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THE TABLET.—No. LXX.

"Honest measures will be most apt, in the long run, to gain the concurrence of the public opinion."

We need not have recourse to any abstract notions of moral obligation to furnish a reason, why mankind have generally approved of truth and fair dealing. Whatever may be the original bias of the human heart with respect to good and evil, or whether it naturally has any bias either way, is not material in elucidating the subject of this speculation. It is sufficient for my present purpose to attend to facts, without looking into the origin of principles, or estimating the merit of motives. On this ground, if on no other, we may venture to pronounce that justice and veracity assimilate so readily with the common sentiments of men, that whoever, does not observe these duties, hazards the loss of his influence and happiness. In a tumultuous state of society, it is true, these virtues seem to be disregarded; but they will soon gain their accustomed estimation, when order and tranquility are restored. It is only in those situations, where people cannot reflect calmly and act soberly, that falsehood and injustice do not meet with public indignation. Declarations that are false, and actions that are unjust may assume such a disguise as to gain popular approbation, under the idea that they are true and just. The opinions of men may be so distract ed, and their tempers so agitated with new and difficult circumstances, that they may be utterly at a loss in what their duty or their interest cons ists. Under such embarrassments, people commit errors, while they suppose they are acting wisely; and suspend the practice of the moral duties from an ignorance of the comprehensive nature of morality. But as no society can be long held together, in a state so convulsed as to dissipate ideas of moral rectitude, we must conclude that a restoration of government will awaken anew the sentiments of moral obligation. There never can be a long period when men can cease to perform their obligations without sustaining private inconvenience and public reproach. The existence of society pre-supposes some controlling influence of virtuous attributes. Whether they are the effect of fear of punishment, or love of duty, I still call them virtuous, because they are useful. If these reflections are just, they should inspire us with caution against imbibing the opinions or imitating the actions of those who avail themselves of disordered times to bewilder and pervert the public ideas of veracity and justice.

The truth of my motto is amply illustrated in the fate of the leading characters who have conducted us to independence and government. It is worthy of remark that those men, who are now held in veneration and employed in public service, are principally the men, who have all along delivered the same opinions, and recommended the same measures, that have finally coincided with the public opinion. But when we look on the other hand, and behold characters of an opposite description, how are they neglected and fallen! There was a time, when the friends of disorder and injustice beguiled the public mind into a belief that they were the friends of freedom and virtue. Such delusions however can never have a long continuance. Opinions, that cannot bear the test of a strict examination, much less of a fair experiment, must be renounced, when the people are left to cool reflection. Men averse to good government can never long hold an ascendancy in society, unless the objects of human happiness, and the feelings of the human heart undergo an alteration.

It should encourage our patriots and legislators to persevere in a course of honor and justice, by contemplating that they have gone through the most hazardous and difficult trials, to which our affairs will probably be exposed. The objects of legislation that will now rise into view are so great and extensive, that honest minds may be alarmed at their magnitude and variety. This circumstance may deter some people from venturing to adopt those systems that wear the face of intrinsic propriety and excellence. When men have long been accustomed to temporary expedients and partial arrangements they cannot at once collect fortitude to embrace measures, that shall have a general, permanent operation. But it must be concluded that plans founded in wisdom are not to be rejected because they are great; and those founded in honesty should be recommended, notwithstanding they may be new.

EXTRACT.

An infant begot on a dunghill, brought forth in a pigsty, and swathed with a rotten remnant of the covering of an ass, may have talents and capacity above the son of an Emperor.

EXTRACTS from the ADDRESS of the first PRESBYTERY of the Eastward,

To GEORGE WASHINGTON, PRESIDENT of the UNITED STATES.

SIR,

WE, the ministers and ruling elders, delegated to represent the churches in Massachusetts and New-Hampshire, which compose The First Presbytery of the Eastward, now holding a stated session in this town, beg leave to approach your presence with genuine feelings of the deepest veneration and highest esteem.

"In unison with rejoicing millions we felicitate our country, and ourselves, on your unanimous election to the highest office a nation can bestow; and on your acceptance of the trust, with every evidence, which a citizen can give, of being actuated thereto by the purest principles of patriotism, of piety and of self-denial.

"Great was the joy of our hearts to see the late tedious and destructive war at length terminated, in a fair and honorable peace—to see the liberty and independence of our country happily secured—to see wise constitutions of civil government peacefully established in the several States—and especially to see a confederation of them all, finally agreed on by the general voice.

"But, amid all our joys, we ever contemplated with regret the want of efficiency in the federal government; we ardently wished for a form of NATIONAL UNION, which should draw the cord of amity more closely around the several States—which should concentrate their interests, and reduce the freemen of America to one great body, ruled by one head, and animated by one soul.

"And, now, we devoutly offer our humble tribute of praise and thanksgiving to the all-gracious FATHER OF LIGHTS, who has inspired our public counsels with a wisdom and firmness which have effected that desirable purpose, in so great a measure, by the National Constitution; and who has fixed the eyes of all America on you, as the worthiest of their citizens, to be entrusted with the execution of it.

"Whatever any have supposed wanting in the original plan, we are happy to see so wisely providing in its amendments: and it is with peculiar satisfaction that we behold, how easily the entire confidence of the people, in the man who sits at the helm of government, has eradicated every remaining objection to its form.

