

MR. FENNO,

IN my last I have stated the example of blacks, who intermarried by force of conquest with two European nations—happy was it for the conquered, that their colour only changed on this account—however as we all admit full blood, three quarters, and half blood, in our hounds and horses—it will not appear a paradox, if I lay it down as a general rule, that when in animated nature higher orders intermix with lower ones, the original character is gradually debased, and finally lost; this leads me to an examination of what would happen if negroes were made freemen, living among us.

Different notions have been held on the manumission of negroes—let us select one, and suppose that it was granted on all sides, that the children of the slaves which will be born the next year, are to be free. As the law can, I believe, make no difference between citizens of the empire, of what colour they may be, a gradual intermarriage of the whites and blacks will happen of course: Where is, among our citizens, the mother of a family blessed with beautiful daughters, who will not shudder when she thinks, that there might be only a probability, that her great grand daughters will have black muzzles and crooked figures; moreover this is but the smallest part of the bitter fruits with which black citizenship would be pregnant—it would be unclothing Pandora's box.

Although I believe that the new black citizen would feel grateful for his manumission, yet this sentiment will soon subside, and be fully extinguished in the next generation; the difference in corporal and intellectual qualities would be felt by the black, the consciousness of his inferiority would extinguish gratitude, and jealousy would be his prevailing passion—should any invasion happen, the enemy would purchase the blacks on easy terms, and without any foreign attack this jealousy would have the most fatal effects, and cause constant disturbances in the empire; tranquillity would fly from Columbia, and not be re-established until intermarriage had dyed the nation nearly one and the same colour! But then the original character of the nation will only stand recorded in the historic page, when it speaks of the times of their ancestors becoming renowned in the annals of mankind by repelling tyranny, and assuming their independency with spirit; when by gigantic strides they rose into consequence, and outshone even their originals in arms, in sciences and arts—when they crowned the liberty of the citizen by a uniform federal government: then genius was a native of this happy soil—and the foreigner gloried to be an American freeman.

RUSTICUS.

MR. FENNO,

I AM a sheep-hairy negro, the son of an African man and woman; by a train of fortunate events I was left free, when very young, and by the interposition of the most generous of mankind, I have received a common English school education, and have been instructed in the christian religion—I am master of a trade whereby I get a comfortable living: My leisure time I employ in reading, it is my delight, and I am encouraged by several spirited, noble and generous American freemen, who are pleased to praise me for employing my time so much more rationally (as they say) than most of the white men who are in the same station of life that I am: And do not consider me as the link in the creation by which the monkey hangs to the gentleman. I esteem it among the blessings of my situation, that by my industry as a tradesman, I am enabled to purchase your interesting publication, and by my assiduity as a student I am enabled to read it with profit: But I fear all my application has not made me equal to the task I have undertaken, of penning a letter, which shall appear to you worthy of a place in your next number; the arduous task of appearing as an opponent to the philosophic Rusticus.

Had this philosopher advanced any thing new I should not dare to step forward; but to his present hackney'd theme, I shall oppose the arguments of such as have written against the idea of our inferior nature, particularly Mr. Clarkson:

The philosopher's chain is a rusty affair; I shall take little notice of his bulls and wild ducks—I would willingly come to the point: Rusticus goes upon the principle which Lord Kaimes labored very hard to establish, that the variety of colour, features, &c. in the human species, proved them to be derived from various stocks, and not as the old-fashioned erroneous scriptures assert, all the descendants of Adam. His next is the principle of links—in which if I mistake not his idea—he and his brethren of European extraction, stand or hang inferior to none but angels—to them follow the other nations of the earth.—As, effeminate Asiatics—long haired savages of America—sheep-hairy Africans—Africans with wolves muzzles—and next I suppose the various kinds of the monkey, &c. &c.—Now if I can prove by the assistance aforementioned, that the first is a false principle, and that Europeans, Asiatics, Americans and Africans are all the descendants of Noah—The second principle will fall of course, at least so far, that because I have a black skin (tho by the by my skin is already whiter than my father's was) flat nose, thick lips and sheep-hair, I shall not be hook'd on at the lower end of the chain of human beings.

