

J. Thomas

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WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 22, 1790.

[Whole No. 172.]

## R O M E.

THE reports spread abroad in foreign countries, of pretended disturbances, which have obliged his Holiness and several of the Cardinals to leave this city are destitute of foundation. Every thing is in the most perfect tranquillity, which so well suits the speculative life we lead. Poor Cagliostro is more closely guarded than ever. It must be believed that he is detained for some capital crime, for he is confined within five iron doors, guarded by eight armed men. What a reverse of fortune! The Capuchin, his fellow-sufferer, is closely examined, and it is assured that their sentence will speedily be pronounced.

## C O N S T A N T I N O P L E.

The particulars relative to the action in the Black Sea are not yet received. The heights of Caffra were before them. The Captain Pacha had with him a fleet of 55 vessels—10 caravellers, 5 frigates, 10 kirlangihars, and 30 cannoniers. The action was so far in favor of the Turks, that the Russians lost four frigates, and the Turks have lost not even one.—The battle lasted seven hours.

That there must have been some severe work, is however certain, for the Admiral's ship of the Turkish Squadron received 80 shots, through her sides; nevertheless, preserving all her rigging unimpaired, she got sheltered in the fleet.

## V I E N N A, Sept. 5.

Accounts from Wallachia mention, that the Grand Vizier had actually crossed the Danube with 30,000 men, but that when the second column were ordered to follow, they absolutely refused it, and in consequence a regular battle ensued, in which 1000 men were killed. The Grand Vizier has thereby been compelled to recross the river, and the corps under the Prince of Cobourg and General Suwarow, which marched on the 16th of August to receive him, will consequently lose their errand. The Russians are all now in motion, in four divisions.

The first, of 10,000 men, under General Suwarow, with the Prince of Saxe Cobourg; the second, under Prince Reppin; the third, under Prince Gallitzin, is to undertake the siege of Ismael; and the fourth under Prince Potemkin is 36,000, in the neighborhood of Bender.

## L I V E R P O O L, October 2.

*A Hint to Tradesmen.*—A man in business who dwelt in Dublin lately, finding it impossible to get in his book debts, advertised them to be sold by Auction, pledging himself at the same time to prove each debt for the purchaser: the alarm which this excited was such, that in less than a week not a single debt was to be found uncrossed in the books of the Advertiser! *Probatum est.*

Last week one Watson, who had been reaping in a field at Hanham, near Bristol, being much fatigued, he lay down and fell asleep under a hedge, when a viper, or some other venomous creature, bit him under one of his eyes, which caused his head to swell in a very extraordinary manner, and of which he died in a few days after, though the best medical advices had been obtained.

On Tuesday last, some workmen employed in removing a large hedge bank, upon the estate of John J. Atherton, Esq. at Walton-Hall, near this town, they discovered an earthen mug, containing upwards of a thousand pieces of silver, and one piece of gold, wrapped up in a leather bag. It is supposed they were concealed there during the Parliament Wars, as none of them are of a later date than King Charles the First, there are many of Queen Elizabeth, and a few of Philip and Mary.

## L O N D O N, September 30.

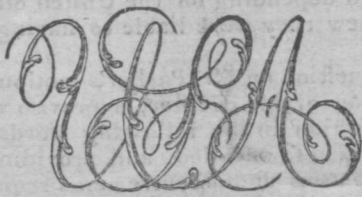
Tuesday night, at ten o'clock, the Remains of his late Royal Highness Henry Frederick, Duke of Cumberland, &c. were privately interred in the chapel of King Henry VII. at Westminster. The service was read by the Dean of Westminster: after which Garter King at Arms proclaimed his Royal Highness's Stile, which concluded the ceremony. During the procession, which began at nine, from the Prince's Chamber, minute guns were fired; and St. Paul's, and other churches, tolled minute bells. The procession, with the different preparations previously made, are estimated at the expence of 5000l.

A gentleman, desirous of improving the breed of sheep, lately purchased a Ram from a gentleman, in Leicestershire, for which he gave 300 guineas.

On Saturday night there was a general sweep below Bridge, and scarce a ship in the river but was honored by a visit from a Lieutenant in the impress service.

The King of Hungary has resigned the Duchy of Tuscany to his son, in virtue of a treaty signed by him for that purpose, in case he should succeed to the Throne of Hungary.

The Assembly of the National Parisian Guards on the 13th decreed, That they would go into mourning eight days for all the citizen soldiers who died for their country in the affair of Nancy.



## C O N G R E S S.

### HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

*Sketch of the Debates on the MILITIA BILL.*

THURSDAY, Dec. 16.

MR. PARKER observed, the clause which enacts that every man in the United States shall "provide himself" with military accoutrements, would be found impracticable, as it must be well known that there are many persons who are so poor that it is impossible they should comply with the law: He conceived therefore, that provision should be made for arming such persons at the expence of the United States. He then gave notice that in the course of the discussion of the bill, he should move an amendment to this purpose.

Mr. Gilman observed, that obliging persons to turn out in the militia till they were fifty years of age, agreeable to the bill, would be found unnecessary and inconvenient—and is, said he, contrary to the practice of the several States—few, if any, requiring militia duties to be performed after the age of forty-five. He moved therefore that fifty be struck out, and forty-five inserted.

