

[IT has been controverted whether the capture of Gen. Cornwallis was the result of a plan preconcerted between Gen. Washington and Count de Grasse; or rather whether the arrival of the Count in the Chesapeake was predetermined and expected by General Washington, and consequently all the preparations to attack New-York a mere finesse to deceive the enemy; or whether the real intention was against New-York, and the siege of Yorktown planned upon the unexpected arrival of the French fleet in the bay. The following letter will set the matter in its true light.]

"MOUNT VERNON, July 31, 1788.

SIR,

I DULY received your letter of the 14th instant, and can only answer you briefly and generally from memory: That a combined operation of the land and naval forces of France in America, for the year 1781, was preconcerted the year before; that the point of attack was not absolutely agreed upon,\* because it could not be foreknown where the enemy would be most susceptible of impression; and because we (having the command of the water with sufficient means of conveyance) could transport ourselves to any spot with the greatest celerity; that it was determined by me, nearly twelve months before hand, at all hazards, to give out, and cause it to be believed by the highest military as well as civil officers, that New York was the destined place of attack, for the important purpose of inducing the eastern and middle States to make greater exertions in furnishing specific supplies, than they otherwise would have done, as well as for the interesting purpose of rendering the enemy less prepared elsewhere; that by these means, and these alone, artillery, boats, stores, and provisions, were in seasonable preparation to move with the utmost rapidity to any part of the continent; for the difficulty consisted more in providing, than knowing how to apply the military apparatus; that before the arrival of the Count de Grasse, it was the fixed determination to strike the enemy in the most vulnerable quarter, so as to ensure success with moral certainty, as our affairs were then in the most ruinous train imaginable; that New-York was thought to be beyond our effort, and consequently that the only hesitation that remained, was between an attack upon the British army in Virginia, and that in Charleston: And finally, that, by the intervention of several communications, and some incidents which cannot be detailed in a letter, the hostile post in Virginia, from being a provisional and strongly expected, became the definitive and certain object of the campaign.

I only add, that it never was in contemplation to attack New-York, unless the garrison should first have been so far degarnished to carry on the southern operations, as to render our success in the siege of that place, as infallible as any future military event can ever be made. For I repeat it, and dwell upon it again, some splendid advantage (whether upon a larger or smaller scale was almost immaterial) was so essentially necessary, to revive the expiring hopes and languid exertions of the country, at the crisis in question, that I never would have consented to embark in any enterprise, wherein, from the most rational plan and accurate calculations, the favorable issue should not have appeared to my view as a ray of light. The failure of an attempt against the posts of the enemy, could, in no other possible situation during the war, have been so fatal to our cause.

That much trouble was taken and finesse used to misguide and bewilder Sir Henry Clinton, in regard to the real object, by fictitious communications, as well as by making a deceptive provision of ovens, forage, and boats, in his neighborhood, is certain: Nor were less pains taken to deceive our own army; for I had always conceived, where the imposition does not completely take place at home, it would never sufficiently succeed abroad.

Your desire of obtaining truth, is very laudable; I wish I had more leisure to gratify it, as I am equally solicitous the undisguised verity should be known. Many circumstances will unavoidably be misconceived, and misrepresented. Notwithstanding most of the papers, which may properly be deemed official, are preserved; yet the knowledge of innumerable things, of a more delicate and secret nature, is confined to the perishable remembrance of some few of the present generation. With esteem, I am, Sir, your most obedient humble servant.

G. WASHINGTON.

\* Because it would be easy for the Count de Grasse, in good time before his departure from the West-Indies, to give notice, by express, at what place he could most conveniently first touch to receive advice.

#### ANSWER TO A CHALLENGE.

THIS not the fear of death, nor smart,  
Makes me averse to fight;  
But to preserve a tender heart,  
Not mine, but Celia's right.  
Then let your fury be suppress'd,  
Not me, but Celia spare;  
Your sword is welcome to my breast,  
Whenever she's not there.