It is really amusing, not to say laughable, to see with what eagerness Lord Kaimes pursues his favorite discriminating plan: I will instance one of his proofs that there are different species of men by nature totally distinct from each other. "The Giagas" says this great critic "a fierce and wandering nation in the heart of Africa" (only notice what a fruitful and convenient soil Africa is for monsters) "are in effect land pirates at war with all the world. They indulge in polygamy, but bury all their children the moment of birth, and chuse in their stead the most promising children taken in war. There is no principle among animals more prevalent than affection to their off-

spring: Supposing the Giagas to be born without hands or feet, would they be more distinguishable from the rest of mankind?"—So blindly did the Author of the *elements of criticism* pursue his favorite system, that he never considered that if the Giagas destroyed all their children, and adopted the children of various strange nations, of course this distinct species of men were extinct after the first generation, and all the various nations that they incorporated with themselves, were precisely of the same extraordinary, distinct and monstrous nature.—So idle are the speculations of the wisest men when they wander from the pure light of reason and religion.

I shall now bring forward in as concise a manner as possible, a few of the arguments made use of by Mr. Clarkson, in opposition to the main principle of Rusticus.

The first argument by which it is attempted to be proved "that the Africans are an inferior link in the chain of nature," is the supposed inferiority of their capacities.—The argument is so weak it does not deserve notice, neither would it become me.—The second is drawn from color and features, nay, "even the hair of their heads is brought into the account"—My parents born in Africa, have not the white skin, the rosy cheek, the prominent nose and black teeth of Rusticus, therefore are not only a distinct, but an inferior species of animal: The worthy author before me (Mr. Clarkson) says "It is an universal law, observable throughout the whole creation that if two animals of a different species propagate, their offspring is unable to continue its own species. By this admirable law, the different species are preserved distinct. Now if we apply this law to those of the human kind, who are said to be of a distinct species from each other, it immediately fails. The mulatto is as capable of continuing his species as his father; a clear and irrefragable proof that the scripture account of the creation is true, and that "God, who hath made the world, hath made of one blood all the nations of men that dwell on all the face of the earth." This law of nature will not suit Rusticus—who says, "nature goes not from one species of animal abruptly to the next: There are beings who separate one sort from the other and partake in their form and habit something of both; these I call intermediate beings"—Nature knows no such intermediate beings—the animals Rusticus enumerates (such of them as we know to exist) are distinct species of animals, and are divided by the above mentioned law.

If mankind are from one stock they consequently had but one colour, and was that white? No—We have every reason to believe that it was a dark olive.—Then is Rusticus as far from the original colour as I am. It will now be asked what has caused the various appearances of men at present—I answer from my book "a co-operation of certain causes, which have an effect upon the human frame, and have the power of changing it more or less from its primitive appearance, as they are more or less numerous or powerful than those, which acted upon the frame of man in the first seat of his habitation."—Climate appears to have the principal share in the variety of colour—Anatomical experiments have established it as fact, that the seat of colour is the *corpus mucosum*, which is found to vary with the climate throughout the world.

I must refer my reader to Mr. Clarkson's essay on the slavery and commerce of the human species for a statement of facts, and arguments that will remove every doubt on this subject, and convince him that our colour is no proof that we are an inferior link in the great chain of creation.

I fear I have already made my letter too long—I hope Mr. Fenno will correct my inaccuracy (if he thinks my attempt to vindicate those of my colour fit for the public eye) and excuse my articles arrangement of my subject.—I will conclude by answering the last question of Rusticus. No human law can by intermixing species overthrow the fixed order of nature—but the American and the African are one species.—The law of nature declares it—And I, a sheep-hairy African negro, being free and in some degree enlightened, feel myself equal to the duties of a spirited, noble, and generous American freeman.

AFRICANUS.

LATE EUROPEAN NEWS.

SPAIN.

ESCURIAL, Nov. 9.

His Catholic Majesty went on Thursday last to Madrid, to dismiss the Cortes according to the usual form.

Nov. 16. His Catholic Majesty was pleased to declare, on the 12th inst. the civil promotions made on the occasion of his coronation, the publication of which was deferred till the Cortes had finished their deliberations. Each of the Members of that Assembly, which consisted of seventy-four persons, has received a mark of the Catholic King's favor, according to his rank. Amongst other numerous promotions, are, the creation of eight grandees of Spain, nine honorary grandees, five knights of the golden fleece, one of whom is M. de Noronha, the Portuguese Ambassador here, ten knights of the great cross of Charles III. two

counsellors and four honorary counsellors of state, and twenty-two chamberlains.

