

PHILOSOPHICAL REFLECTIONS  
ON THE LATE  
REVOLUTION IN FRANCE, &c.  
CONTINUATION.

THE most effectual means should be instantly pursued to check this growing mischief; and perhaps none could be better than re-establishing the obsolete practice of issuing general warrants, at the discretion of the secretary of state. If there should still remain any absurd prejudices against the name, let them be called *lettres de cachet*. A late eminent magistrate recommended the adoption of this measure, with great force of reasoning, and unanswerable argument, in order to check the migration of our manufacturers, and the export of our *spinning-jennys*; but now the French revolution, and the wise extension of our excise laws, have made it not only prudent, but absolutely necessary for the preservation of the empire. The present member for Middlesex has a glorious opportunity of making the *amende honorable* to his king, country, and constituents, by bringing in a bill to legalize general warrants, or *lettres de cachet*. Let the commons pass it, and the lords will not venture to throw it out. The daring menaces of the tobaccoists, in their evidence, may serve as a preamble to the act; and a special clause may be inserted to suspend the pernicious operation of the *habeas corpus* act for seven years; and at the end of that time it will be totally forgot.

In short, the expediency of strengthening the arm of executive power is universally admitted; and as we have hitherto derived all our riches, glory, and happiness, by keeping up a cordial enmity, and provoking rivalry between us and France, by a total diversity of laws, opinions, and constitution; let us still, with patriotic pertinacity, adhere to our old system, and we may yet bid defiance to all our enemies, foreign and domestic. On this principle, the following hints may be of use.—

Let the whole of the British revenue be farmed to that great *comptroller of finance*, *Monf. C.*—Let a royal *imprimatur* be established; (nibbling at the newspapers, by forbidding them to be *lent*, is a nugatory policy;) let both houses of convocation meet to recommend lotteries, and his Majesty's proclamation for the reformation of manners; let them appoint a committee, (*Doctor H.* in the chair) to cite, degrade, and deprive such of the clergy of their benefices who shall presume to support any of the present members of the house of commons, at the next general election, who voted for a repeal of the test act; let them examine, and sentence to the flames, all publications of an immoral tendency, and commit the authors, printers, and readers to Newgate; let the schism bill, which expired on the 1st of August 1714, be revived; let the authority of the bishops' court be extended, and no appeal allowed from their decisions, except to heaven. Something of this sort has been already done, just sufficient to provoke the animadversions of *Doctor Price*; and what more can be said in praise of administration?

Even you, Sir, must acknowledge that I spread no false alarms, when we are at this moment menaced with a restoration of the pagan divinities. The Pantheon may receive the gods of Greece and Rome; and perhaps we may see the worship which has been very lately abolished at *Hernia*, revived at *Ranelagh*. Our youth are early initiated into the mysteries of the heathen mythology, and have too strong a propensity to kneel at the shrine of *Venus*, and pour out libations to *Bacchus*. In short, the revolution in France, the spirit of the dissenters, and the licentious wish of a platonic philosopher, strike me with the utmost horror. The approaching calamities of Britain lie heavy on my heart. At all events, I shall endeavor to act with fortitude and resignation:

"Such in those moments, as in the past,  
"O save my country, Heaven, shall be my last."

But a consideration of the utmost importance yet remains. The dangerous revolt of the military, on whom the stability and glory of the French monarchy rested, has excited my indignation, and almost driven me to despair. If soldiers once presume to consider themselves as citizens, to enter into any discussion and distinctions on this invidious subject, there will be no use in keeping up those large standing armies, to which modern governments owe their brilliancy and power.—No similar instance has happened since the year 1688. "James drew out his army," says *Lord Bolingbroke*, "but in vain, for it was an English one." Louis did not draw out his army, for it was no longer a French one! And thus kings have been deserted, and delivered up into the hands of their revolted subjects, and a fatal revolution brought about in France and England, by the shameful defection of the troops. But an extension of the evil is still to be dreaded, and has already taken effect. Papers, called *le Soldat Patriotique*, are dispersed among the military on the continent, exciting the privates of every battalion to mutiny; and tauntingly asking them, whether they are not degra-

ded, by submitting to the caprice of puerile aristocrats, who are wisely commissioned by their sovereign to drill and chastise them into military discipline, by the magical effects of a *rattan*?—These inflammatory addresses have already had such a fatal operation, that I question whether a German prince could now induce his troops, by double pay, to fulfil a contract with us or Spain, if the flame of rebellion should spread to her colonies in South America, or to the *Ile of Man*.

