

# Gazette of the United States.

PUBLISHED WEDNESDAYS AND SATURDAYS BY JOHN FENNO, No. 9, MAIDEN-LANE, NEW-YORK.

[No. CII.]

SATURDAY, APRIL 3, 1790.

PRICE THREE DOLLARS PR. ANN.

## THE TABLET.

No. CII.

"The man who grows less by elevation is like a little Statue, placed on a mighty Pedestal."

**PROMOTION** brings the talents and integrity of a man to a test. It tries them by a standard that cannot long deceive. The reputation of a person, before and after an appointment to office, may be very different. In the tranquil scenes of private life, where good breeding is deemed equivalent to good sense; where useful virtues often assume the name of great talents; and where art and cunning are not severely scrutinized, how can it be known who possesses the firmest probity, or the most extensive abilities? Causes merely accidental may draw people into public view, in the first instance, but the real character can only be determined by an experiment. It is therefore not surprising that some men should sink and others rise, in influence, by being raised to a conspicuous station.

A man of a narrow capacity may perform duties to a certain extent, with as much propriety as he could, were his mind more comprehensive. In attending to objects evidently within his reach, he does not seem to be inferior, in that respect, to a person of an elevated genius. The reason is, that the employment itself does not give scope for stronger faculties than he is known to possess. Hence it is readily presumed that he is qualified for more arduous undertakings. Many circumstances may conspire to promote him to some important office which is beyond the sphere of his capacity. It could not be ascertained, without a trial, whether he deserved such a promotion. The abilities of men are not often co-extensive with their ambition. Keen passions do not disdain sometimes to associate with a weak understanding. When this is the case, men are tempted to wander from their limits; they make themselves little by striving to be great; and become contemptible in proportion as they aspire after respect.—Every person who acts well the part assigned him may gain some degree of reputation, but the most eminent part illy acted, can confer no honor on the performer.

The same observations will hold good when applied to the rectitude of men. There is a certain degree of strength in the probity of every individual. While a man is moving in the ordinary course of life, exposed to no uncommon temptations, his integrity may perhaps never be shaken. But place him in a situation new and difficult, where he is pressed by alluring motives, to depart from his duty, and it is incredible how soon he can shake off his former restraints. A person of slender abilities may not be able to comprehend the distinction of right, and wrong, in the intricate circumstances of public life. He can have no definite ideas of virtue and vice relative to subjects which he does not understand. By this means, a weak man whose intentions are originally honest, may fall into habits repugnant to moral rectitude, merely because he does not know what morality has to do with the occasion. It is hazardous in every point of view, for a person to take a stand more elevated than he deserves. The public eye will search out his defects, and the public contempt consign his character to the shades.

FROM THE DAILY ADVERTISER.

THE great and important object of raising a revenue engrossed much of the attention of Congress in their last session; in the present they are engaged in establishing public credit by funding the national debt, foreign and domestic, and devising ways and means to pay the interest on both:—these are undoubtedly objects of the greatest national importance, and every person who can furnish useful hints ought to do it. It is evident that a principal reliance must be had upon commerce; it is equally so that commerce ought therefore to be encouraged; and in my opinion, the present session ought not to be suffered to pass without very particular attention to it. In their innumerable fine harbours,—the amazing inland navigation which their extensive rivers afford—the exports, which increase with astonishing rapidity—the enterprize of their commercial men—the plenty of materials for ship-building, and the skill of their workmen in that branch—the present number of their seamen, and the ease with which it may be increased—and in their relative situation with respect to other powers, the United States possess very superior advantages, which ought immediately to be improved for the public benefit. That it would be useful cannot be denied, and it is evidently good policy, by giving suitable encouragement to commerce, to enable our merchants to pay those large sums of money which government is under the necessity of calling on them for in the first instance, and even larger, should they be hereafter wanted. A well regulated commercial system should be formed and supported, and in this, very particular attention should be paid to our shipping. Whether we consider the number of men employed about one vessel, from the cutting down the timber for her, in the forest, to her departure from port—the farmers employed in raising provisions for all these, and flax and hemp to make the sails and rigging—or the number of mechanical arts dependent on, and promoted by ship-building,

