

ricksburg (including Falmouth) as ports of delivery only; and a collector for the district shall be appointed to reside at Tappahannock, which shall be the sole port of entry; also a surveyor for each of the ports of Urbanna, Port-Royal, and Fredericksburg; and the authority of the officers of the said district shall extend over all the waters, shores, bays, harbors and inlets, comprehended between Smith's point, at the mouth of Potowmack river, and the point forming the south shore of the mouth of Rappahannock river, and thence up the last mentioned river to the highest tide water thereof. The district of Yeocomico river including Kinfales, shall extend from Smith's point on the fourth side of Potowmack river, to Boyd's hole on the same river, including all the waters, shores, bays, rivers, creeks, harbors and inlets along the south shore of Potowmack river to Boyd's hole aforesaid; and Yeocomico including Kinfales, shall be the sole port of entry; and a collector shall be appointed to reside on Yeocomico river. The district of Dumfries including Newport, shall extend from Boyd's hole to Cockpit-point on the fourth side of Potowmack river; and a collector shall be appointed to reside at Dumfries, which shall be the sole port of entry; and the authority of the officers of this district shall extend over all the waters, shores, bays, harbors and inlets comprehended between Boyd's hole and Cockpit-point aforesaid. For the district of Alexandria shall be appointed a collector and surveyor, to reside at Alexandria, which shall be the sole port of entry; and the authority of the officers of the said district shall extend over all the waters, shores, bays, harbors and inlets on the fourth side of the river Potowmack, from the last mentioned Cockpit-point to the highest tide water of the said river. For the district of Solley landing shall be appointed a collector, who shall reside at Accomack court house, and whose authority shall extend over all the waters, shores, bays, harbors and inlets of the county, of Accomack. For the district of Cherrystone shall be appointed a collector to reside at Cherrystone, whose authority shall extend over all the waters, shores, bays, harbors and inlets comprehended within Northampton county. For the district of South Quay a collector shall be appointed to reside thereat, whose authority shall extend over all the waters, shores, bays, harbors and inlets in that part of Virginia, comprehended within the limits of the said state. For the district of Louisville a collector shall be appointed to reside thereat, whose authority shall extend over all the waters, shores and inlets included between the rapids and the mouth of the Ohio river on the fourth side thereof.

(To be continued.)

FROM THE (LONDON) POLITICAL MAGAZINE.

CHARACTER OF DR. FRANKLIN.

FEW men have gained universal celebrity from such an origin. The principal conductor of the American Revolution, had been a journeyman Printer in Philadelphia. Such are the destinations of that Providence, which has ordained the production of an oak from an acorn.

Dr. Franklin came to London in 1726. The love of science can be traced from this early period, though he appeared here in the line of his business. He had procured letters to, and was well received by Mr. Folkes, afterwards President of the Royal Society, and through him knew Dr. Clark. He was not, however, gratified with a sight of his friend, which he often lamented, and which he had labored to obtain: great age and increasing infirmities prevented an introduction to Sir I. Newton.

Of his origin he made no secret. In a conversation at Paris, in company with the Comte D'Aranda, and the Duke de la Rochefoucault, he replied to an Irish Gentleman, who had asked him some questions about America, and particularly about the state of the paper manufactory there, few men can give you more information on that subject than myself, for I was originally in the printing trade.

The principles and qualities of Electricity were scarcely known in the last age. The Electric Fluid was barely mentioned at the end of Newton's optics. It was reserved for Mr. Franklin to investigate its properties, and of that branch of science he may be considered as the father. Theory was advanced to practice and utility, by the invention of the *Conductor*.

Nor were his observations confined to this science. There were few subjects of common utility, upon which he did not comment; none which he did not improve and illustrate; of which his advice to Servants; to Tradesmen; to Settlers in America; on the cure of Smoaky Chimnies; Rules for Clubs and for Conversation; Maxims to convert a Great into a small Empire, written with the caustic spirit of Swift, abundantly prove. To be generally useful, that he might be universally celebrated, seemed to be his ruling principle.

The memories of the aged are now supposed to be retentive. The truth, however, seems to be, that the tablet of the memory becomes callous at a certain period, nor is it susceptible of new impressions, and particularly of verbal knowledge. Franklin was an exception to this rule: he acquired French after seventy; he spoke fluently and even scientifically in that language.

