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THE TABLET.

No. CV.

“Where a great Man is delicate in his choice of favorites, every one courts with greater earnestness his countenance and protection.”

THOUGH a free and candid disposition is an amiable quality, there are certain points in which men should act with shyness and reserve. The choice of intimate friends and favorites is one of the most difficult tasks a person ever has to perform. This difficulty encreases in proportion to the eminence of character any one sustains. When a man moves in an elevated sphere, he must of course form a very numerous acquaintance. It will be requisite for him to select from among them, some with whom he may be confidential and communicative. He cannot easily distinguish the character of those who appear to have claims upon his attention and confidence; and if he could properly estimate them, perhaps policy would forbid him to follow the dictates of his inclination. A great man must choose such favorites, as will meet with the public approbation, though his own wishes might direct a different choice. The public opinion may not only be discordant, but it may be fickle. The same man may be highly esteemed by one part of the community, and detested by another. He may be popular one day, and odious the next. Thus it appears a person must act cautiously in chusing his confidants.

If men in the high offices of government are heedless in the choice of their associates, it will soon cease to be an honor to be ranked among their favorites. But when there is delicacy and judgment discovered in the choice, those on whom great men smile will deem themselves honored by their notice. Worthy and respectable characters will court their attention, and they may depend on the good will and services of the wise and virtuous. There is no remedy against the inconvenience of bad counsel, but to have very few counsellors. If a public man consults with many persons he probably may be deceived with respect to the merit of some of them. He may bestow confidence where it is not deserved. But this is not the worst of it: By having a great number of intimate friends, a low value will soon be set upon his friendship. It becomes too cheap and common. None of his friends feel much responsible for the effects of their advice, because the responsibility is divided among so many. It belongs to every man to fix the price of his own character: He will always fetch what he is worth, if he demands what he is worth. But if he trifles with himself, and sets a low value upon his importance in society, the world will also think him of little value.

A discreet line of conduct, and a delicate choice of associates will give weight, if not lustre to in different talents. Those who commit no mistakes, will be applauded for virtues they never exercised; and be respected for abilities they do not possess. Their influence encreases like money at interest. They meet with no losses, and whatever they gain is added to their capital stock. It is hardly conceivable to what an high degree of reputation a man of prudence and circumspection may attain. And there is nothing in which a man should be more prudent and circumspect than in the choice of his friends and companions.

ADVERTISEMENT.

THIS number commences the SECOND VOLUME OF THE GAZETTE OF THE UNITED STATES.

The publication will be continued upon its original PLAN, viz. Be published, WEDNESDAYS and SATURDAYS, at the seat of the Federal Government—contain Sketches of Debates in the National House of Representatives—and the result of the deliberations of Congress—**THE LAWS OF THE UNITED STATES**—Essays and Paragraphs on Politics, Finance, Government, Education, Arts, Agriculture, Commerce, and Manufactures—Domestic and Foreign Intelligence, &c.

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The Editor acknowledges, with gratitude, the patronage which the GAZETTE has received from a generous public. His interest must powerfully impel to such exertions as may ensure a continuance of general approbation. The favors of his correspondents he hopes will be continued: Some new sources of supply he expects will be opened—every hint for the improvement of the publication will be attended to—that it may subserve the interests of Virtue, Science, Freedom and Government.

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AGRICULTURE.

A Correspondent says that it is with peculiar pleasure he observes, that the President in his speech to both houses of Congress after recommending to their consideration other important matters, has not omitted to mention, “The advancement of agriculture, commerce, and manufactures, by all proper means.” And, “The expediency of giving effectual encouragement as well to the introduction of new, and useful inventions from abroad, as to the exertions of skill and genius in producing them at home,” and also, “That there is nothing which can better deserve their patronage than the promotion of science and literature.” That “The advancement of agriculture by all proper means,” in an eminent degree, demands the attention of every legislature is evident from the absolute necessity of it. For notwithstanding its indispensable nature, it is still so little understood by the generality of those who follow it, that it is now capable of the greatest, and most rapid improvements under the nursing hand of government. It is not only the first, but the most healthy, most honorable, and most extensively useful, and complicated of all employments; to follow which, Kings and Emperors have laid down their Crowns, and Sceptres, and, “seized the plough, and greatly independent lived.” For this is that art and science alone on which all the rest entirely depend; and is, of itself absolutely necessary for the support of human life: And wherever it is neglected, or unskillfully prosecuted, whatever wealth may be imported from abroad, poverty, and misery will abound at home: For such ever was, and ever will be, the fluctuating nature of trade, and commerce, that thousands, who depend upon them, may be in affluence to day, and in a state of beggary to-morrow; which can never be the case of those happy persons who, judiciously, apply themselves to the most noble, delightful, and independent art of husbandry. Such then being its antiquity, dignity, and usefulness; would it not be good policy, in the supreme legislature, to nominate, and appoint a proper person, with an adequate salary, to continue in office for one year, or during pleasure, with the appellation of Farmer-General; to make annually a tour of the state, or states, under their jurisdiction to register the state of the crops, the best mode of culture, of folding, and hay raising, and distributing the manure, &c. &c. And the recent improvements that have been made in any respect, and to communicate, to those who may be willing to learn what he knows himself, or has learned from the experience and practice of others; and to make honorable mention of all those Owners, Stewards, or Overseers of farms whose industry, method, and perseverance may entitle them to it. This would naturally inspire men of all ranks with an extraordinary sense of the importance of a due attention to this so much neglected art, and with a laudable emulation to excel one another in what so manifestly tends to their own, and their country’s honor, interest, and happiness. And this officer of inspection and information, by keeping a journal, and making notes, and observations upon all proper occasions, to be examined, and published annually under the inspection of a committee of agriculture, may collect an amazing fund of practical, agricultural knowledge in a few years, as into one grand reservoir, from whence it would continue to flow on, in numerous enlightening streams, to the remotest parts of the empire. “The expediency of giving effectual encouragement as well to the introduction of new, and useful inventions from abroad, as to the exertions of skill, and genius in producing them at home,” needs no comment. But, nevertheless, it may not be amiss to suggest, that enacting a law to make provision for the authors of useful inventions, discoveries, or performances by granting patents, or bounties to such, that it would be expedient to make a provisional clause against impositions, and surreptitious grants; that all persons, when convicted thereof, shall not only suffer a pecuniary mulct, but restore to the genuine authors, whether natives, or foreigners, what they have thus fraudulently obtained, or make the necessary surrender to government itself, of all, and every thing they have unwarrantably received, to be applied to the use, and emolument of those to whom it may be justly due. But as to the necessity of promoting science, and literature at the public expence (as it cannot otherwise be done in any extensive degree) the best comment, that can here be given, will be the President’s own following term of words at full length on

