

Gazette of the United States.

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

[No. CIV.]

SATURDAY, APRIL 10, 1790.

PRICE THREE DOLLARS PR. ANN.

For TABLET, No. 104, see third page of this paper.

THE WORCESTER SPECULATOR.

I WAS engaged the other day, a few hours, in conversation with a neighbour—He is an honest husbandman, and leads a peaceful life in the cultivation of his farm, and in the care of a family.—“I wish,” says he, “I was better acquainted with the real situation of my country—whether we shall probably be a happy, or an unhappy people—whether we shall be crushed by taxes.—Although,” continued he, “my attention has ever been alive to public measures, and my wishes engaged for the prosperity of my country, my present fears were awakened by the complaints of others—and what, too, increased them, was their coming, not from my own class, men who work hard for their living, but from men who, one would suppose, would hardly notice the greatest public calamity; those who appear to lead merry lives, and pass the greatest part of their time with jolly companions at taverns; if such men have cause to murmur, what will become of the poor farmer? I cannot, I confess, clearly see grounds for their complaints; my ignorance perhaps, is the reason. Though a man of little observation, I have a grateful heart; and have often acknowledged the enjoyment of many supposed public blessings: We live in a country, from the nature of the government, justly called the land of freedom; learning and virtue are every where promoted, and justice unerringly administered; the climate is favorable, and the soil good; for my part I have found no difficulty in supplying, from my farm, the demands of a large family, and paying my taxes; which, though, sometimes large, have never been oppressive: But how long,” added he, looking seriously at me, “this will be my case, how long before calls for the payment of our debts, will deprive me of such ability, I cannot tell; from the suggestions of others, I feel alarmed.”

His anxiety merited attention: My feelings were engaged for him, and most gladly would I have pointed out the latent sources of public advantage, had it not been taking the part of a politician farther than my abilities would justify. However, his fears of an accumulated burden from taxation, were very easily removed.—Our debt, said I, my worthy friend, according to a late report of the Secretary of the Treasury, amounts to eighty millions of dollars: The annual interest of which is upwards of four millions—the inhabitants of America amount nearly to that number—assessments by land and poll tax, with the aid of impost, have been found equal to the discharge of the annual interest of the said debt, without oppression. Our country is extensive, and the increase of population in no country more rapid—Let such interest be annually discharged—the increase of population, with the constant accessions to our improved lands, are the two great resources, which will prove an increasing sinking fund upon the principal, that will effectually discharge it—they are the storehouses, out of which, without any additional burden on ourselves, we shall make payment of our debts. “But,” inquired my honest friend, “shall the greatest resources of our country be realized by foreigners, and we excluded from any benefit of them?” By no means, replied I. Those must be creditors unheard of for their exactions, who should demand, and that a custom unparalleled for its rigor that should sanction the payment of interest for the whole debt until all was discharged: Such an idea, if entertained, would be an extravagant departure, not only from justice, but from facts. As the debt is discharged the interest must decrease, and our taxes be proportionably lightened. The two resources then constantly operating with increasing effect to the removal of the debt, must realize to us in a very sensible manner, our advantage from them: They will at length, added I, redeem themselves; and all their streams be turned to the watering their own country. Be not discouraged; let not the most frightful suggestions of the discontented scare you from your industry. Taxes, in this country, never have been, and we may confidently believe they never will be the means of imprisoning the industrious man. The case of the farmer has in some respects been hard, too small a comparative value has been set on the produce of his farm, when made the consideration of money. Too free a use of foreign commodities was the reason, the purchase of which made large and constant draughts on our specie. But against this evil we are daily strengthening ourselves: Progress in preparations for supplying our demands from among ourselves, is successfully made: The interests of the mechanic, husbandman, and artisan, are anxiously blended with the first objects of our legislators. Under their watchful protection, all the means within reach for promoting them will be hunted up. Thus will industry be encouraged and our money made more plenty.

(From the Massachusetts Spv.)

AMERICAN MANUFACTURES.

WE are happy in inserting the following facts, corroborative of the advancement of the manufactures of our country.

