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CONTINUED.

PARIS ACCOUNTS.—March 8.

THE National Assembly this day took up the subject of the islands of Martinico and St. Domingo, and after lengthy debates, decided upon the principles of instructions for the colonies, which were committed to M. Barnave and others, to draw up who reported the 23d. [These instructions will appear in our next.]

The term of the second presidency of the Abbe Montelouquiou, having expired on Saturday the 13th, Mr. Rabaud de St. Etienne, a Protestant Minister of Nimes, and one of the Representatives from that city, was chosen President. He had precisely one half of the whole number of votes 646 in his favor, the other half being divided between several competitors. On taking the chair on Monday the 15th, he addressed the Assembly in the following words.

GENTLEMEN,

I DO not attempt to express the respectful gratitude with which I am affected on taking the seat to which your kindness has this day elevated me. I acknowledge my incapacity to fill it, and seeing with surprise the motives which led you to honor me with your choice, I can only remark, gentlemen, one of those grand lessons which you are disposed to give to your co-temporaries. You undoubtedly wished them publicly to consecrate your principles. Your suffrages in my favor is the decree which you pass; and when looking around you, you condescended to choose me as the proof of the independence of your maxims, I feel myself bound to concur, at least with obedience, to fulfill intentions, which are so agreeable to my own, to respect. You impose, gentlemen, great duties on me. I have just had a great example before me; this example however is an additional motive to induce me to solicit your indulgence, and to be assured of obtaining it.

In the session of the 17th March, the mission of a Belgic Envoy to France was considered, and it was resolved not to acknowledge him. The principle reason which appears to have led the Assembly to this determination, is, that in the present Constitution of the Belgic Congress, which calls itself the sovereign, and which has constituted itself without taking the opinion of the different orders of the people, neither the real seal of the sovereignty, nor the expression of the national will, is acknowledged.

The speech of M. St. Etienne, the 7th of March, on the subject of M. Neckar's memorial respecting the finances, was received, with the most expressive marks of approbation—the following is an extract from that part which was more particularly applauded.

"Bankruptcy, gentlemen, is impossible. I repeat it, it is impossible, if the National Assembly continues its labors for some months to come: it is inevitable, if the Assembly separates; and in these few words I leave you and the people of France every thing to think.

Bankruptcy is impossible, because the resources of this Empire are prodigious. The money which is now hid and buried will return into circulation, whenever you shall have dissipated the panic terror which has prevailed. Your revenue from ground rents is immense, vastly superior to the revenue arising from personal industry, you possess the impositions which were heretofore privileged, you have futurity before you, centuries, liberty, agriculture supported, industry delivered from chains, and every thing which a good constitution can promise.

Bankruptcy! it is impossible, because you are not obliged to pay the capital of your debt, because a great part of this capital infensibly extinguishes itself, because the amount of your debt is only equal to six or seven years of your ordinary revenue. What! can a neighbouring State, whose capital of debt surpasses the whole value of the kingdom, if the kingdom were set to sale, can this country be unalarmed! What do I say, gentlemen? This country flourishes and peoples, beyond every other people; and we, because we owe two hundred and forty millions per annum; because we are indebted six or seven years of our revenues; because a momentary panic has locked up our cash; because in the capital, specie and paper are not actually equivalent, shall we despair of the country, and conceive that the State is lost! Shall we debate France so low, as to think she must perish, because the gold and silver with which it abounds, is for an instant shut up!

Bankruptcy is impossible, gentlemen, because the people of France, must not, nor cannot perish; because a bankruptcy can only serve the purposes of a small number of atrocious souls, who are ready to rejoice at the prospect of ruin; because it would be fatal to the King, to the State, to the person who lives upon his interest, to the person who takes up money at interest, to every creditor whatever, to the capital, to the provinces, and even to the selfish man, the avaricious and the timid who heap up and lock up their gold. It is impossible, because at the moment of perishing, if we must perish, you would see a crowd of good citizens, with which this city abounds, accumulating offers and sacrifices, and running to the altar of their country, to effect by one moment's courage, every thing that may now be accomplished by continued prudence. You have seen the sacrifices they know how to make. Do you doubt they would not press forward to concur by their generosity, to imitate the examples which two districts have already set them, to follow the lessons which the wise patriotism of the Commons dictates to them?

