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LONDON.

To the EDITOR of the GAZETTEER.

Please to insert the following extract of a letter from Paris, dated February 25th, 1790. I pledge myself to you that it is genuine, and that the writer is a man of condition, and veracity.

A CONSTANT READER.

“THE National Assembly have made such progress in the constitution, that I cannot immediately comply with the request you make me, to inform you of all that they have done.—I am however, collecting those fundamental articles, which may, with propriety, be termed constitutional. But, as these will form a parcel much too large to send by the post, I shall embrace the first private conveyance that offers to forward them to you. At present, I have the satisfaction to assure you, that notwithstanding what so many Editors of English newspapers surmise, or their correspondents affirm to the contrary, the revolution moves on rapidly to completion, and in a right line. Since my arrival, the Assembly have been much occupied in fixing what they have just now finished, the territorial and other divisions of the kingdom. The Municipalities, which are formed in every village of it, are to be the basis of the new order of things. These are comprehended in the eighty three departments, which are the wider distributions of the country. These departments are divided into districts, and these subdivided into cantons. The number of representatives which each of these eighty three departments will be entitled to send to the National Assembly, is to be decided by the extent of their surface, the degree of their population, and the amount of their contributions. First, each department is allowed three members for its surface, and then, its population and contribution being ascertained, a proportional number of representatives in a just ratio to both, is to be superadded. According to these criterions, it has been estimated that the whole number of the next National Assembly may amount to about seven hundred and twenty. All citizens active throughout France are to enjoy the rights of voters. They are described to be—Frenchmen, or such as have become Frenchmen, who have paid a tax equal to three days labour, and resided one year in the canton where their votes are given. These voters choose a certain number of electors, who meet together in each department, and choose its proportion of members to the National Assembly. Any citizen is qualified to be a member who adds to the above requisites of a voter—that of discharging a direct tax of the value of a *mare d'argent* :—about fifty-four livres.

It is only a few days since the Military Committee made their report (which has not yet obtained the form of a decree,) concerning the number of which the army ought to consist, and the mode of its appointment. The present pay of the troops it is said will be augmented. The peace establishment will not exceed one hundred and forty thousand men. To these, in time of war one hundred thousand are to be added. But arrangements are likewise taking to establish a well organized militia, who, if they be but tolerably trained in the use of arms, will probably compose a body of men formidable indeed on any emergency, especially for operations of internal defence. And this for the plainest of all possible reasons ;—because, under the new constitution, they will habitually consider themselves as the free defenders of a country, in the government and welfare of which they really and *bona fide* participate.

It is not yet known precisely when this National Assembly will rise. Though it is said by many, that their important work will be concluded prior to the first of May. Should this be the case, I will then endeavour to procure for you an accurate copy of the entire constitution. Mean while you may rest satisfied, and may likewise assure our mutual friends in London, that the late commotions in some of the provinces were fomented, and accounts of what happened much misrepresented by the opposers of the present reform. Those tumults have now subsided into tranquillity, and wise measures are pursuing to prevent or punish all future disturbers of the public repose. As to Paris, I do assure you, I have seldom seen it so gay, and never more quiet. In a word, as I have too high an opinion of your benevolence not to believe that you, and indeed every good man, must wish well to a cause, which has for its object the happiness of three and twenty millions of people, so it affords me sincere pleasure to tell

you, that the French Revolution proceeds better than you could reasonably expect, and, I had almost said, as well as you ought to wish : For if liberty be a gem of such vast value, that whatever a community barter for it, still they are great gainers if they get it, perhaps one ought not to desire to see that which is intrinsically inestimable obtained with facility, and at a price too cheap.

In perusing several of those constitutional decrees of the Assembly, which I shall first forward, I think it must strike you with surprize, to remark how many of them militate with the personal interests of a majority of the members. I myself know individuals of that body, who have manifested a zeal for measures, not only *disinterestedly* patriotic, but absolutely repugnant to that sort of selfishness, which in ordinary times, and in common cases, clings most closely to human nature. In the instances to which I allude, sinister and sordid views seem to have become dormant and extinct in an ardent pursuit of public prosperity ; and different orders of citizens, in their career for the palm of pre-eminent patriotism, forgetful of private interest and separate aims, seem to have united in preferring the glory and happiness of their country, not merely as an object, but as the *sole object* of their ambition.

Since I came hither, I had frequent opportunities to see and converse with that truly great young man the Marquis de la Fayette. I did not think he could be so popular as I find he is. He is almost idolized by his countrymen. Nor is this admiration of him confined to persons of mean condition. Dining the other day in a large party, with the Count De E—, the Count began on a warm eulogium on the courage, skill, and virtue, with which, he said, from the commencement of the Revolution, the Marquis had uniformly conducted, as well on common occasions as in situations the most trying and critical. I asked the Count if he knew how old the Marquis de la Fayette was ? With that lively enthusiasm so natural to the French, he replied, —“ were we to calculate his years by his works, it might be asserted that he has lived centuries ;—but, in fact, he is but three and thirty.” A rare instance of character, in which the blooming vivacity of youth has been united to the ripe wisdom of experience !

FOR THE GAZETTE OF THE UNITED STATES.