The Hon. Mr. SHAW, owner of the beautiful Ship *Massachusetts*, designed for the East-India Trade, from an attachment to his native place, and to exemplify his disposition to promote the manufactures of his country, furnished his Ship both with cordage and sail-cloth from the Boston manufactories; of the latter he took nearly twelve thousand yards; which cloth, from the many experiments made of it, is pronounced to be superior to foreign canvas of any fabric whatever; one of its singular excellences is, that it has hitherto proved incapable of taking mildew, owing to a peculiar manner in preparing the yarns—and for firmness of texture and durability of wear, is allowed to be far before any other cloth.

The encouragement the promoters of it have met with in their sales, has induced them to build another factory, which they have now in hand, and when completed expect soon to turn out upwards of two thousand yards a week, which they make of different denominations, from No. 1 to 8 inclusive: In addition to the above, three other Indianmen have been wholly clothed with it, as well as a great number of vessels of every description.

A regular Woolen Manufactory is now established at Watertown under the direction of Messrs. FAULKNER and Co. and tho in its infancy, promises great success, as they have already made upwards of two thousand yards of Cloth, which turns out much cheaper than English Cloths of the same quality.

(Mass. Centinel.)

CONGRESS.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 17.

Mr. Smith (S. C.) Speech on the report of the Committee on the memorial of the People called Quakers.

(CONTINUED.)

ANOTHER plan was to liberate all those who should be born after a certain limited period: such a scheme would produce this very extraordinary phenomenon, that the mother would be a slave and her child would be free. These young emancipated negroes by associating with their enslaved parents, would participate in all the debasement which slavery was said to occasion. But allowing that a practicable scheme of general emancipation could be devised, there can be no doubt that the two races would still remain distinct. It was known from experience that the whites had such an idea of their superiority over the blacks that they never even associated with them; even the warmest friends to the blacks kept them at a distance, and rejected all intercourse with them. Could any influence be quoted of their inter-marrying; the Quakers asserted that nature had made all men equal, and that the difference of colour should not place negroes on a worse footing in society than the whites; but had any of them ever married a negro, or would any of them suffer their children to mix their blood with that of a black?—they would view with abhorrence such an alliance.

Mr. Smith then read some extracts from Mr. Jefferson's notes on Virginia, proving that negroes were by nature an inferior race of beings; and that the whites would always feel a repugnance at mixing their blood with that of the blacks. Thus, he proceeded, that respectable author, who was desirous of countenancing emancipation, was on a consideration of the subject induced candidly to avow that the difficulties appeared insurmountable. The friends to manumission had said that by prohibiting the further importation of slaves and by liberating those born after a certain period, a gradual emancipation might take place, and that in process of time the very color would be extinct and there would be none but whites. He was at a loss to learn how that consequence would result. If the blacks did not intermarry with the whites, they would remain black to the end of time; for it was not contended that liberating them would whiten them; if they did intermarry with the whites, then the white race would be extinct, and the American people would be all of the mulatto breed. In whatever light therefore the subject was viewed, the folly of emancipation was manifest. He trusted these considerations would prevent any further application to Congress on this point, and would so far have weight with the committee as to reject the clause altogether, or at least to declare in plain terms that Congress have no right whatever to manumit the slaves of this country.

Various objections, said he, had at different times been alleged against the abominable practice, as it had been called, of one man exercising dominion over another; but slavery was no new thing in the world—the Romans, the Greeks, and other nations of antiquity, held slaves at the time christianity first dawned on society, and the professors of its mild doctrines never preached against it. Here Mr. Smith read a quotation from the Roman and Grecian history, and from some accounts of the government and manners of the people of Africa, before they had any knowledge of the African traders, from which he said it appeared that slavery was not disapproved of by the apostles when they went about diffusing the principles of christianity; and that it was not owing to the African trade, as had been alleged, that the people of Africa made war on each other.