On the whole, Sir, I own myself terrified at the very idea of innovation. The fermentation of democracy, begun in France, may extend here, and excite a fatal change in our tempers and dispositions. Your philosophical pursuits incline you to be less tremblingly apprehensive; you falsely conclude from analogy, that our constitution may be improved by impregnating it with a new principle, as you have given common water the spirit and flavor of *Pymont*, by a lucky infusion of fixed air. But the ancients were wisely, and even timidly circumspect on this essential point of policy. The kings and ephors of *Sparta* have justly merited and obtained the praises of all posterity, for issuing a decree against *Timotheus*, and fining him, for adding another string to the harp. Those profound judges of human nature instantly perceived that the laws and constitutions of *Lycurgus* would soon be despised, and rendered obsolete, by the wanton vibrations excited in the ears of their sober and uncorrupted youth, by this unconstitutional string. They expressly say, "He has given to our music an effeminate and artificial dress, instead of the plain and orderly one in which it has hitherto appeared; rendering melody infamous, by composing in the *chromatic*, instead of the *enharmonic*. Be it therefore enacted, by the authority aforesaid, that *Timotheus* be banished from our city, that men may be warned for the future not to introduce any innovation into *Sparta*!"

I only quote this very singular historical anecdote, to convince our self-opinionated, sceptical reformers, that nothing was deemed trifling by the wisdom of antiquity, which could in the slightest degree tend to any alteration in the government.

In the present wildness of political speculation in France, I should not be surpris'd if some declaiming demagogue proposed the eating of raw flesh, *a la mode d'Abyssinie*, in order to keep up the rage and violence of the commons in unabated vigor. An act of the National Assembly (considering their unhappy influence) would soon make this savage custom fashionable, under the fallacious pretence of reducing the price of wood; and rendering one article of the commercial treaty of no effect, by preventing the importation of coals. This barbarous nutriment would soon be relished here, as we have always had a propensity to that sort of food; and would infallibly produce every atrocious act of ferocity which has already desolated that devoured land.

As the passions, taste and appetites, principally originate from the physical properties of our diet, our virtues and vices may be traced to the same source, and improved, or counteracted, by a moral regimen. This sentiment is neither new nor paradoxical; it has been already elucidated with philosophic truth and poetical beauty, by one of our most elegant and pleasing poets:

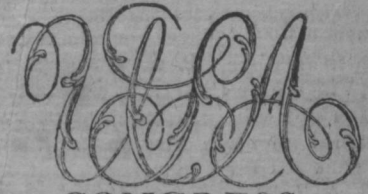
"Was ever Tartar fierce or cruel  
"Upon the strength of water gruel?  
"But who shall stand his rage and force,  
"If first he rides, then eats his horse."

The cruelty or mildness of animals depends on their either being graminivorous or carnivorous; man, by his dignified nature, enjoys the optional privilege of being either; but as he is also distinguished by enjoying the superior faculty of cooking, the direful effects of a raw-flesh diet is counteracted by this humane refinement. The *Hindoos* are meek, gentle, uncommonly patient, and submit to every act of extortion and rapine, with astonishing composure, and the most laudable resignation. Our countrymen, who, by their travels and indefatigable researches, have acquired a perfect and accurate knowledge of *Indostan*, all agree (however they may differ on other points) in giving the natives this very amiable character, and universally ascribe it to their simple vegetable diet. This physical principle is so well understood, that the fighting *cass* are compelled to eat flesh, as an essential part of military discipline; otherwise they would soon lose their courage and the *esprit de corps*, and meanly degenerate into the tameness of mere citizens.

I could adduce strong reasons for throwing out this alarming hint, and have now in my possession letters from a leading member of the National Assembly, to prove that this horrid scheme is in agitation. The vanity of Frenchmen induces them to think, that as they have long given the *ton, en fait de manger*, the most aristocratic people in Europe (even Spaniards and Germans) will soon eat themselves into a republican frenzy, as they will be stimulated by a fresh incentive at every meal. This is the favorite project of our restless and ambitious rivals at present, who still vainly flatter themselves with the hope of establishing a shocking system of universal demo-

cracy, by this infamous expedient. Our best preservative, in such an emergency, would be a general test act, depriving every man of the rights and privileges of a citizen, besides subjecting him to a fine, at the discretion of the judges, and imprisonment till it was paid, who did not produce and lodge a certificate weekly at the excise-office, signed by the rector, curate, and churchwardens of the parish, certifying his exact compliance with the obligatory clauses of the said act, to wit, "That A. or B. had duly and regularly eaten his flesh or fish, either boiled, roasted, baked, broiled, or fried." Yet I am fully persuaded, that you, Sir, and your brethren, the dissenters, would still remain stubborn and refractory, and factiously complain of this salutary restraint, as a new grievance, and again expatiate on the natural and abstract rights of man, to eat his meat according to his own whim, either raw or roasted.