"That there should be idle, vicious people in the community is owing to bad institutions."

THERE is a certain indolence of investigation in the mind, that makes us apt to attribute the evils that prevail in society, to some radical defects in human nature. It is incredible how prone we are to contract an habit of assigning such causes, for every appearance, as will give us the least trouble of thinking. The zealous patriot charges all public evils to the mismanagement of public men. He is satisfied that is the true solution of the difficulty, and searches for no cause that is more deep or rational. The recluse theologian accounts for vice and misery in a different manner still. To the original depravity of the human heart, all the evil, that appears in the moral world, must, in his view, be ascribed. From such a fountain he traces all the disorders that torment and disgrace society. I am not however, discussing this question on theological grounds and shall therefore venture to assert that the effects of most of the evils that cover the face of the moral world may be mitigated or destroyed by judicious institutions.

Perhaps my principles can no way be better illustrated, than by an appeal to the circumstances of this city. Every person who has resided here for six years past, must have been a witness with how much rapidity the number of abandoned characters has diminished. This reformation must be attributed in some degree to the good regulations that have been adopted for employing all classes of citizens. The means of subsistence are rendered so easy, that the temptation to commit enormous crimes may easily be resisted. And when an habit of industry is formed, men learn to prefer an honest living to the tricks of cunning, or the depredations of fraud.

Those men who govern the affairs of the community, and are honored with the appellation of fathers of the people, lay themselves under the strongest obligations to watch over the happiness and morals of the society to which they belong. States may be deemed civil families, over which those who act as head, should exercise parental care and vigilance. Are the inhabitants indolent or vicious, a patriotic legislator will counteract such a propensity, by regulations which produce industry and virtue. He will discern that indolence is so radically interwoven in human nature, as to require very vigorous motives to overcome it. For this reason, his laws will be calculated to suggest the highest incentive to active occupations. This can best be accomplished, by a spirit of emulation that may be excited by a general diffusion of knowledge. Science spread through the community, creates a relish for the works of art, and this stimulates industry, which gives wealth and strength to the government. An industrious people will be orderly and respectful. They will have few temptations to vice, either of a public or a private nature. A careless or an ignorant legislator only looks to the removal of evils after they have happened; but a wise and virtuous one, takes a more comprehensive view, and sees the propriety of making good men, as well as good subjects or citizens. He removes as much as possible the causes of vice, by encreasing the motives to a steady and virtuous line of conduct.

#### REMARKS ON THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE.

IT is curious to observe what important changes in language are sometimes introduced by circumstances altogether foreign or accidental. Thus in modern mercantile stile, a draft or bill of exchange is honored by the payor, when it is accepted and paid. In this phrase honor is become synonymous with accept. The word honor was introduced by an excess of politeness; the respect or complaisance due to the drawer being expressed as if transferred to the bill drawn. Where a draft is made upon a man who does not owe the drawer, but who, it is supposed, will pay it on principles of friendship or commercial confidence, the drawer may be said to be honored by the payment. But to say a debtor honors his creditor by paying him his just dues, is an excess of complaisance and an affront to language. It is to be wished that such affectation of civility were discontinued, that words might retain their own proper meaning. Did a merchant ever signify his acceptance of a bill, by writing upon it, received and honored this day of ? It is not probable; and some time or other good sense will bring back our merchants to the use of the plain correct language, accept.

In the phrase, a letter honored by such a person, the word honor is misapplied. There are a very few instances when it is an honor to a person, to convey a letter for him; but it is always a favor, an act of kindness. An extreme of politeness has introduced this abuse of words.

There is sometimes a confusion in the use of the words subject and object. For instance, goods, wares and merchandize are called the objects of revenue, which to me appears inaccurate. The articles on which a revenue is raised, are the sub-

jects of revenue; the purposes to which it is applied, are the objects of revenue. Goods are the subjects; payment of debts, and support of government are the objects of revenue. In short, the articles on which, are subjects; the articles or purposes to which, are the objects.