Mr. Vining objected to the motion: He observed that a great proportion of our citizens, especially those at the eastward and northward, were as capable of military services at fifty as at any period: Many in the ranks of the late Continental army, were he believed fifty and upwards, who were as good soldiers as any in the service—He thought the alteration unnecessary.

Mr. Gilman replied, that he conceived the general practice of the States, which was found on experience to be the best, was a sufficient answer to the gentleman last speaking, and would sanction the adoption of the amendment he proposed.

Mr. Lawrance said that by the laws of the State of New-York, persons above 45 years of age are not enrolled to do duty in the militia—and he thought that 50 was a period too late in life to be subject to military hardships, if it could be avoided.

Mr. Williamson was in favor of the motion—Tho he had seen men in the field who were advanced in life, it had not been without pain—He thought from 16 to 18 too early a period—Many at that tender age fell sacrifices to sickness and fatigue.

Mr. Gilman's motion being put was carried in the affirmative.

Mr. Fitzsimons suggested to the consideration of the committee, whether it would be the most eligible mode to subject all the citizens from 18 to 45 years of age, without exception, to turn out as soldiers. A much smaller number would in his opinion answer all the purposes of a militia. He thought the active militia might be comprised within a much smaller number, to be proportioned to the citizens of each State. The militia law of Pennsylvania had been of this general complexion, and had never compensated in its operation for the uneasiness it had excited, and the tax and grievance it had been to the people.

Mr. Boudinot said, that the idea now suggested was debated in the committee—and they could not agree upon any other mode than that proposed in the bill. He very much disapproved the idea of making a soldier of every man between 18 and 45 years of age—there is a manifest impropriety in the measure—and he wished some gentleman would propose an alteration.

Mr. Lawrance said that the idea of the gentleman from Pennsylvania struck at the principle of the bill—but as the hint may be not unworthy of consideration, he proposed that he should form a motion, and reduce it to writing.

Mr. Fitzsimons apologized for engrossing the time of the committee, especially as he had not prepared an amendment to that part of the bill to which he objected, not having contemplated the subject sufficiently—but on perusing the bill it had been forcibly impressed on his mind, that subjecting the whole body of the people to be drawn out four or five times a year, was a great and unnecessary tax on the community—that it could not conduce, either to the acquisition of military knowledge, or the advancement of morals. As far as the whole body of the people are necessary to the general defence, they ought to be armed; but the law ought not to require more than is necessary—for that would be a just cause of complaint.

Mr. Wadsworth said, that it appeared to him the gentleman's objection went only to that part of the bill which points out the number of days to be devoted to training the militia—as he had conceded that all from 18 to 45 ought to be armed.

Mr. Jackson said that he was of opinion that the people of America would never consent to be deprived of the privilege of carrying arms—Tho it may prove burthensome to some individuals to be obliged to arm themselves, yet it would not be so considered when the advantages were justly estimated. Original institutions of this nature are highly important: The Swiss cantons owed their emancipation to their militia establishment—The English cities rendered themselves formidable to the Barons, by putting arms into the hands of their militia—and when the militia united with the Barons, they extorted *Magna Charta* from King John—In France we recently see the same salutary effects from arming the militia—In England, the militia has of late been neglected—the consequence is a standing army—In Ireland we have seen the good effects of arming the militia, in the noble efforts they have made to emancipate their country. If we neglect the militia, a standing army must be introduced; but if the idea suggested by the gentleman from Pennsylvania is adopted, certain classes must be drawn out, and kept for months together—which would prove as great a burthen as a standing army: None of the States he observed, have adopted such a plan—In Georgia the militia service has been as strict, as is contemplated by the bill—but they have never complained: In a republic every man ought to be a soldier, and prepared to resist tyranny and usurpation, as well as invasion—and to prevent the greatest of all evils a standing army.—Mankind have been divided into three classes, Shepherds, Husbandmen, and Artificers—of which the last make the worst militia; but as the arts and sciences are the sources of great wealth to the community, which may excite the jealousy and avarice of neighbors, this class ought to be peculiarly qualified to defend themselves and repel invasions—and as this country is rising fast in manufactures, the arts and sciences—and from her fertile soil may expect great affluence, she ought to be able to protect that and her liberties from within herself.

Mr. Parker here introduced his motion, to amend the bill by a proviso, that persons who shall make it appear that they are not able to equip themselves, shall be furnished at the expence of the United States.

Mr. Wadsworth objected to this amendment: He said it would empower the officers to create an enormous charge against the United States: He said he had read almost all the militia laws of the several States, and had found no such provision in one of them—there is not a considerable number of such persons in any of the States—and rather than have this proviso inserted, he would prefer a clause to excuse them altogether.

Mr. Parker said, that in Virginia there is a law, which provides that poor persons, not able to arm themselves, should be equipped at the expence of the State. In every State there are doubtless many such persons, who ought to be provided for by the general government—and if they are not, the law is rendered impracticable—as you require more than is possible for them to perform—As to excusing such poor persons from military duty, they would be found in cases of emergency, very useful to defend those, who do not chuse to risk their own persons.