that head: Which display a justness, sincerity, and energy of thought and expression so peculiar to himself. “Nor am I less persuaded that you will agree with me in opinion, that there is nothing which can better deserve your patronage than the promotion of science and literature. Knowledge, is in every country the surest basis of public happiness.—In one, in which the measures of government receive their impression so immediately from the sense of the community as in ours, it is proportionably essential. To the security of a free state it contributes in various ways: By convincing those who are entrusted with the public administration, that every valuable end of government is best answered by the enlightened confidence of the people: And by teaching the people themselves to know, and to value their own rights; to discern, and provide against invasions of them; to distinguish between oppression, and the necessary exercise of lawful authority; between burthens proceeding from a disregard to their convenience, and those resulting from the inevitable exigencies of society, to discriminate the spirit of liberty from that of licentiousness, cherishing the first, avoiding the last, and uniting a speedy, but temperate vigilance against encroachments, with an inviolable respect to the laws. Whether this desirable object will be best promoted by affording aids to seminaries of learning already established, by the institution of a national university, or by any other expedient, will be well worthy of a place in the deliberations of the legislature.” *Virginia Gazette.*

CONGRESS.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 17.

Report of the Committee on the Memorials of the people called Quakers, under consideration.

(MR. SMITH’S (S. C.) SPEECH CONTINUED.)

IT has been said that the toleration of slavery brings down reproach on America. It only brings reproach on those who tolerate it, and we are ready to bear our share. We know that none but prejudiced and uncandid persons, who have hastily considered the subject and are ignorant of the real situation of the Southern States, throw out these insinuations. We found slavery ingrafted in the very policy of the country when we were born, and we are persuaded of the impolicy of removing it; if it be a moral evil, it is like many others which exist in all civilized countries and which the world quietly submit to. Humanity has been a topic of declamation on this subject; that sentiment has different operations on different individuals, and he had it in his power to shew, that humanity first gave origin to the transportation of slaves from Africa into America. Bartholomew de las Casas, bishop of Chiapa, a Spaniard renowned for his humanity and virtues, in order to save the Indians in South America from slavery, prevailed on his monarch to substitute Africans, which were accordingly purchased on the coast of Africa and shipped to the Spanish colonies to work in the mines: this appears in Robertson’s history of America, which Mr. Smith quoted. At this day the Spaniards give considerable encouragement to the transportation of slaves into their islands. Mr. Smith read the edict for that purpose.

Another objection is, that slavery vitiates and debases the mind of the owner of this sort of property. Where, said he, is the proof of this allegation? Do the citizens of the Southern States exhibit more ferociousness in their manners, more barbarity in their dispositions than those of the other States? Are crimes more frequently committed there? A proof of the absurdity of this charge may be found in the writings of those who wish to disseminate this mischievous idea; and yet, in their relation of facts, contradict it themselves. They lay down general principles which they take upon credit from others, or which they publish with sinister views, and when they enter into a detail of the history of those States, they overset their own doctrines. Thus, one writer tells us, that the Southern citizen who is educated in principles of superiority to the slaves which surround him, has no idea of government, obedience and good order, till he mingles with the hardy and free spirited yeomanry of the north, and that after mixing with them, he will return home with his mind more enlarged, his views more liberalized, and his affections rectified, and become a more generous friend to the rights of human nature: but hear what the Eastern traveller is to learn by visiting the enslaved regions of the South: He will see says the same writer immediately after, industry crowned with affluence, independence, hospitality, liberality of manners; and notwithstanding the prevalence of domestic slavery, he will find the noblest sentiments of freedom and independence to predominate; he will extol their enterprize, art and ingenuity, and will reflect that nature is wise, and that Providence in the distribution of its favors, is not capricious. Take another striking instance of this contradiction from Morse’s geography; he says, that there are more slaves than free persons in South-Carolina, and mentions the mischievous influence of slavery on their manners, which, he observes, by exempting them from the necessity of labor, leads to luxury, dissipation and extravagance, and favors too much of a haughty, supercilious behavior; that the inhabitants want that enterprize and perseverance which are necessary for the attainment of the arts and sciences, that they have few motives to enterprize, and too generally rest contented with barely knowledge enough to transact the common affairs of life. Now for the authors proofs: they are contained in these words: “Many of the inhabitants spare no pains nor expence in giving the highest polish of education to their children: literature has begun to flourish since the peace; several flourishing academies and colleges have been established; the ladies have an engaging softness and delicacy in their manners; theatrical exhibitions have been prohibited by law; gaming of all kinds is more discountenanced than in any of the Southern States; all denominations of religion are on an equal footing; commerce is flourishing, economy is becoming more fashionable, and science begins to spread her salutary influence among the citizens.” But was South-Carolina, at the commencement of the