this branch of business will appear worthy of the warmest support: in addition to the other advantages to be derived from it, will be the very important one of being our own carriers, which will enable us to transport the products of our country, on the best terms, to the highest markets, furnish us with an opportunity of procuring the conveniences of life from other nations at the first cost, and keep all the money paid for the large freights out and home among ourselves, instead of its being paid to foreigners who now reap most of the advantages of our trade. The conduct of Great-Britain may furnish us with a very useful hint, and we shall be unwise indeed if we do not profit by her experience. Her acts of trade and navigation shew clearly her attention to her own shipping, and the reluctance she has always discovered to any relaxation of their rigor proves that she is fully sensible of the advantages gained by them. Let us attend a little to her conduct. Her ships must be British-built, and the master and three-fourths of the hands must be British subjects. Her own territories do not furnish her with the materials necessary for ship-building, in sufficient quantities, and she must have recourse to foreigners to procure them. Large quantities of our timber, plank, masts, &c. are annually carried off in British ships sent hither for the purpose: thus her seamen are employed, and a freight is made. The raw materials carried from us are manufactured in Great-Britain, and her ship-carpenters and their attendants, blacksmiths, ship joiners, caulkers, block-makers, mast-makers, rope-makers, riggers, sail-makers, boat-builders, and a great number of others are furnished with employment, and support. The ships, thus built, furnish a nursery for seamen; become the carriers of British manufactures to us; and of our products at home, as remittances for those manufactures; for all which we must pay: and they are at this time profitably employed in carrying the produce of the United States to France, where they obtain a bounty on it. Due attention to the encouragement of ship-building, and the proper regulation of commerce would throw all these advantages into our hands, and prevent our commercial and seafaring men the mortification of seeing foreigners engrossing our trade and growing rich by it, while they themselves are neglected and unemployed; it would fill our harbours with vessels manufactured at home, and with hardy seamen born among ourselves, who would have stronger attachments to the country than the mercenaries who come here merely for the sake of gain; and on whose assistance we could rely in case of necessity.

It may be enquired whether we could build a sufficient number of vessels to answer the purposes of our commerce: of this there can be no doubt in the mind of any person who will recollect what was done in this way before, and even during the war. In the year 1774 the small state of New-Hampshire built and sent to sea, forty-two ships from two to three hundred and fifty tons each, (which were all manned from the single port of Portsmouth) besides small trading and fishing vessels: if so small a state could furnish such a proportion, what would not the exertions of all the states be equal to? Even under the depressions of the war, our own yards furnished merchant vessels and privateers with an expedition that was surprising; and can our abilities now be doubted when we are under every advantage for cultivating the arts of peace? Why then should we longer suffer foreigners to enrich themselves with the spoils of our commerce? Why should we suffer our national dignity to be insulted by a people who will not deal with us on terms of reciprocal advantage. The trade of Great-Britain to America is one of the most lucrative branches of her commerce; she trades with the United States on equal terms with the most favored nation, and every of our ports is open to her ships. What return does she make? She admits us, it is true, to her European ports, but are not all the others shut against us? Are our ships permitted to trade with her West-India islands, and other territories in America? They are not: why then should we treat her with greater generosity? Why should we abuse ourselves, and do injustice to our allies, by submitting to the insolence of an haughty nation, with whom we have no commercial treaty? A decided preference in every point of view ought to be given to our own shipping; an higher tonnage on foreigners in general will have a great effect; and foreign ships should be absolutely prohibited from carrying the produce of these states to any port or place, to which American vessels are not admitted.

It is rather an unfortunate circumstance that there are so few mercantile characters in Congress; as for want of sufficient commercial information, the interests of the Union in this important point cannot be so well promoted as they otherwise might: the defect would be in some measure supplied, if our merchants would, from time to time, suggest such alterations in, and improvements upon the commercial system of the Union, as would tend to public benefit; these will, undoubtedly, be properly attended to by our national government, and such arrangements will be made as would promote our manufactures, extend our commerce, and assist our revenue.

March 31.

## CONGRESS.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.  
THURSDAY, MARCH 11.

IN Committee of the whole on the report of the Secretary of the Treasury, for making provision for the support of the public credit—the following proposition was read, viz.