Another objection against slavery was, that the number of slaves in the southern States weakened that part of the Union, and in case of invasion would require a greater force to protect it. Negroes, it was said, would not fight: but he would ask whether it was owing to their being black or to their being slaves; if to their being black, then unquestionably emancipating them would not remedy the evil, for they would still remain black; if it was owing to their being slaves, he denied the position; for it was an undeniable truth, that in many countries slaves made excellent soldiers. In Russia, Hungary, Poland, the peasants were slaves, and yet were brave troops. In Scotland, not many years ago, the Highland peasants were absolute slaves to their lairds, and they were renowned for their bravery. The Turks were as much enslaved as the negroes—their property and lives were at the absolute disposal of the Sultan, yet they fought with undaunted courage. Many other instances might be quoted, but those would suffice to refute the fact. Had experience proved that the negroes would not make good soldiers? He did not assert that they would, but they had never been tried; discipline was every thing; white militia made but indifferent soldiers before they were disciplined. It was well known that according to the present art of war, a soldier was a mere machine, and he did not see why a black machine was not as good as a white one; in one respect the black troops would have the advantage by appearing more horrible in the eyes of the enemy. But admitting that they would not fight, to what would the argument lead? Undoubtedly to shew that the Quakers, Moravians, and all the non-resisting and non-fighting sects, constituted the weakness of a country. Did they not contribute to strengthen the country against invasion by staying at home and joining the invader as soon as he was successful? But they furnished money, he should be told, and paid substitutes—and did not the slaves by increasing the agriculture of the country add to its wealth, and thereby increase its strength? did they not moreover perform many laborious services in the camp and in the field, assist in transporting baggage, conveying artillery, throwing up fortifications, and thus increase the numbers in the ranks by supplying their places in these services? Nor was it necessary that every part of the empire should furnish fighting men; one part supplied men, another money—one part was strong in population, another in valuable exports, which added to the opulence of the whole. Great-Britain obtained no soldiers from her East and West-India settlements, were they therefore useless? She was obliged to send troops to protect them, but their valuable trade furnished her with means of paying those troops.

Another objection was, that the public opinion was against slavery: How did that appear? Were there any petitions on the subject excepting that from the Pennsylvania society and a few Quakers? And were they to judge for the whole continent? Were the citizens of the Northern or Eastern States to dictate to Congress on a measure in which the Southern States were so deeply interested? There were no petitions against slavery from the Southern States, and they were the only proper judges of what was for their interest. The toleration of slavery in the several States was a matter of internal regulation and policy, in which each State had a right to do as she pleased, and no other State had any right to intermeddle with her policy or laws. If the citizens of the Northern States were displeas'd with the toleration of slavery in the Southern States the latter were equally disgusted with some things tolerated in the former. He had mentioned on a former occasion the dangerous

tenets and pernicious practices of the sect of Shaking Quakers who preached against matrimony, and whose doctrine and example, if they prevailed, would either depopulate the United States, or people it with a spurious race. However the people of South Carolina reprobated the gross and immoral conduct of these Shakers, they had not petitioned Congress to expel them from the continent, though they thought such a measure would be serviceable to the United States. The legislature of South Carolina had prohibited theatrical representations, deeming them improper, but they did not trouble Congress with an application to abolish them in New-York and Philadelphia.—The Southern citizens might also consider the toleration of Quakers as an injury to the community, because in time of war they would not defend their country from the enemy, and in time of peace they were interfering in the concerns of others, and doing every thing in their power to excite the slaves in the Southern States to insurrection; notwithstanding which the people of those States had not required the assistance of Congress to exterminate the Quakers.

But he could not help observing that this squeamishness was very extraordinary at this time. The Northern States knew that the Southern States had slaves before they confederated with them. If they had such an abhorrence for slavery, why said Mr. Smith, did they not cast us off and reject our alliance? The truth was, that the most informed part of the citizens of the Northern States knew that slavery was so ingrafted into the policy of the Southern States, that it could not be eradicated without tearing up by the roots their happiness, tranquility and prosperity—that if it were an evil, it was one for which there was no remedy, and therefore, like wife men they acquiesced in it: We, on the other hand, knew that the Quaker doctrines had taken such deep root in some of the States that all resistance to them must be useless: We therefore made a compromise on both sides, we took each other with our mutual bad habits and respective evils, for better for worse; the Northern States adopted us with our slaves, we adopted them with their Quakers. There was then an implied compact between the Northern and Southern people that no step should be taken to injure the property of the latter, or to disturb their tranquility. It was therefore with great pain he had viewed the anxiety of some of the members to pay such uncommon respect to the memorialists as even to set aside the common rules of proceeding, and attempt to commit the memorial the very day they were presented, though the Southern members had solicited one day's delay. Such proceedings had justly raised an alarm in the minds of his Southern colleagues; and feeling that alarm, they would have acted a dishonorable part to their constituents had they not expressed themselves with that warmth and solicitude which some gentlemen had disapproved.