(To be continued.)

DISCOURSES ON DAVILA.—No. XIV.

'Tis with our judgments as our watches—none Go just alike, yet each believes his own.

ALL the miracles enumerated in our last number, must be performed in France, before all distinctions can be annihilated, and distinctions in abundance would be found, after all, for French gentlemen, in the history of England, Holland, Spain, Germany, Italy, America, and all other countries on the globe.

The wisdom of nations has remarked the universal consideration paid to wealth; and that the passion of avarice, excited by it, produced treachery, cowardice, and a selfish unfeeling meanness, but had no tendency to produce those virtues of patience, courage, fortitude, honor, or patriotism, which the service of the public required in their citizens, in peace and war.

The wisdom of nations has observed, that the general attention paid to birth, produced a different kind of sentiments; those of a pride in the maxims and principles in religion, morals and government, as well as in the talents and virtues which first produced illustration to ancestors.

As the pride of wealth produced nothing but meanness of sentiment, and a sordid scramble for money; and the pride of birth produced some degree of emulation in knowledge and virtue; the wisdom of nations has endeavored to employ one prejudice to counteract another; the prejudice in favor of birth, to moderate, correct, and restrain the prejudice in favor of wealth.

The National Assembly of France is too enlightened a body to overlook the enquiry, What effect on the moral character of the nation would be produced, by destroying, if that were possible, all attention to families, and setting all the passions on the pursuit of gain. Whether universal venality, and an incorrigible corruption in elections would not be the necessary consequence. It may be relied on, however, that the intentions of that august and magnanimous assembly, are misinterpreted and misrepresented. Time will develop their designs, will show them to be more judicious

than to attempt impossibilities so obvious, as that of the abolition of all distinctions.

ALPHONSUS the tenth, the astronomical king of Castile, has been accused of impiety, for saying, that "if, at the time of the creation, he had been called to the councils of the divinity, he could have given some useful advice, concerning the motions of the stars." It is not probable, that any thing was intended by him, more than an humorous sarcasm, or a sneer of contempt, at the Ptolemaic system, a projection of which he had before him. But if the National Assembly should have seriously in contemplation, and should resolve in earnest the total abolition of all distinctions and orders, it would be much more difficult to vindicate them from an accusation of impiety. God, in the constitution of nature, has ordained that every man shall have a disposition to emulation, as well as imitation, and consequently a passion for distinction; and that all men shall not have equal means and opportunities of gratifying it. Shall we believe the National Assembly capable of resolving that no man shall have any desire of distinction; or that all men shall have equal means of gratifying it? Or that no man shall have any means of gratifying it? What would this be better than saying, "if we had been called to the councils of the celestials, we could have given better advice in the constitution of human nature?" If nature, and that assembly, should be thus at variance, which however is not credible, the world would soon see, which is the most powerful.

(To be continued.)

THE TABLET.—No. CXXXI.

"It is the course of events which has given a certain bent to the actions and thoughts of men."

SHOULD a man who lived a thousand years ago enter again the theatre of life, he would not readily believe he had found the same class of beings who formerly inhabited the globe. The human mind is so wrought upon by external causes, that not only opinions of virtue and vice, but of happiness and misery undergo great alterations. Our regard to duty may remain sincere, and our love of pleasure may continue ardent, while the modes of gratifying the one, and performing the other may become essentially different. There never has been a period, when men did not, at least in profession, annex ideas of praise to virtuous actions; and of blame, to vicious ones, and yet it is very common for men even of the same vicinity to have violent disputes on various subjects of moral obligation. The difference does not exist so much in the principles each professes to act upon as in the mode, and in the cases to which they are to be applied: The dispute generally relates to the facts upon which the principle is exercised. Two men may vehemently applaud patriotism, and in the sincerity of their hearts, they may both engage in the practice of it. But their actions may be as different, as though they had purposely set out, to display an opposition of principles. Morality is founded in the natural reason of things; and is said to be the same in all ages and places. Yet a difference in education, in the district where a man lives, or the company he keeps, may entirely change his views of moral duty, while he feels and acknowledges the full force of the principles. The fact is, the principle exists in man himself and can never be extinguished. It may be darkened by superstition; it may be relaxed by pleasure, but let a man be enlightened or reformed and his moral sense will regain its natural tone. Good men do not disagree about the strength of the obligation to perform their duty; but they are not agreed in the particular actions that may be denominated good.

