a copy thereof, and also to report upon a mode of keeping the Journals, and who were instructed to consider whether the minutes be amended, so as to record only the acts of the Senate on the Journal, reported as follows:

“That one hundred and twenty copies of the Journals of the Legislative proceedings only, be printed once a month; commencing the first publication on the first day of June next; and that each member be furnished with a copy.—That the proceedings of the Senate when they shall act in their executive capacity, shall be entered, and kept in separate and distinct books,

“That every vote of the Senate shall be entered on the Journals, and that a brief statement of the contents of each petition, memorial or paper, presented to the Senate, be also inserted on the Journals.

“That the Journals previous to each publication be revised, by a committee to be appointed from time to time, for that purpose.” Which report was accepted.

The committee appointed to confer with a committee of the House of Representatives, and report, what newspapers the members of congress shall be furnished with at the public expense, reported in part;—Ordered to lie on the table.

Adjournd.

THURSDAY, MAY 21.

Resolved, That all bills on a second reading shall be considered by the Senate in the same manner, as if the Senate were in a committee of the whole, before they shall be taken up and proceeded on by the Senate agreeably to the standing rules, unless otherwise ordered.

Mr. Grayson was added to the committee appointed on the 13th, of May, “To define the crimes and offences that shall be cognizable under the authority of the United States, and their punishment.”

FRIDAY, MAY 22.

A message from the House of Representatives, by Mr. Beckley, their Clerk; who brought to the Senate an enrolled bill, entitled, “An act to regulate the time and manner of administering certain oaths,” signed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives, and informed the Senate, that the House had agreed in the appointment of a committee on their part, consisting of Mr. Partridge and Mr. Floyd, to lay the bill before the President, after it shall have passed the formalities prescribed in the resolve of the 18th of May.

The committee appointed to examine the afore-mentioned bill reported, that they had performed the service.—Whereupon the bill was signed by the Vice-President, and was by the committee thereunto appointed, laid before the President of the United States for his approbation. Adjournd.

TUESDAY, MAY 26.

A message was delivered from the House of Representatives, by Mr. Beckley, their Clerk, who delivered the following resolve:—“In the House of Representatives of the United States.

Monday, the 25th of May, 1789.  
Resolved, That a committee be appointed to confer with any committee which may be appointed by the Senate, on the proper method of receiving into either House, bills or messages, from the President of the United States.—The members appointed, Mr. Partridge, Mr. Floyd and Mr. Thatcher.

Extract from the Journal.  
JOHN BECKLEY, Clerk.  
Concurred:—And Mr. Lee and Mr. Izard were joined. Adjournd.

FRIDAY, MAY 29.

A message from the House of Representatives, by Mr. Beckley, their Clerk; who brought to the Senate an engrossed bill, entitled, “an act imposing duties on tonnage;”

A resolve of the House of Representatives, of the 28th, providing the members of the Senate and House of Representatives each, with a set of the Journals of the late Congress.—

A resolve of the 28th, on the report of a joint committee appointed to confer on the mode of furnishing the members of the Senate and House of Representatives with newspapers, journals, &c.

Also a resolve of this day, on the report of the joint committee appointed to confer upon the mode of receiving in the Senate and House of Representatives, bills, &c. from the President of the United States, desiring the concurrence of the Senate thereto.

“In the House of Representatives of the United States.  
The 29th of May, 1789.

“Mr. Partridge, from the committee appointed to confer with a committee of the Senate on the proper method of receiving into either House, bills or messages from the President of the United States, made a report, and the said report being amended to read as followeth:

“That until the public offices are established, and the respective officers are appointed, any returns of bills and resolutions or other communications from the President, may be received in either House under cover directed to the President of the Senate or Speaker of the House of Representatives (as the case may be) and transmitted by such person as the President may think proper.—  
Resolved, That this House doth agree to the said report.—  
In Senate, read and concurred.—The bill and other resolutions were ordered to lie for consideration. Adjournd.

TUESDAY, JUNE 2.

The resolve of the House of Representatives of the 28th May, was considered, viz.

“In the House of Representatives of the United States.  
Thursday, the 28th May, 1789.

“The House proceeded to consider the two reports, one made the 19th instant, the other the 26th instant by the committee appointed to confer with the committee of the Senate, to consider and report what newspapers the members of Congress shall be furnished with at the public expense, and to receive proposals for printing the acts and other proceedings of Congress: And the first report in the words following, to wit:

“That in their opinion public economy requires that the expense heretofore incurred by the public, of supplying every member of Congress with all the newspapers printed at the seat of Congress, should be retrenched in future; but as your committee consider the publication of newspapers to be highly beneficial in disseminating useful knowledge throughout the United States, and deserving of public encouragement, they recommend that each member of Congress be supplied at the public expense with one paper, leaving the choice of the same to each member, and that it be the duty of the Secretary of the Senate, and Clerk of the House of Representatives, to give the necessary directions to the different printers, to furnish each member with such paper as he shall choose.—Being again read and debated,

Resolved, That this House doth disagree to the said report: The other report being again read and amended, was as follows:

“That it would be proper that it should be left to the Secretary of the Senate and Clerk of the House of Representatives, to contract with such person as shall engage to execute the printing and binding business on the most reasonable terms, the paper being furnished by the said Secretary and Clerk to such person at the public expense.—That such person as he shall contract with, shall be obliged to render a state of his accounts quarterly; and that six hundred copies of the acts of Congress, and seven hundred copies of the Journals be printed, and distributed to the Executive and Judicial, and heads of departments of the Government of the United States, and the Executive, Legislative and Judicial of the several States.”

Resolved, That this House doth agree to the said report.  
Extract from the Journal.  
JOHN BECKLEY, Clerk.

And on the question of concurrence on the first report, it was postponed. Adjournd.

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 3.

Ordered, That Mr. Langdon administer the oath to the Vice-President; which was done accordingly:—And the Vice-President administered the oath according to law to the following members: To Mr. Langdon, Mr. Wingate, Mr. Strong, Mr. Dalton, Mr. Johnson, Mr. Ellsworth, Mr. Patterson, Mr. McClay, Mr. Morris, Mr. Read, Mr. Bassett, Mr. Carroll, Mr. Henry, Mr. Lee, Mr. Grayson, Mr. Izard, Mr. Few, and Mr. Gunn.

The same oath was by the Vice-President administered to the Secretary, together with the oath of office.

Ordered, That Mr. Morris, Mr. Carroll, Mr. Langdon, Mr. Read, and Mr. Lee be a committee, to consider and report the mode of communicating the acts of Congress to the several States in the Union, and the number necessary for that purpose. Adjournd.

(To be continued.)