Extract of a letter from a gentleman in London, to his friend in New-York, dated March 20.

“ YOU will not fail to remark, when you peruse the Parliamentary debates of this nation, how much the *aristocracy* dread the influence of a successful struggle for liberty in France, or the people of Britain. There seems to be a complete combination of the Nobility, Gentry, Clergy, and Crown Officers, to decry, stifle, or calumniate every measure, that has been pursued by the National Assembly in France. Hence that bitter Phillipic pronounced by Mr. BURKE, in the debate, concerning the army estimates, which no report has stated in terms acrid or angry enough to do justice to the sentiments he that day delivered, and which extorted from his great political foe, Mr. PITT, such warm eulogium ; and has since been followed by the unanimous approbation of all those who are called the *better sort of people*. I listened on that occasion with utter astonishment, being in the gallery of the Commons from the beginning of the debate to the end of it—as soon as I came to my lodgings I took a minute from memory of the following passage of his Anti-Gallican eloquence.”

(Part of Mr. BURKE's Speech.)

“THE French have proved themselves the ablest architects of ruin that ever existed in the world. In one summer they have done their business for us, as rivals, in a way more destructive than twenty *Ramillies*, or *Blenheims*. In this very short space of time they have completely pulled down to the ground their monarchy—their church—their nobility—their laws—their revenue—their army—their navy—their commerce—their arts—and their manufactures.—They are now lying in a sort of trance—an epileptic fit—exposed to the pity or derision of mankind, in wild misrule, and ridiculous convulsive movements—impotent to every purpose but that of dashing out their brains against the pavement. Yet they are so very unwise as to glory in a revolution which is a shame and disgrace to them.—

They have made their way to the very worst constitution in the world, by the destruction of their country. They were in possession of a good constitution, on the very first day when the States met in separate orders. Had they been either virtuous or wise, their business then was to secure the stability and independence of the State, according to those orders, under the Monarch on the throne, and afterwards to redress grievances. Instead of this, they first destroyed all the balances and counterpoises which serve to fix a State, and give it a steady direction, and then they melted down the whole into one incongruous mass of mob and democracy. And when they had done this with a perfidy most unexampled and atrocious, they laid the axe to the root of all property, of all national prosperity, by confiscating the possessions of the Church. They next proceeded systematically to destroy every hold of authority, civil or religious, on the minds of the people, by making and recording a sort of institute or digest of anarchy, called the rights of man, in such a pedantic abuse of elementary principles, as would disgrace the imbecility of school-boys. But the worst effect of all their proceedings is on their military—rendering them fit instruments of every infamous purpose—without even the chance of any check or controul. Not converting soldiers into citizens, but into base hireling mutineers—mercenary, sordid deserters, wholly destitute of any one honorable principle. Their conduct is one of the fruits of that anarchic spirit, from the evils of which even democracy itself is received and cherished by those who are most averse from that *form* as a cure. This army is not an army in corps, and with discipline, embodied under the respectable patriot citizens of the State. Nothing like it. No, it is the case of common soldiers deserting from their officers, to join the banditti of a furious and unbridled populace. It is a desertion to a cause, the real object of which is hostility, not to servitude, but to society—levelling all those institutions—breaking all those connections, natural and civil, that regulate and hold together communities by one chain and subordination—raising soldiers against their officers—servants against their masters—tradesmen against their customers—artificers against their employers—tenants against their landlords—curates against their bishops, and children against their parents. How would you, Mr. Speaker, and how would any of you gentlemen like to have your mansions pulled down and pillaged—your title deeds brought out and burnt before your faces—your persons abused, insulted and destroyed—and families driven to seek refuge in every corner of Europe—and all this without any fault of yours, or any other reason than this—that you were *born gentlemen* and men of property—and were suspected of a desire to preserve your estates and your consideration. Sir, this desertion of the French military was to aid the most execrable, the most detestable sedition, the very open professed abominable principle of which is an implacable hostility to *nobility and gentry*. Their savage war whoop is “ *a l' Aristocrat* ”—and by this senseless bloody cry they animate one another to rapine and to murder—while abetted by ambitious men of another class, they are crushing all that is virtuous or respectable in the nation—and, to the utmost of their power, dishonoring and disgracing every name by which we formerly knew that there was such a country in the world as France. In a former century we were in danger from emulating, or wishing to emulate their splendid despotism. But the opposite peril now awaits us. Let us shudder at our present danger of being influenced by a people whose character knows no medium between despotism and anarchy—no medium between the bigotry of superstition, and the madness of Atheism.—Atheism that foul unnatural vice, foe to all the dignity and consolation of man—which having for a long time been embodied into a faction in France, is now accredited and almost avowed by its votaries. Let us beware of being led thro an illegitimate admiration of successful fraud and outrageous violence to an imitation of the excesses of an irrational, unprincipled, proferibing, confiscating, plundering, ferocious, bloody and tyrannical democracy.”

MR. HOWARD.

IT is with regret we inform our readers, that the benevolent and philanthropic John Howard, Esq. is no more. He fell a victim to the warmth of his benevolence in the service of mankind. He died at Cherson on the 20th of January last, after an illness of twelve days.