

MR. FENNO,

A CITIZEN of the State of Maryland, having been most virulently traduced, and suffered the severest treatment from the liberty, or rather licentiousness of the Press, is induced to request an insertion of the following piece on that important subject in your paper. It was first published with a little variation in Philadelphia, and is the composition of a gentleman, respectable for his humanity and knowledge of the laws of his country. Its appearance at this time, may be of some use, and point out to our Citizens, the true nature of that liberty, which ought not to destroy, but rather protect their good name and civil rights.

There is no one wishes more success to the efforts of ingenious and industrious men, employed in the printing business than myself; at the same time, I do not conceive that because a printer is in possession of a printing apparatus, he can therefore have an absolute power over the reputation of any of his fellow Citizens in private life; and whenever he pleases, or an ill motive may influence, hold them up, as the objects of scorn to the derision of mankind. This, instead of making the press a blessing, would render it the bane of the community, and justly the dread of every good man. That the printers of this continent may ever use their liberty with honor and dignity, and not as a cloak of maliciousness, is the sincere wish, of, Sir, your obedient servant,

A CITIZEN OF THE STATE OF MARYLAND.

Baltimore, Feb. 23, 1790.

ON THE LIBERTY OF THE PRESS.

"THAT the liberty of the Press ought to be invariably preserved." *Declar. Rights, State of Maryland, sect. 38.*

THE desire of Liberty is deeply implanted in the breast of every man; however this may be suppressed for a time by the trammels of a slavish education, or the dread of a tyrant, when an opportunity occurs, it will infallibly exert itself.—Those who have once experienced the blessings of Liberty, know how to prize them, and have used every means to preserve them. In Athens, popular Oratory, Ostracism, and the satirical performances of their comic authors, were the safeguards of liberty. In Rome, the negative which the people had a right to exercise upon the decrees of the Senate, and the powerful authority of their tribunes in that body, sufficed for a while to retain to the people their Rights. Since the invention of the eminently useful Art of Printing, the Press has become a powerful agent in the cause of liberty. The influence which this possesses over the minds of the people is so well known, that despots have uniformly refused it the privilege of meddling with public affairs. Their mandates are to be treated with silent respect and obedience; but the propriety, or impropriety, of them is never to be matter of discussion. In free governments, the liberty of the Press has been secured either by the fundamental principles of the Constitution, or by subsequent laws. Nothing can more conduce to keep rulers from swerving from their duty, and from assuming unconstitutional powers, than the fear of having their evil deeds exposed to their constituents, through the medium of a Free Press. By this, enlightened and ingenious individuals have ample opportunity afforded them of giving useful hints, upon which the Legislature may afterwards improve.

The proceedings of the different departments of government may be fairly and impartially discussed; and any invasion of our civil and religious rights, may be pointed out, and the alarm sounded, to call forth the People in their defence. If the liberty of the Press were confined to this, it would well deserve the protection of the laws. But alas! Human institutions are too liable to abuse. Even the greatest blessings are too apt to be converted into evils. Civil liberty carried to excess becomes licentiousness and anarchy; religious liberty has been productive of infidelity; and the liberty of the press, THE SOLE OBJECT OF WHICH SHOULD BE THE PRESERVATION OF CIVIL AND RELIGIOUS RIGHTS, has been prostituted to the purposes of private enmity and spite. Spleenful dispositions have employed it, to vent their malice upon their innocent neighbors; turbulent characters have made a stalking horse of it, from behind which, they have shot their venomous arrows, against the peace of the community. If a man entertains, even an unwarrantable dislike against his neighbour, he lays hold of his foibles, (and who has them not?) to render him odious or ridiculous, in the eyes, of his fellow citizens. If he, however erroneously, conceives an idea that his neighbour is addicted to any notorious vice, he makes use of the freedom, or rather licentiousness of the press, to represent him in the most disgusting colours to the public. Thus the press, which ought to protect the rights and reputation of a citizen, becomes the instrument of his disgrace and ruin.

Are there no means by which this licentiousness may be restrained within due bounds? Undoubtedly there are. The line between liberty and licentiousness may be drawn with accuracy, "liberty," says the French constitution, "consists in doing any thing which is not injurious to another"—Whatever exceeds these bounds, whatever tends to disturb the public tranquility, or destroy the peace of families, whatever blackens the character of individuals, or ruins the reputation of private citizens, let the author of it, give it what name they will, is certainly infamous licentiousness, and should be punished by law as much as burglary, or any other species of felony. Shall laws provide for the safety of the corporeal part of our system, and entirely neglect "that peace of mind which passeth all understanding?"—Shall a poor wretch who deprives

me of a glittering piece of metal, which I can as well do without, be punished with death, or perpetual infamy; and shall he who robs me of my reputation, more valuable than all the silver in the Mines of Peru, go unpunished? The immortal Shakespeare pathetically exclaims,

"Good name in man or woman
Is the immediate jewel of the soul;
Who steals my purse, steals trash; 'tis something—noting—
'Twas mine, 'tis his, and has been slave to thousands;
But he that filches from me my good name,
Robs me of that which not enriches him,
And makes me poor indeed."