In society he was sententious, but not fluent, a listener rather than a talker, an informing, rather than a pleasing companion; impatient of interruption, he often mentioned the custom of the Indians, who always remain silent some time before they give an answer to a question, which they have heard attentively, unlike some of the politest societies in Europe, where a sentence can scarcely be finished without an interruption.

It is a testimony to truth, and bare justice to his memory, that he used his utmost endeavors to prevent a breach between England and America. His Parliamentary examination in 1766—all his conversations till 1775, had the same benign tendency—Had his councils been followed he would have proved a friend indeed to this country. From the period of the well known abuse before the Council, he entertained a most ardent resentment, too often the excrement of

great minds. Politeness and moderation could not restrain the most pointed and bitter sarcasms against the conduct of England in mixed companies; and it is remarkable, that when the ship in which he sailed last to America had touched at Portsmouth, he was requested to refresh himself on shore; but he declined it, saying he was resolved never more to set his foot upon English ground.

The testimonies of Franklin's merit were conceived in the highest strain of panegyric: In the year 1777, Lord Chatham adverted, in a remarkable speech, to his forcible arguments against the war, and to the sagacious advice of the American Newton.

Upon his reception in the French Academy, D. Alembert, the friend and correspondent of Frederick the Great, welcomed him with that well known line which revived the boldness and the sublimity of Lucan.

Eripuit cælo fulmen, sceptrumque tyrannis.

The Congress of America have enjoined a general mourning, and the public gratitude has celebrated his obsequies; science shall hereafter record the name of Franklin in the truest registers of fame.

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY OF FRANCE.

SATURDAY, JUNE 19.

A LETTER was read from M. Necker to the Assembly, informing them, that the republic of Geneva had supplied the territory of Gex, (which was in great want) with 1400 quintals of corn, on condition of having the same quantity returned them a few months after the harvest.

M. Necker added, that the Genevois had taken that opportunity of renewing their offer of a patriotic donation to the state. This generous proposal of a neighboring state, the ally of France, was warmly applauded, and ordered to be recorded in the minutes. Some other offers of a similar nature were afterwards made by some individuals in the canton of Berne.

M. Nourissart, from the Committee of Finances, moved, that the Assembly should authorise the Caisse d'Escompte to pay into the public treasury thirty millions of notes.

M. Camus rose and observed, that altho he did not mean to oppose this motion, he thought that the utmost precaution should be taken that the national treasure should not be improvidently squandered, and that an exact account should be rendered of the expenditure.—This, he observed, had not lately been the case; for the estimate of the expence of the royal household, for the first four months of the present year, was rated at 8,380,000 livres, whereas the sum actually paid had been only 4,500,000 livres. He then stated several similar instances, and remarked upon the impropriety of allowing the annual accounts to lie over unsettled for so long a period, as from the year 1775, to 1783. He cited the example of Lewis XIV, who, at the end of every month, audited, with his own hand, M. Colbert's account of the finances. He concluded his speech by proposing a plan of a decree to authorise the Caisse d'Escompte to pay in the sum moved for to the Royal Treasury, and to effect several other purposes of economical regulations.

M. de Gantelar then rose, and entered into a vindication of the conduct of the Committee of Finances, and M. Necker. He said their labors had been immense—and that in a little time they would be at an end.

The Abbe Mauvy then rose, and uttered the most bitter complaints against M. Necker, for not complying with his requisition of producing the three accounts he had called for, viz. The expence—the receipt—the public debt. He said, although the Minister had not had time to produce these accounts, he had found time to write pamphlets against him. After the Abbe had vented his ill-humour in a number of satirical observations upon the Minister, he, all at once, surprised and alarmed the Assembly, by advancing a very heinous charge against him. He asserted that M. Necker had made a concealment of 600 millions of livres. It was supposed that the Abbe would hardly have brought forward an accusation of this nature without some ground, the Assembly were of course considerably agitated. The Abbe in the mean time went on, and condemned in very pointed terms the statements on the finances lately submitted by M. Necker to the Assembly. He was equally severe upon those published by M. Necker's two immediate predecessors, M. de Calonne, and the Archbishop of Sens, all of which he asserted to be false, and abounding in omissions and errors.