To be continued.



CONGRESS.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.  
THURSDAY, July 29.

The Amendments to the Funding Bill under consideration.

THE house having agreed to insert seven years in lieu of ten insisted on by the Senate, as the time at the expiration of which, interest on the deferred part of the debt should commence; it was moved that the house should recede.

This motion was opposed by Mr. Lawrence, Mr. Gerry, and Mr. Ames; Mr. Sherman, Mr. Fitzsimons, Mr. Stone and Mr. Sedgwick, supported the motion.

Mr. Ames observed that it gave him great satisfaction when he reflected that the house through the long discussion of this important subject had discovered an uniform disposition to support the public faith; not an instance in our conduct I believe (said he) has occurred, through the whole course of this business at which we have cause to blush; this firmness and consistency has reflected the greatest honor on the house—and I would fondly hope, lays a happy foundation for the public mind to rest upon. He then offered some general observations on the immutability of public justice, the sacredness of public contracts—and applying the principles to the proposition of the Senate insisted that it was a manifest and glaring violation of the contract between the government and its creditors, and a departure from principle; for the Senate have agreed to the rate of redemption, viz. 8 pr. cent. *pr. annum*, agreeable to the first part of the amendment proposed by the House: the time for the commencement of interest, seven years, ought to follow of course.

He then shewed the operation of the proposition adopted by the Senate, and by calculations he had made, it would, he said, deprive the creditors of 18 pr. cent. of their deferred capital. He enlarged on the present and probable rate of interest, and from various deductions he shewed that the original proposition in the Secretary's report was more consonant to justice than any substitute which had been offered; and as that which the house had agreed to deviated less from it than that modified by the Senate, he hoped for these and other reasons, which he offered, that the house would not recede, but insist on their amendment, and request a conference.

Mr. Sedgwick said that the subject now before the house was of all others the most important, and that about which men of the most pure intentions might be supposed most to differ, without the imputation of improper motives. To this body was referred the important and arduous task of providing for an immense debt, to do this in such manner as to give satisfaction, an infinite variety of circumstances attending the creation of the debt, and what had been the operations with and upon it, were to be contemplated. The house had not only to determine what they ought to do, but they were also to guess what they could do.—What were the resources of the country, and the abilities of the government under these circumstances? He feared that the speculations of the closet, had produced systems, which prevented a spirit of accommodation and concession, which he believed was never more necessary. He besought gentlemen to reflect, that the utmost degree of certainty they could obtain that they were right, was a conjecture that they were so. Under these circumstances, he hoped that gentlemen would compassionate the circumstances of their country; he begged them to reflect that the commercial capital of this country was diverted to objects not only unproductive of any benefit to the community, but destructive of its most important interests; that the passion of avarice, the most sordid of any which can possess the human heart, was now raging to a pitch, of which the history of our country afforded no precedent. Men not only speculated in the funds, but they gambled even in contracts of speculation; bargains respecting the debt were sold in the market almost as frequently as the debt itself.—He asked if it was not the duty of every good man to exert himself to relieve this country from the effects of this unhappy situation. He observed that the difference in value between the provision proposed by the Senate, and that heretofore adopted by the House, was about one twelfth part. Temperate reflection he believed would prevent on this account one moment's pertinacious adherence to the conjectural calculations of the house.

Mr. Sedgwick said that his colleague (Mr. A.) had jealously contended that the amendment of the Senate was a departure from principle—this he did not understand to be the case. The Secretary had attached to his proposition for which this was a substitute, a quality of irredeemability; the house had varied this proposition—the Senate have done the same. Whether any or which of these calculations were right, no gentleman could with certainty predict. They are dependent on future events, known only to that being who had the supreme controul of them. He never could comprehend how this irredeemability, the worst quality in the opinion of the people of this country annexed to the terms of the loan, could justly be considered as an equivalent for that part of the debt of which the creditor was to be deprived for it. Notwithstanding he had always considered this as a principle understood by few, and desired by none—yet from a disposition to accommodate to the opinions of others, he had acceded to it; because without such a spirit of accommodation, every effort to effect the funding of the debt, would be found vain and ineffectual.—He wished other gentlemen would be equally disposed to conciliate; and he had no doubt but a majority would; for he would not suppose that they would endanger the loss of the accomplishment of the great business we had so long and painfully labored to effect—because a majority in the other house, who had an equal right with them to think and act for themselves, were not disposed to resort to their standard of truth.