(To be continued.)

PHILADELPHIA, March 3.

A correspondent wishes us to recommend to our country readers the raising of SUMMER Barley, and, if to be got, SUMMER Wheat, this year. The great prices of grain renders it very desirable that our Farmers should seize THIS GOLDEN OPPORTUNITY; and as there is likely to be greater duties upon spirits, rum and wines, Summer Barley is particularly worth attention. Beer and cyder pay no duties, wherefore barley and orchards must be more profitable than in past years. Hops also must be remembered.

Extract of a letter from Havre de Grace, to a gentleman in this city, dated Dec. 23, 1789.

"The ship Pennsylvania, being detained here by contrary winds, will convey you this letter.
"Since my last of the 5th instant the prices of flour are lowered very much; those provisions which a month before were so scarce, are so abundant at present that they seem to arise out of the ground; therefore we thought it proper for your interest and your government to inform you of that revolution.
"M. Necker wrote us lately that he had given considerable orders on flour in America, but that he, at the same time, had limited the prices of purchase, so that it would not cost our government more than 30s. sterling per barrel, free of expenses, and to be delivered in France. This may serve you as a rule if you make any shipments in that article to France."

BOSTON, March 3.

Extract of a letter from a gentleman who was lately in the Genesee country.

"One curiosity was a Brimstone Spring, which issues from two places about two rods apart, about twenty rods from the bottom of a large hill, where it comes through apertures about five or six inches in diameter, and perfectly round, descending like a swift brook; there is a glade about four rods wide from the springs down to the bottom of the hill, which is quite clear, all the bushes, if ever there were any, are gone, and there is not much soil, it is rather a rock of divers colours, and all the way in or near the water, and on every level spot there is brimstone in some places 10 or 15 inches deep."

POUGHKEEPSIE, February 23.

NATURAL HISTORY.

In Ulster county in the state of New-York, on an island in the Never-sink Creek, nearly in the latitude, of 41 30 North, a Mr. Baker in the beginning of the month of March last, having cut down a large hollow beach tree, to his surprise, found the cavity in the tree, nearly filled with the common barn swallows of this country, in quantity (by his estimation) nearly two barrels. They were in a torpid state; but carrying some of those which were not injured by the fall of the tree, near a fire, they were presently re-animated by the warmth, and took the wing with their usual agility.—This may be depended on as a fact.

NEW-LONDON, March 5.

Whoever attempts in the least to defraud the government of whatever has been granted for the public service by the laws, is not only utterly unworthy to receive the smallest benefit from those laws, but is likewise an enemy to his country. The moment he endeavours to cheat the general revenue of those duties which were set apart for the general good, that moment he endeavours to undermine the very basis of the public service; to reduce his fellow subjects to a state of wretchedness and slavery, and do his part to distress his Country.

SPRINGFIELD, March 3.

On Saturday, were conveyed through this town, for New-York, under a strong guard, two brothers by the name of CRANE, who were lately taken up in the county of Worcester for altering, forging and passing notes in imitation of the final settlements, so called: These persons have been so long concerned in the business of counterfeiting paper securities of every kind, both public and private, and have acquired so great a degree of skill and dexterity in it, as to be able to impose very often on the most wary. They have at different times appeared in the different dresses of the gentleman and the beggar, as the occasion might require;—when lately apprehended, they were genteelly dressed, and passed by the name of Smith: They have often defied the arm of authority, boasting of powerful connexions which they were assured would buy them out of trouble;—they have often eluded the strictest search of those who had been injured by them, but are now in a fair way to meet with a due reward for their services.

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.

MARCH 13.—DOLLARS at 8c.