"To have sixty-six dollars and two thirds of a dollar funded immediately, at an annuity, or yearly interest of six per cent. irredeemable by any payment exceeding four dollars and two-thirds of a dollar per annum, on account both of principal and interest; and to have, at the end of ten years, twenty-six dollars and eighty-eight cents funded at the like interest and rate of redemption."

Mr. JACKSON observed, that he should not follow the gentleman, (Mr. Ames) through the long tract of history which he had entered into; altho he would hint to the gentleman, that the history of Great Britain, which had been so much objected to on former occasions, seemed, as it suited the gentleman's purposes, to be the best authority now. But he rose to answer some of the arguments he had adduced.

The gentleman had quoted the situation of Great Britain in the year 1719, and had shewn that she had cleared off full one half of her national debt, and could have cleared the other al-

so, if she had not been prevented by an irredeemable quality. I will appeal to the gentleman, himself, if this is not the strongest reason for striking out the words, and if his argument (as he could wish it) is not totally inadmissible.

He has likewise pointed out to us the flattering prospects and flourishing situation of the country, such indeed as no other nation ever possessed; and has produced the amazing increase of resources America has derived from the year 1786 to the present time. Sir, this argument is the strongest evidence for the motion, I have the honor to make you, and is the most forcible reason why we should not tie our hands up from redeeming our debt. From the gentleman's description, we may be able to get rid of it in a very few years; and shall we prevent our having the power? He trusted not.

The irredeemable quality, he found from the gentleman was to prevent the public from paying off the principal, if the rate of interest should fall as to make the capital of greater value: As for instance, if the national rate fell to 3 per cent that the public should pay the advance, which would be 25 per cent. and of course that sum was to be paid for every one hundred pounds principal. This was what he could not consent to. The public had contracted a debt; He wished then honestly and fairly to pay the amount of it. He was not for depreciating that debt; but at the same time he was not for appreciating it beyond its real value. He wished that the honor of the nation might be preserved—that every shilling might be provided for; but not a shilling more.

It had been advanced, that, by this quality, a part of the principal would be sunk, and that if the motion took place this would not be the case. Mr. JACKSON here observed, that the country would not be injured by the motion he had made, nor by the raising the interest to six per cent. He wished it done for the honor and faith of the nation—it was agreeable to the original contract.—He had before shewn that, as the resolution was now worded, it was altogether for the benefit of the foreign creditor, and that it would prove a pernicious drain to our specie; that the lowering the interest would add to that drain, and that therefore it was a disadvantage. The common rate of interest, in the Southern States, was 8 per cent. if the interest of the debt was reduced to four, would any man in those States hold stock at that rate? Would they not altogether sell out, even at a loss, and loan their monies to individuals at 8 per cent. and regain their capital? It would be a natural consequence; and there would be no holder of stock in those parts. The securities would either go into the hands of foreigners, or be purchased up in the Northern States. It was therefore clearly the interest of America, to raise the principal and interest agreeable to the contract, to keep as much within the States as possible, and, to make the burthen agreeable, to have it divided and dispersed generally among our own citizens.

The gentleman had said, that foreigners would follow their property into this country: This he could not agree to. The characters which would purchase were generally the brokers he had alluded to, who lived on their interest without regarding posterity; they were chiefly superannuated, and well settled, and of course would not be for a change of situation; but if they did, the evil would still remain, and the securities would soon find their way to foreign countries again. The settlers, here, would experience it to be their interest to place their monies in a more active capacity, and the same rate of interest would be the same inducement to other foreigners to purchase.

The gentleman had asked if it was the intention to oblige the public to pay compound interest? He would answer him, no. It was an option held out, where persons might not prefer our western lands: It would shew creditors, that Congress provided for them as much as lay in their compass at present, and that the remainder would be provided for whenever the United States had it in their power. If he did not understand the original proposition, he begged to be set right; but as he understood it, the present motion would leave the proposition, on the head of interest, as it found it; the principal only would be raised to its nominal amount.

The motion, he contended, was just to our creditors, and complied with our engagements—it was just to ourselves. He hoped the committee would view the word "irredeemable" as he did, and as he was convinced our fellow-citizens would view it—as obnoxious and impolitic. He would beg the committee again to attend to the first ar-