"Among these we never considered the want of a religious test, that grand engine of persecution in every tyrant's hand: But, we should not have been alone in rejoicing, to have seen some explicit acknowledgement of the only TRUE GOD AND JESUS CHRIST whom he hath sent, inserted, somewhere, in the Magna Charta of our country."

"Under the nurturing hand of a RULER, of such virtues, and one so deservedly revered by all ranks, we joyfully indulge the hope, that virtue and religion will revive and flourish—that infidelity, and the vices ever attendant in its train, will be banished every polite circle—and that national piety will soon become fashionable there, and from thence be diffused among all ranks in the community."

Newbury-Port, Oct. 28, 1789.

THE ANSWER.

GENTLEMEN,

THE affectionate welcome, which you are pleased to give me to the eastern parts of the Union, would leave me without excuse, did I fail to acknowledge the sensibility which it awakens; and to express the most sincere return, that a grateful sense of your goodness can suggest.

To be approved by the praiseworthy, is a wish as natural to becoming ambition as its consequence is flattering to our self-love.

I am, indeed, much indebted to the favorable sentiments, which you entertain towards me, and it will be my study to deserve them.

The tribute of thanksgiving, which you offer to the gracious FATHER OF LIGHTS, for his inspiration of our public councils with wisdom and firmness to complete the national constitution, is worthy of men, who devoted to the pious purposes of religion, desire their accomplishment by such means as advance the temporal happiness of their fellow men. And, here, I am persuaded, you will permit me to observe, that the path of true piety is so plain as to require but little political direction.

To this consideration we ought to ascribe the absence of any regulation respecting religion from the Magna Charta of our country. To the guidance of the ministers of the Gospel, this important object is, perhaps, more properly committed. It will be your care to instruct the ignorant, and to reclaim the devous: And in the progress of morality and science, to which our

government will give every furtherance, we may confidently expect the advancement of true religion, and the completion of our happiness.

I pray the munificent Rewarder of Virtue, that your agency in this good work may receive its compensation here and hereafter.

G. WASHINGTON.

An animated, natural, and interesting description of the POOR MAN'S LOT.

An EXTRACT from the NORWICH PACKET.

THE third class are planted down in the dark, dismal valley, at the foot of mount opulence; where fogs and damp vapors envelope them in perpetual obscurity and indigence: They live chiefly on the fruits of the mountain, washed down from the inaccessible heights into the small rivulets of charity—these rivulets are sometimes almost dry:—The half built houses of these people are no barriers against the fierce northerly winds. The descending cold rains have free access to every apartment, which by the way are not numerous—if by chance you happen in at their habitation, your eyes are not dazzled with shining furniture, but darkened by wooden windows; are you fatigued by a long walk to visit them, and fainting for want of refreshment when you arrive there, a cup of cold water and a piece of coarse bread are all their gratitude can set before you. Their children, though numerous, are clad in rags, and endeavor to hide themselves when you approach, lest their nakedness should appear. Poverty is to be seen in all they possess; view their bedding in a cold winter's evening, blest me! how would a rich man's children sleep under such slight covering? View their table when set with their best dishes, how would the heart of a full fed man ache to be obliged to take up with such fare?

"The heart that melts at other's woes,
"Shall find each selfish sorrow less;
"The mind, that happiness bestows,
"Reflected happiness shall blest."²

LONDON.

FURTHER ACCOUNT OF THE PROCEEDINGS OF FRANCE.

WHEN the Hotel de Ville was plundered on Monday, the women, who were the first to force it open, found means in the course of the short time they were there, to plunder the Treasury Chest of 200,000 livres; half of which being in bills, was afterwards recovered, the rest was divided among the plunderers. This forcible entrance was fortunately made so early in the morning that none of the Magistrates were assembled; they might otherwise have probably been conducted to the gallows, which had been erected very early in the morning to be ready on any occasion.

Though the national guard was assembled before the Mansion House in great numbers at the time it was forced, they did not offer to make the least resistance to the women, but suffered them to plunder, while they looked on as unconcerned spectators. Besides the money, it was here the women furnished themselves with the fire arms and weapons, with which they afterwards marched to Versailles.

Some of the populace headed by the women, attempted to set fire to the Hotel de Ville; the intended conflagration was, however, prevented by a youth who, at the imminent hazard of his life rushed forwards, and in a most surprising manner extinguished the flame which had just caught the building.—On being desired by some Members of the National Assembly to demand a reward for his services and intrepidity, he nobly refused all pecuniary compensation, and requested only that he might have the honor of having his name enrolled in the Paris militia.

[We have given various accounts of the late Comotions at Versailles: The following appears to be wrote with candor; and if true, the transaction which it relates, turns out to be an accidental busines, rather than a precipitate developement of a deep-laid design to defeat the patriotic plans of the National Assembly—and restore the government of France to its former despotic state.]

The following account of what passed at the Entertainment given by the Life Guards to the Flanders regiment, may be depended upon, as it is given by an officer who was one of the guests;

"The Life Guards sent invitations not only to the officers of the Regiment de Flandre, and of the Regiment de Montmorency (dragoons) but also to those of the Versailles militia. The tables were spread on the stage of the Opera house in