Intelligible and intelligent are also frequently confounded. We often hear persons say of another, he is a very intelligible man, when it is meant he is a man of understanding, that is, an intelligent man. An intelligent man, is one who may be easily understood by others; an intelligible man is one who has knowledge or understanding. An intelligent man understands: An intelligible man may be understood.

N. W.

#### LONDON.

##### EASTERN GRANDEUR.

THE procession of the Nabob from Chitpore, to Calcutta, in order to pay his compliments to Lord Cornwallis, on his arrival in India, is worthy of description, as it gives an idea of the style of magnificence of Eastern Princes.

Seven elephants, of the first magnitude, were led by their keepers, in like manner as our sumpter horses; seated on the backs of which, on a throne of indescribable splendor, was the Nabob, with a man behind him holding a superb fan, in the act of collecting the breezes in his service.

The throne was composed of gold, pearls and brilliants; and the Nabob's dress was worth a sovereignty: Nor was ever animal more grandly caparisoned than the no less honored than exulting elephant on which he rode.

His state palanquin followed. Four pillars of massy silver supported the top, which was actually encrusted with pearls and diamonds; and instead of verandas, fine glass plates on every side, as well as the back and front, to show his Majesty's person to the greatest possible advantage.

Arrived at the entrance of the Governor's house, down knelt the half-reasoning animal for his illustrious master to alight, who proceeded with an immense retinue, dressed all in new turbans and uniforms, to a breakfast that had been prepared for this princely guest.

##### STRANGE EFFECT OF MUSIC.

A gentleman in Portsmouth possesses a dog who has imbibed the greatest aversion to music—so great, that one stroke on the violin will throw him into the greatest possible agony. If the music is continued, he will set up and continue a most hideous and frightful howl until the performance ceases.

A few days ago a young couple went to a church to be married, when just before the ceremony commenced a well-dressed young woman with a child in her arms gave the clergyman a note, which having perused, he immediately delivered it to the intended bridegroom, who was so confounded at the contents, that he ran out of the church without speaking a word, to the astonishment and mortification of his intended bride.

#### S A L E M, September 7.

On Sunday the brig Leopard, Capt. Woodbury, arrived here in 42 days from Bilbao; and on the authority of a letter from Mr. GARDOQUI to a merchant in this town, received by her, we are enabled to say, that the dispute between Great Britain and Spain, which has caused such formidable armaments, and kept expectation so long upon the stretch, is at length amicably settled by negotiation. This letter is dated the 22d of July.

#### B O S T O N, Sept. 8.

The degree of Doctor of Laws, was conferred, at the late commencement at Providence, on GEORGE WASHINGTON, President of the United States:—And the degree of Doctor of Divinity on the Rev. Samuel Hopkins, of Newport, and the Rev. Samuel Dean, of Portland.

The Hon. HUGH WILLIAMSON, Esq. one of the representatives in Congress from North-Carolina, arrived in town yesterday.

BENJAMIN BOURN, Esq. (and not Mr. Job Comstock, as mentioned in our last, through the error of a person from Providence) is chosen Federal Representative for the State of Rhode-Island, by a majority of near 300 votes. The choice of this gentleman indicates the happy abolition of antifederalism in Rhode-Island.

It is supposed, from the enumeration already made, that Massachusetts will be intitled to send twelve Representatives to Congress: And for these seats, if we may judge from present appearances, there will be nearly 1200 candidates.

#### PROVIDENCE, Sept. 4.

The following gentlemen were elected to represent this town in general Assembly, at October session, viz. Welcome Arnold, Esq. Col. Amos Atwell, Robert Newell, Esq. and Sylvanus Martin.

Monday evening last, as a gentleman was traveling from Dighton to Barrington (through Rehoboth) he was met by three Ruffians on horseback, accompanied by a footpad. After passing them, the Horsemen instantly turned, and eagerly pursued the Gentleman, smacking their whips; but after a chace of about two miles, finding themselves much in the rear, those nocturnal adventurers gave up the pursuit."