

On the Death of the Honorable JAMES OTIS,
killed by lightning.

WHEN, flush'd with conquest, and elate with pride,
A British despot Heaven's high will defied;
And, bent on blood, by lust of rule inclin'd,
With odious shackles vex'd the free-born mind,
On these young shores set up unjust command,
And spread the slaves of office round the land:
Then OTIS rose, and great in patriot fame,
To lifting crowds *resistance* dar'd proclaim.
From soul to soul the bright idea ran;
The fire of Freedom flew from man to man.
His pen, like SIDNEY'S, made the doctrine known,
His tongue, like TULLY'S, shook a tyrant's throne.
Then men grew bold, and in the public's eye,
The right-divine of Monarchs dar'd to try:
Light shone on all—despotic darkness fled—
And for a *sentiment** a nation bled.

From men like OTIS independence grew;
From such beginnings empire rose to view.
Born for the world—his comprehensive mind
Plann'd the wide politics of human kind.
Bless'd with a native strength and fire of thought,
With Greek and Roman learning richly fraught,
Up to the fountain's head he push'd his view,
And from first principles his maxims drew.
Spite of the times, this truth he blaz'd abroad—
"The people's safety is the law of GOD."[†]
For this he suffer'd! hireling slaves combin'd
To dress in shades the brightest of mankind.
And see—they come—a dark designing band—
With murder's heart and execution's hand.
Hold villains!—Those poll'd arms restrain—
Nor that exalted head with *Jows* prophane!
A nobler end awaits the patriot head:
In other fort he'll join the illustrious dead.
Yes! When the glorious work which he begun,
Shall stand—the most complete beneath the sun:
When Peace shall come to crown the great design,
His eyes shall live to see the hand divine.
The Heavens shall then his generous spirit claim
"In storms as loud as his immortal fame."[‡] (Waller)
Hark! the deep thunders echo round the skies!
On wings of flame th' eternal errand flies;
One, chosen, *charitable* bolt is sped,
And OTIS mingles with the godlike dead.

* Upon the right of taxing the Colonies.
† *Salus populi suprema lex* was the motto of one of his pamphlets.

THE GUEST.—No. XIV.

Let fortune do what'er she can,
Jack ne'er will make a gentleman.

MANKIND in general form a mistaken estimate of their own character.—They fondly imagine that a favorable change in their outward circumstances would invariably conduce to their happiness; but amidst the innumerable revolutions which are constantly taking place in the world, how seldom do we see the sudden transition from indigence to wealth, attended with the happy effects which fancy pleasingly anticipated! The truth is, the mind must be gradually prepared for every change, to sustain the allotments of fortune with dignity, and propriety.—Hence we find that persons precipitated from elevated rank into the vale of poverty, very frequently sink under the weight of their misfortunes—and on the other hand, a rapid accumulation of property, is very apt to intoxicate the mind, and to render conspicuous those foibles, which inferior or common situations would have veiled from observation.—In short—

"God never made his work for man to mend"—

And while the principle of hope is a sufficient stimulus to exertion and enterprise, the established laws of Providence must be considered as infinitely wise and good.—So that in this view the curse is converted into a blessing "in the sweat of thy brow shalt thou eat bread"—For it cannot be doubted that the present regulation of human affairs, which has generally connected the acquisition of every enjoyment with some degree of labor either of body or mind, is on the whole, the most eligible. I have been led into this train of thinking, by observing the conduct of many persons, who by the sudden whirl of Fortune's wheel, have been raised from the dust, when nature seems to have designed they should have continued to grovel, by not affording them minds commensurate to the elevated situations they fortuitously attained.—While mankind are abundantly disposed to make every allowance for the deficiency of those, who conscious of their defects, have good sense enough to behave with modesty under the smiles of prosperity—they cannot restrain their contempt for those who evidently consider their *wealth* as a sufficient apology for the absence of every mental accomplishment.—For it is as true now as it was when the poet wrote,

A wealthy gaudy fool can pass,
At best but for a golden Ass,

MONDAY, JAN. 25, 1790.

A MEMORIAL of James Price, praying that his claim for supplies furnished the American army in Canada, may be settled—was read.

Also a petition of Gabriel Allen, of the State of New-Jersey, praying that duplicates may be granted him of certificates which he has lost.

Message from the President of the United States by Mr. Secretary Lear, transmitting the act of the Legislature of Maryland, for ratifying and adopting the Amendments to the Constitution of the United States, proposed by Congress, which was read.

The House resolved itself into a committee of the whole on the bill providing for the actual enumeration of the inhabitants of the United States.

Mr. Baldwin in the chair.

The bill being read, it was debated in paragraphs. The first paragraph which enjoins that the Marshals shall appoint persons to execute the business, it was moved should be so amended, as that it may be optional with him to perform the service himself, or to appoint a substitute. This motion was not adopted.

Mr. Madison observed upon the importance, and many advantages that would accrue from specifying in the schedule annexed to the bill, the various descriptions of persons in the United States to a greater extent, as it would conduce to ascertain with greater accuracy, the aggregate number of inhabitants, &c. He moved therefore, that the schedule be passed over for the present, which was agreed to.

On the compensations to the Marshals, it was moved that 250 dollars be struck out from the allowance to the Marshal of the district of Maine—that an addition may be made to that of the Marshal of the district of Massachusetts. This motion was supported by the observation, that the business to be performed in Massachusetts was in a much greater proportion to that of the Maine, than the difference in the allowance proposed.

Mr. Thatcher opposed the motion—he said, that in consequence of the dispersed situation of the inhabitants, and the natural obstacles of rivers, woods, hills, &c. with the want of roads in the district of Maine, the difficulty of the business must be greatly enhanced, and be in proportion to these embarrassments—which considerations render it necessary that the compensation should bear some proportion to the extra trouble and charge.