JAMAICA Spirits, 5/6.	Do. 22 inch do. 11. 6/.
Antigua Rum, 4/9. a 5/.	Do. 18. inch do. 18/.
St. Croix, do. 4/8.	Butt white oak staves, 35/.
Country, do. 3/.	Pipe do. do. 9/.
Molasses, 2/2.	Hoghead do. do. 61. 10/.
Brandy, 6/6. a 6/3.	Do. do. heading, 8/.
Geneva, 5/.	Irish barrel do. staves, 31. 5/.
Do. in casks, 28/.	Hoghead red oak do. 51. 3/.
Muscovado Sugar, 80/.	Do. French do. 5/.
Loaf, do. 1/3.	Hoghead hoops, 4/.
Lump, do. 1/1 1/2.	White oak square timber } 10d.
Pepper, 3/3.	per square foot,
Pimento, 1/.	Red wood, per ton, 281.
Coffee, 1/7. a 1/8.	Fustick, 10/.
Indigo, (Carolina) 3/.	Beaver, per lb. 12/.
Do. French, 18/.	Ott. r per skin, 9/.
Rice, 21s.	Grey fox, 4/7.
Superfine Flour, 60/.	Martin, 4/10.
Common do. 52/.	Racoon, 3/6 a 7/6.
Rye do. 26/.	Muskrat, 10d. a 14d.
Indian Meal, 18/.	Beaver hats, 64/.
Rye, 4/9. pr. bush.	Castor do. 48/.
Wheat, 10/6.	Chocolate, 14d.
Corn, (Southern) 4/.	Cocoa, 70/.
Do. (Northern,) 4/3. a 4/6.	Cotton, 1/9.
Beef, first quality, 45/.	Tar, pr. bar. 10/.
Pork, first quality, 70/.	Pitch, 14/.
Oats, 1/7.	Turpentine, 18/.
Flax-seed, 5/9 a 6/.	Tobacco, James River, 4d. a 3 1/2d.
Ship bread per cwt. 21/.	Do. York, 4d. a 3 1/2d.
Country refined } 281. a 301.	Do. Rappahannock, 2d. a 3 1/2d.
bar-iron, }	Do. Maryland, coloured, 5 1/2d.
Do. bloomery, 251. a 261.	Do. Western-shore, 2d. a 3 1/2d.
Swedes do. 45/.	Lead in pigs, pr. cwt. 60/.
Russia do. 30/.	Do. bars, 68/.
Pig-iron, 81. 10/.	Do. Shot, 68/.
German steel, 9d. per lb.	Red lead, 68/.
Nails American, by cask. } 14d.	White do. dry, 95/.
per lb. 4d.	White do. in oil, 51. 12/.
Do. do. do. 6d. 12d.	Salt-petre hams, 7 1/2d.
Do. do. do. 8d. 9 1/2d.	Spermaceti candles, 3/.
Do. do. do. 10d. 11. 1/.	Mould do. 11d. a 1/.
Do. do. do. 12d. 7 1/2d. a 8 1/2d.	Tallow dipt, 9 1/2d.
Do. do. do. 20d. 7 1/2d. a 8 1/2d.	Soap, 5d. a 8d.
Do. do. do. 24d. 9d. a 10d.	Cattle soap, 9d. a 10d.
Pot ash, per ton, 391. a 401.	English cheese, pr. lb. 15d.
Pearl ash, 481. a 501.	Country do. 5d.
Bees-wax per lb. 2/.	Butter, 1/.
Mackarel per barr. 26/.	Hylon tea, 9/6. a 10/.
Herrings, 18/.	Sequin do. 6/6.
Mahogany, Jamaica, } 10d.	Bohea do. 2/8. a 2/9.
per foot,	Ginseng, 2/.
Dominico, do. 9d.	Starch Poland, 7d.
Honduras, do. 7d.	Snuff, 2/3.
Logwood unchipped, pr. ton. 81.	Allum salt, water mea- }
Do. chipped. 141.	sure, pr. bush. }
2 inch white oak } 101. 10/.	Liverpool do. 2/.
plank, per m. }	Madeira wine, }
1 inch do. 5/.	pr. pipe, }
2 inch white pine plank, 81.	Port, 46/.
1 1/2 inch do. 61. 10/.	Lisbon, pr. gal. 5/.
1 inch do. 31. 10/.	Teneriff, 4/.
2 inch pitch pine do. 101.	Fyall, 3/3.
1 1/2 inch do. 61. 10/.	Dutch gun-powder, pr. cwt. 81.
1 inch do. 41.	Nail rods, pr. ton, 341. 36/.
Pitch pine scantling, 31. 8/.	Lintseed oil, pr. gal. 4/.
Cyprus 2 feet shingles, 11. 10/.	Whale do. pr. barrel, 50/.
Do. 22 inch do. 11. 8/.	Spermaceti do. 61.
Cedar 2 inch do. 11. 10/.	Shake-down hds. 3/6.

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At PUBLIC AUCTION, on the First Day of APRIL next, (if not disposed of before, at Private Sale.)

THAT pleasant and valuable Place formerly called COLES-FERRY, now by the name of VAN DUZER'S, on Staten Island, Richmond County, with two good sufficient Pettiaugers for the ferrying business. It is a beautiful situation, and one of the best stands for a Ferry, or Tavern, on Staten-Island, and an excellent Shad and Herring Fishery within 20 yards of the door, Black-Fish, and all other kind of Fish in their season. It is likewise the best and most convenient Ferry to Long-Island, where a number of passengers pass and repass. It lies within two miles of the Point of the Narrows, and between 8 and 9 miles from New-York. There is about 30 acres of excellent good Land, chiefly Meadow, with a very good Wharf, House, Barn and Garden—the whole being in good repair. It will also make a beautiful Country Seat, fit for any gentleman.

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ABRAHAM VANDUZER.

Staten-Island, March 6, 1790.

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 7 1/2 acres of Land, the most part Meadow. For particulars enquire at No. 7, Maiden-Lane.

New-York, February 20.