"Perhaps, with one stroke of his ax, a Tartar may dash in pieces the statue of VOLTAIRE, which Pigalle was not able to finish in ten years." The Barbarian is acting according to his sense of duty; and there may be no more real malignity in his motives, than exists on many occasions where no mischief is executed. Actions become qualified with the name of good or bad, not so much from the principles which give rise to them, as from the habits and turns of thinking and feeling of the several descriptions of people by whom they are examined. There are certain acts which are very generally esteemed virtuous, while there are others about which men entertain various opinions. Those circumstances which invariably are attended with utility in all situations of society, will be usually approved and honored with virtuous appellations. But when the utility is not obviously seen, when it often varies, and depends on particular cases, there will be no uniform sentiment about the degree of merit which is to be ascribed to particular actions.

NEW-YORK, JULY 14, 1790.

FROM BOSTON.

Accounts from Martinique inform, that the Patriots had attacked the Fort, killed Count Dumas; and that the men of war were cannonading St. Pierre to cover the landing of fresh troops.

Accounts from St. Eustatia say, that the Spaniards had captured an English East-India-Man.

Monday last a committee of the Senate, appointed the 2d inst. brought in a report on the Assumption, which contains the following:

RESOLVED, That a loan be proposed, to the amount of twenty-one million of dollars, and that subscriptions to the said loan be received at the same times and places, by the same persons, and upon the same terms as in respect to the loan which may be proposed concerning the domestic debt of the United States, subject to the exceptions and qualifications hereafter mentioned. And the sums which shall be subscribed to the said loan, shall be payable in the principal and interest of the certificates or notes, which, prior to the first day of January last, were issued by the respective States, as acknowledgments or evidences of debts by them respectively owing, and which shall appear by oath or affirmation, (as the case may be) to have been the property of an individual or individuals, or body-politic, other than a State, on the said first day of January last. Provided, that no greater sum shall be received in the certificates of any State, than as follows—That is to say,

Table listing subscription amounts for various states: New-Hampshire (300,000), Massachusetts (4,000,000), Rhode-Island and Providence Plantations (200,000), Connecticut (1,600,000), New York (1,200,000), New Jersey (800,000), Pennsylvania (2,200,000), Delaware (200,000), Maryland (800,000), Virginia (3,200,000), North-Carolina (2,200,000), South-Carolina (4,000,000), Georgia (300,000). Total: 21,000,000.

The information in a late paper, (which was received from a gentleman who passed through this city on his way to the southward) that the petition to the legislature of Massachusetts for leave to erect a Theatre in Boston, had been rejected, was premature.—A decision on that petition is referred to the next session.

One of the Toasts of the Cincinnati in Boston on the 5th inst. was, May Congress so regulate their conduct on earth, as to secure them a PERMANENT RESIDENCE IN HEAVEN.

MARRIED.]—The 5th inst. Dr. JOHN R. B. RODGERS, of this city, to Miss SUSAN KEARNY, daughter of Rivaud Kearny, Esq. of Amboy, New-Jersey.

ERRATUM.—To Mr. Gerry's motion in our last on the Residency, for striking out the words "Three Commissioners," should have been added "in order to insert the "President of the United States."

The managers give notice that agreeable to an order of the corporation the drawing of the New-York City Lottery, will positively commence on the first Monday in August.