It was observed that this reasoning does not apply so properly to the Marshals, as it does to the Assistants—as the duty of the Marshals relates merely to receiving the returns, and forwarding the aggregate to the President of the United States.

250 dollars was struck out—and 150 inserted.

Mr. Ames then moved that 300 dollars, the allowance to the Marshal of Massachusetts, be struck out, and 400 inserted. This motion was opposed.

Mr. Ames observed that his motion was founded on the idea that the bill would pass in its present form—tho he did not approve of the system proposed, as he conceived that public business of any kind was never done to any effectual purpose when it is committed to so great a number of persons, without a proper responsibility—His wish was that the business should be fully committed to the Marshals, and for them to be answerable for the full completion of it. Upon the present plan he conceived that it would never be executed in such manner as to answer the end in view, or so as to justify Congress in forming any arrangements upon it—but proceeding on the idea of the bill's being adopted he made the motion, as he did not think the sum of 300 dollars adequate to a just compensation for the Marshal of that district.

This motion was negatived.

It was then moved, that 250 be struck out from the allowance to the Marshal of New-Hampshire, and 200 inserted which was carried.

Some other alterations were made in the bill.

It was then moved that the committee should rise, report progress, and ask leave to sit again, which motion was agreed to.

The House then voted to go into a committee of the whole on this bill to-morrow.

A message from the Senate, with their resolve for adopting the report of the joint committee on the unfinished business which had passed from one House to the other—in which resolve, they request the concurrence of the House.

Mr. Benson of the committee to bring in a bill or bills, to conform the laws of the United States to the present state of North Carolina, presented a report, which was read the first time.

Mr. Hartley of the committee appointed to bring in a bill to establish a uniform rule of naturalization, introduced a report, which was read the first time.

It was then voted that the House proceed to a second reading of the bill respecting North Ca-

stood next them, and assuming airs of particular vivacity, whilst you might easily see their countenance was chequered with anxiety, lest they should chance not to please those upon whom they had fixed their affections. The greater part of the fair sex however, I observed smiled with an ineffable sweetness, nor could any thing appear more lovely than their features, upon which there was imprinted a tender reserve, mingled with modest complacency and desire. I imagined that after the goddess had thoroughly surveyed the assembly, and they had seated themselves in some degree of composure, she thus addressed them—

"Ye children of men. Ye abound in the gifts of Providence, and many are the favors Heaven has bestowed upon you. The earth teems with bounty, pouring forth the necessaries of life and the refinements of luxury. The sea refreshes you with its breezes and carries you to distant shores upon its bosom; it links nation to nation in the bonds of mutual advantage, and transfers to every climate, the blessings of all. To the sun you are indebted for the splendor of the day, and the grateful return of seasons; it is he who guides you as you wander through the trackless wilderness of space, lights up the beauties of nature around you, and makes her break forth into fruitfulness and joy. But know that these, tho' delightful, are not the pleasures of the heart. They will not heal the wounds of fortune; they will not enchant solitude, or suspend the feeling of pain. Know that I only am mistress of the soul. To me it belongs to impart agony and rapture. Hope and despair, terror and delight, walk in my train. My power extends over time itself, as well as over all sublunary beings. It can turn ages into moments and moments into ages. Lament not the dispensations of Providence, amongst which the bestowment of my influence is one. HE WHO FEELS IT MAY NOT BE HAPPY, but HE WHO IS A STANGER TO IT MUST BE MISERABLE." H.

FOR THE GAZETTE OF THE UNITED STATES.

THE REPUBLICAN.

No.—I.

NOTHING distinguishes man from the brutal creation more than the improvement, which every generation makes upon the knowledge of the former. Animals of an inferior rank are ingenious in a high degree. But succeeding individuals of any species make no progress in this ingenuity. There are birds, which excite our admiration by the curious texture of their nests. Much skill also is observable in the convenient habitations of the several nations of the forest and field. We admire the prudence, which domestic animals discover in defending themselves, and providing for their young. In others we can discern an instinctive acquaintance with the rules of government. A flock of pigeons, or other birds of passage, apparently observe a good degree of order and discipline in their flight. A bee-hive exhibits a specimen of mechanic contrivance, which in some respects surpasses the efforts of human artists. The politician, no less than the philosopher, finds matter of admiration in the economical inhabitants of the hive. The regulations of their little commonwealth are worthy of the imitation of mankind. It is not without reason, that we are directed to the puny republic of ants, to learn lessons of industry and wisdom.—

However, the abilities and arts of these various animals remain the same from age to age. A swallow of the ancients built his house as commodiously and beautifully as any one among the moderns. A fox or beaver was as cunning and curious in the time of *Æsop* as at the present day. Man only can preserve his inventions and transmit them to his posterity for their benefit. Thus succeeding individuals begin in the course of investigation where their fathers left off. Every discovery assists the inventive powers of the mind, and paves the way to still further discoveries.—Nor is there now much danger of losing any important attainment, as the means of securing and perpetuating knowledge are so various and effectual. If, as fast as the objects of science multiply, the departments of business and study be proportionably divided, so that each member may direct his exertions to a single point, the progress of improvement must be continually accelerated, and knowledge increase in the ratio of compound interest. While every benevolent mind derives pleasure from such contemplations, the patriotic Republican applies them to government. How rapid has been the advancement of political knowledge within the present age! How many defects of ancient forms and writers have been discovered and rationally exploded! Many errors of more modern theorists have also been successively corrected. And doubtless future experiments will continue to reform the science, or rather the art of government.

[No. II, of the REPUBLICAN is received, and shall appear in our next. The author is entitled to our thanks for his Communications: We shall continue to notice by an early insertion, those he may in future favor us with.]