M. Regnault rose, and moved that the memoir and discourse the Abbe had just delivered, should be printed for the use of the members. This motion passed unanimously. The Abbe was then desired to deposit his discourse at the table.—This he refused, and finding that this request was likely to be insisted on, he made a precipitate retreat from the Hall, and the Assembly recalled their order for printing it, and decreed that the Caisse D'Escompte should pay into the public Treasury 30 millions of their notes.

M. Bonche read a letter from Avignon, by

which it appeared, that the people had completely annihilated Papal tyranny and superstition in that country. The Ecclesiastics kept their hold as long as possible, but were at last compelled to yield; and had it not been for the efforts of the National Guards, some of the most obnoxious would have been hanged. The people were in the greatest joy at being re-united to France, and most of the Aristocracies having left the country, peace and tranquility universally prevailed.

MONDAY, JUNE 21.

M. Voulland rose, and gave a most melancholy relation of some late tumults in the city of Nismes. In this city the Aristocracies have a strong party, which they have been at pains to strengthen by every possible means. On the 13th inst. the dragoons, who had refused to associate with the regiment of Guienne, for the safeguard of the city, appeared in the streets with white cockades in their hats. This conduct gave rise to a tumult. They were insulted in all parts of the city, and M. Boudon lost his life. On the day following, the patriots shut themselves up in the fort, and being besieged by the dragoons, the place was taken by storm, and a hundred persons perished in the assault. In another part of the city a similar scene of bloodshed took place between the patriots and their adversaries, and among the slain were found a number of *Capuchins*. It is strongly suspected that this horrid massacre had been previously meditated, the greatest part of the officers of the dragoons having been provided with double charges of powder and shot, above the usual allowance. It is also suspected that the Municipal officers were engaged. Two of these are apprehended, and the other has made his escape. The Assembly, in consequence of this relation, immediately passed a decree, investing the King with authority to continue the powers of the commissaries for the establishment of the administrative Assemblies of the department of Gar, and to charge them to do their utmost to maintain peace and good order in the city, and to call in the assistance of the National Militia, and other military corps if necessary, and declaring the Municipality of Nismes deprived for a time of that part of their functions.

TUESDAY, JUNE 22.

A celebrated artist having presented to the Assembly a fine bust of M. Rousseau; it was immediately placed opposite to where those of Franklin and Washington were intended to be fixed. The resemblance is striking, and strongly expressive of the genius and misfortunes of that great man.

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 23.

The business of moment this day in the Assembly, was a debate on the provision to be settled on the dignified Clergy now existing.—Mr Thouret proposed a plan of a decree on a somewhat larger scale than that of the Committee:—The following articles were ultimately decreed.

Art. I. From the first of January, 1790, the provision to Archbishops and Bishops now existing shall be as follows, viz. Those whose revenues do not exceed 12,000 livres, shall remain as they are.

II. Those whose revenues exceed that sum to a certain extent, shall enjoy 15,000 livres; but the maximum is fixed at 30,000 livres, the Archbishop of Paris only accepted, who shall have 75,000 livres.

III. The Archbishops and Bishops shall continue, as usual, to enjoy the possession of their houses and gardens, situated in their Episcopal City or Suburbs.

FRIDAY, JUNE 25.

“The National Assembly, considering that the sale of the National Domains is the best method of extinguishing a great part of the Public Debt, of giving life to industry and agriculture, of increasing the general mass of National wealth, by the division of property into many parts, a mode tending much to public improvement by the facility it gives to private citizens to become proprietors thereof, Decree, That all the National Domains, of which the enjoyment has not been reserved to the King, shall, with the exception of Forests, be alienated by virtue of, and conformity to, the regulations of the present Decree.”

The late Decree in favor of the Conquerors of the Bastille having given rise to some jealousies in Paris, a deputation from 863 of those heroes appeared at the bar, to make a voluntary sacrifice of the Decree in their favour, in order to preserve the peace of the city. This was accepted.

MONDAY, JULY 19.

The Assembly were informed, by a letter from M. Necker, that the Republic of Geneva had made offer to supply the territory of Gex, which was reduced to extreme scarcity, with a quantity of grain, and, at the same time, had generously renewed their proposal of a patriotic contribution.

M. Houdon, a celebrated artist, presented to the Assembly the busts of Washington and Franklin.

The Members were much pleased with this mark of his respect, and appointed the President to express to him their satisfaction.