Pennsylvania. Sir, it is a fact, which your journals will justify, that the members from Pennsylvania voted the last session against Philadelphia. I trust that none of those observations will have the least influence on the mind of one single individual. We are sent here to do the public business, and I trust that our constituents, have not sent men that are to be deterred from doing their duty by such insidious insinuations, such ill-founded suggestions of deceiving and deluding the citizens of this place.

Mr. Vining added some more strictures on Mr. Gerry's observations, and then entered largely into the merits of the question. He supported the bill on general principles, and noticed the several objections that had been made by different members—He imputed the embarrassments of the public business to the assumption, and not to the subject of residence.

Mr. Clymer made a few remarks on the observations of Mr. Burke, which were not distinctly heard by the Editor.

The committee rose and reported progress.

SATURDAY JULY 10.

The house took into consideration the amendments proposed by the Senate to the following bills—viz. The bill to regulate trade and intercourse with the Indian tribes—The bill to provide for the regulation and government of seamen, in the merchants' service—And the bill to establish the Post-Office, and Post-Roads in the United States. To some of the amendments the house agreed—and disagreed to others—so that none of the bills were completed. The first amendment to the Post-Office bill, by which the Senate proposed that the establishment of cross roads should be left to the Post-Master-General, under direction of the President of the United States, was rejected—the discussion of the other amendments took up the time till the adjournment.

MONDAY, JULY 12.

Sundry petitions were read and committed.

A petition from the Clerks in the offices of the Commissioners on Accounts, and the Pay-Master-General, praying to be put on a footing in respect to their salaries, with the Clerks in the Departments of the Secretary of State, Secretary at War, and Secretary of the Treasury, was read, and referred to the Secretary of the Treasury.

An amendment of the Senate to the bill to regulate trade & intercourse with the Indian tribes, by which they propose that the 4th section should be struck out, was taken into consideration—this section appropriates 10000 dollars, to be applied in purchasing necessaries, and presents, under the direction of the President of the United States, for the Indians.

This amendment was disagreed to.

In committee of the whole—on the bill to regulate the collection of the duties on goods, wares and merchandise, imported into the United States, and the tonnage on ships and vessels. The discussion of this bill employed the committee till near the time of adjournment.—Sundry amendments were agreed to, and ordered to be reported to the House tomorrow.

A message was received from the Senate, informing the house that they recede from their amendment to the bill for the regulation and government of seamen in the Merchants' service, to which the house had disagreed—and that they adhere to their amendment to the bill to regulate trade and intercourse with the Indian tribes. They also insist on their amendments to the Post-Office bill, and request a conference on the subject.

Mr. Gilman informed the house that the joint committee had examined two enrolled bills, and found them correct: The bill to establish the temporary and permanent seat of the government of the United States—And the bill, making further provision for the invalid pensioners of the United States.

TUESDAY, JULY 13.

A report of the Secretary of State on coins, weights and measures was communicated by the speaker, and on motion of Mr. Sedgwick ordered to be printed for the use of the House.

A committee, consisting of Messrs. Gerry, Steele, Hartley, Vining and Burke, was appointed, to confer with the committee of the Senate, on the disagreement of the two houses in respect to the post-office bill.

The Senate having insisted on their amendment to the bill, "to regulate trade and intercourse with the Indian tribes"—it was moved that the House should recede from their disagreement. This motion after some debate was negatived—27 to 24.

A committee consisting of Messrs. Madison, Sedgwick, and Moore, was appointed to confer with the Senate on the subject of disagreement.

Mr. Fitzsimons reported a bill making further provision for the debts of the United States, which was read the first time.

Mr. Smith moved for leave to bring in a bill respecting the session of Light-Houses, &c. to the United States—motion laid on the table.

The House took into consideration the amendments to the new collection law; the principal part of which was accepted; other amendments were agreed to, and the bill being gone through with, it was ordered that it be engrossed for a third reading on Tuesday next.

The amendments proposed by the Senate to the bill providing for the settlement of accounts between the United States and individual States were next taken up.

The first amendment was to strike out the two additional commissions proposed by the Bill; Mr. Foster proposed that the House should concur with the Senate; this motion occasioned a debate, and was finally rejected.—The House then adjourned.