LONDON, Dec. 31.

The official account of the capture of Brussels, published by the Patriots, is as under. It is dated the 12th of December.

At length, notwithstanding the armistice, and every other pretence, 500 brave Patriots of Brussels have dared to engage in battle with 6000 Austrians. The action commenced yesterday afternoon, at four o'clock. The first attempt was to make prisoners of all the soldiers who guarded the Mint, and those who were quartered in the different convents. General D'Alton did his utmost from six o'clock in the morning to negotiate an armistice. About seven o'clock, 800 men of Benden-D'Alost entered the city with two pieces of cannon, which they planted on the Grand Palace. About ten o'clock General D'Alton thought proper to send a large detachment in order to release, by forcible means, the officers and privates made prisoners in the Basleville. This was the signal for a new engagement, which will be ever memorable for its victory. The Patriots no longer able to contain themselves, routed the whole detachment. To the number of 500, at the utmost, they invested the great market, and after a most obstinate conflict, they made themselves masters of the Coros de Garde, and two pieces of cannon, and took about 400 Austrians prisoners. About the same time the engagement recommenced in all quarters of the city; and, in less than two hours, the Patriots made themselves master of the barracks of the military and of the magazines, in which they found near 2,000 muskets, besides cartridges, ammunition, &c. Towards noon, they attacked the Park and the Palace Royale, where the greatest body of troops were concentrated, with 12 pieces of cannon. After a very heavy firing on both sides, D'Alton perceiving that the place was no longer tenable against so much bravery, capitulated for the immediate retreat of his whole garrison; and the request having been acceded to, about one o'clock they departed, with great precipitation, through the Porte de Namur. But as all the soldiers are not equally inclined to follow him, at the moment this is writing, they are squabbling among themselves, without the city. Already, we have got more than 3,000 prisoners; but a few killed, and no houses plundered.

Authenticatam testor, (Signed)

G. B. A. SCHELLEKENS, GREFFIER."

The slave trade is abolished in Bengal. Lord Cornwallis has just issued a proclamation, and which has been published in the different languages of the country, declaring, that all persons who may hereafter be found, either directly or indirectly, concerned therein, shall be prosecuted in the Supreme Court. A reward of 100 Sicca rupees is offered in the proclamation, and fifty rupees more for every person delivered from slavery or confinement by the discovery.

WHITEHALL, Dec. 19.

The King has been pleased to constitute and appoint Thomas M'Donough, Esq. to be his Majesty's Consul in the states of Massachusetts Bay, Rhode-Island, Connecticut and New-Hampshire.

The King has also been pleased to constitute and appoint John Hamilton, Esq. to be his Majesty's Consul in the state of Virginia.

ANECDOTE.

WHEN the late Doctor Rock, of facetious memory, used to publish his medicines in the mountebank style, and was once extolling their virtues on Tower-Hill, he observed a Porter, who had attracted part of his audience to a separate circle—This not being very agreeable to the physical orator, he enquired what the fellow was doing? "Why, Doctor," said one of the crowd, "he tells us he remembers the time when you was a porter as well as himself."—"It is very true," replied Rock, "but you see he is a PORTER still!"

Wanted by the Editor of this paper, a House that will accommodate a large family, and the printing business—from the first of May next.

WILLIAM TAYLOR,

Has for Sale, at his EAST-INDIA GOODS STORE, No. 4, BURLING-SLIP,

A General Assortment of EAST-INDIA GOODS.

Among which are the following Articles: BOOK Muslins 8-4 6-4 5-4 HUMHUMS, Jackonet do. Long Cloths, Handkerchiefs, of various kinds, Cassas, Chintzes, Seerfucckers, Gingham, Boglapores.

A Variety of handsome painted MUSLINS. With many other Articles, which will be sold by the Piece or Package, low for cash.

And a few pair large handsome Cotton COUNTERPANES, much warmer than Blankets.

JANUARY 9, 1790.

t. f.

To be LET,

And possession given the 1st of April, for one or more years, (two miles and half from this city, on the Greenwich road.)

THAT New TWO STORY HOUSE—four Rooms on a floor; with six fire places; a new Barn, and Well of excellent Water; a young Orchard of Fruit Trees, with 7½ acres of Land, the most part Meadow. For particulars enquire at No. 7, Maiden-Lane. New-York, February 20.