A proper consideration of this business, must convince every candid mind, that emancipation would be attended with one or other of these consequences; either that a mixture of the races would degenerate the whites, without improving the blacks, or that it would create two separate classes of people in the community involved in inveterate hostility, which would terminate in the massacre and extirpation of one or the other, as the Moors were expelled from Spain and the Danes from England. The negroes would not be benefited by it; free negroes never improve in talents, never grow rich, and continue to associate with the people of their own color. This is owing either to the natural aversion the whites entertain towards them, and an opinion of the superiority of their race, or to the natural attachment the blacks have to those of their own color; in either case it proves that they will after manumission continue a distinct people, and have separate interests. The author already quoted, has proved that they are an inferior race even to the Indians.

After the last war a number of negroes which had been stolen from the Southern States, and carried to England, either quitted the persons who carried them there, or were abandoned by them. Unable to provide for themselves, and rejected from the society of the common people of England, they were begging about the streets of London in great numbers; they supplicated captains of vessels to carry them back to their owners in America, preferring slavery there, to freedom in England. Many of them were shipped to Africa by the humanity of the English, and were either butchered or made slaves by their savage countrymen, or reshipped for sale to the plantations.

But some persons have been of opinion that if the further importation of slaves could be prohibited, there would be a gradual extinction of the species. Having shewn the absurdity of liberating the *postnati* without extending it to all the slaves old and young, and the great absurdity and even impracticability of extending it to all, I shall say a few words with regard to the extinction; that would be impossible, because they increase—to occasion an extinction, Congress must prohibit all intercourse between the sexes; this would be an act of humanity they would not thank us for, nor would they be persuaded that it was for their own good, or Congress must, like Herod, order all the children to be put to death as soon as born. If then nothing but evil would result from emancipation, under the existing circumstances of the country, why should Congress stir at all in the business, or give any countenance to such dangerous applications. We have been told that the government ought to manifest a disposition inimical to this practice which the people reprobate. If some citizens, from misinformation and ignorance have imbibed prejudices against the Southern States, if ill-intentioned authors have related false facts, and gross misrepresentations tending to traduce the character of a whole State, and to mislead the citizens in other States, is that a sufficient reason why a large territory is to be depopulated, merely to gratify the wish of some misinformed individuals? But what have the citizens of the other States to do with our slaves? Have they any right to interfere with our internal policy?

This is not an object of general concern, for I have already proved that it does not weaken the Union; but admit that it did, will the abolition of slavery strengthen South-Carolina? It can only be cultivated by slaves; the climate, the nature of the soil, ancient habits, forbid it by the whites; experience convinces us of the truth of this. Great-Britain made every attempt to settle Georgia by whites alone and failed, and was compelled at length to introduce slaves; after which, that State increased very rapidly in opulence and importance. If the slaves are emancipated, they will not remain in that country—remove the cultivators of the soil, and the whole of the low country, all the fertile rice and indigo swamps will be deserted, and become a wilderness. What then becomes of its strength? Will such a scheme increase it? Instead of increasing the population of the whites, there will be no whites at all; if the low country is deserted, where will be the commerce, the valuable exports of that country, the large revenue raised from its imports and from the consumption of the rich planters? In a short time the northern and eastern States will supply us with their manufactures; if you depopulate the rich low country of South-Carolina and Georgia, you will give us a blow which will immediately recoil on yourselves. Suppose that 140,000 slaves in those States, which require annually five yards of cloth each, making 700,000 yards at half a dollar a yard, this makes 350,000 dollars, besides the articles of linen, flannel, oznaburgh, blankets, molasses,