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WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 9, 1791.

[Whole No. 186.]

LONDON, December 3.

BY a letter from Bonavista, dated the 22d of July, 1790, we are informed that the Messrs. Braithwaites, with their small ships company, have had a very severe engagement with five pirate vessels, who came to oppose them in recovering the property lost in the Hartwell East-Indiaman.

The force of the pirates consisted of two schooners, mounting ten guns each; three sloops, mounting five guns each, and one cohorn: that of the English, was the sloop Endeavor, of 37 tons burthen, mounting 2 six pounders, 2 two pounders, and 1 cohorn, besides small arms, and the crew consisted of nine seamen and Messrs. Braithwaites.

After a close action of two glasses, the pirates sheered off different courses, and were pursued for two hours: but the Endeavor having been long at sea, was very foul, and could not come up with them.

The English vessel received sundry shot thro' her sides and sails, and the tiller rope was shot away; but we are happy to add, that none of the crew were either killed or wounded.

It has been frequently asserted by political writers, that the favorite Minister of William III. was the first who planned out a scheme of a National Funded Debt, in order to carry on the Continental wars in Flanders against Louis XIV. in conjunction with the Austrians and Dutch, to secure the allegiance of the people. The example was followed immediately after by several other States. From the late investigation, however, of the French Assembly, we find, that their public debt commenced so early as the reign of Francis I. which has been accumulating ever since. That Prince involved his country in very expensive wars, and was himself taken prisoner at the famous battle of Pavia in Italy, and kept in that situation for a considerable time, at the Court of Charles V. Emperor of Germany and King of Spain.

Sir John Sinclair calculates, that the money annually paid by the people of Great-Britain for public purposes (including the poor rates) amounts to the amazing sum of 23,725,359l. and the supplies expended since the Revolution have been upwards of a thousand millions sterling, in the comparatively short period of one hundred years.

The British trade has arrived at that acme of extent, beyond which it appears impossible almost to strain it. How long such an enviable state of superiority can, in the nature of human occurrences, exist, it may be rash to calculate; British manufactures, however, begin now to be established in other countries, and it is found that the taxes in Great-Britain amount to four pence in the shilling on labour. There are to be added to this the jealousy of other powers in Europe of their trade, the disinclination to renew treaties of commerce, and that concealed resentment which operates when compelled to do so—all those circumstances (arguing from long experience) seem like latent seeds of destruction or diminution of a commerce which is at present the most flourishing in the universe.

In the year 1739, Capt. Jenkins was commander of one of those vessels which had been boarded by the Spanish Guarda Coastas. This ship was rummaged on pretence of searching for contraband commodities; but finding nothing that might justify their search, they insulted Jenkins in the most abusive language, they tore off one of his ears, wounded him in several places, and tortured him with the most shocking cruelties; they ordered him to carry his ear to the King, and to tell him that they would serve him in the same manner if they had the opportunity. The bold seaman was examined at the bar of the House of Commons. When his ear was produced, he was interrogated by a Member, what he thought when he was in the hands of those barbarians? to which he replied, that he recommended his soul to God, and his cause to his country. This noble reply, the sight of his ear, his detail of his sufferings, and the indignities offered to the Sovereign, threw the House into a flame; this brave man's wrongs filled the Members of the opposition with indignation, and on the 10th of July, 1739, orders were given for making reprisals on the Spaniards.

It is said, that the National Assembly of France is now preparing to examine the foundations of the edifice, which it has been so long and so industriously employed in erecting. From the number of architects who have had the management

of the building, it is expected that the following requisites will be wanting: Unity of design, exact symmetry, elegance ornamenting strength, and durability of materials.

From the discordance of the builders, and the confusion of tongues which have so frequently been observed in the raising of this fabric, the enemies of the architects have presumed to call it *Babel*.

The Grecian and Roman models they have despised; the modern improvements they have disregarded; their stile is entirely novel, and their materials soft and crumbling morsels for the tooth of time.

His Holiness the Pope is the very reverse of some of his predecessors. Some of them made nothing of trampling on crowns and on the heads which wore them; he, on the contrary, suffers crowned heads to smite him on one cheek, expecting to be struck on the other.

Instead of fulminating curses against rebellious subjects, he kindly admonishes them; invites them, most tenderly and affectionately, to return to their duty, and, in the true simplicity of childish innocence, weeps bitterly over their transgressions.

The golden age is again returning, Primitive simplicity will triumph over pride, ambition and bigotry; and the Pope of Rome will, in a short time, be elected and consecrated by his flock; between whom and himself the same amiable relation will be established, as exists between a shepherd and his sheep.

The church lands in France find a better sale than could have been expected, as from the comparative low price at which they are disposed of, there are plenty of bidders for them. The Dutch have been considerable purchasers.

Anecdote of Lord CHATHAM.

SOME years after this Nobleman's resignation of all his employments, a petition was sent from the city to his Majesty, humbly requesting an immediate dismissal of several of his Ministers.—The reply as might reasonably be supposed, to so audacious a solicitation, consisted in a plain negative.—The petitioners were told, that their demand was an imputation against the Royal abilities and penetration, as if he wanted sagacity to perceive when he was faithfully and ably served.—In the ensuing session of Parliament the Earl of Chatham made a motion, that an humble address be presented to his Majesty, requesting that he would be graciously pleased to discover to the House the person under whose influence he had returned such a reply to so loyal a part of his subjects.—But, says his Lordship, "This motion of mine will certainly be negatived.—I can anticipate rejection in the aspects of ministers.—How then shall I come at the information I contend for? Was it you?—or you?" (*addressing himself to those most liable to suspicion*) "Will nobody reply?—Let me then see if countenances will betray.—The face has been known to be the index of criminality."—He then directed his eye of fire to every Minister in the assembly, and fixing it with all its collected force at last upon a great Law Lord*, exclaimed, "*Ah! methinks I see Felix tremble!*"—It is said, that such was the irresistible effect of the united power of this statesman's person, manner, and eloquence, that even one of the greatest men that ever adorned Great-Britain, was on this occasion daunted into a temporary fear, by this bold, though vague imputation. *Lord Mansfield.

FROM THE (HARTFORD) AMERICAN MERCURY.

THE PROMPTER.

Every one to his notion.

MOST certainly; and the Prompter to his notion of course. If a man is a little odd in his way, as we vulgarly phrase it, or what the French call *outré*, his friends say he is a *notional creature*, or *full of notions*. And where is the man or woman living, that is not full of notions? Even Congress have their notions. One of the most distinguished spouters in that honorable body will insist upon it that the Speaker of the House of Representatives is next in rank to the President. This man is certainly a *notional creature*; but every one to his notion. Others have contended warmly that their residence ought to be fixed in the woods about Connecocheque; but it is best to remove thither by little and little. Is not this a notion?

The legislature of Massachusetts, some years ago, took it into their heads to kill the profession of Law by a queer act; but the attempt failed, people would still go to lawyers, and lawyers would live, while people would employ them. But the General Court was full of *notions*. Let lawyers multiply till a famine of business comes upon them, and then they will die like Egyptian frogs.

A neighbour of mine, who is a *full grown man*, asserts that the surface of the ocean is higher than the land, and that by a constant miraculous restraint of the Almighty, the water is kept from overflowing the earth. His opinion is founded on those words of scripture, *'the bounds are set.* This man is full of notions. Don't laugh at my neighbour, gentle reader; for I'll bet ten to one, that in some other particular, thou art just as *notional* thyself.

Love is the most *notional* passion; not excepting ambition and superstition. I once knew a woman, who had a very amiable daughter, declare it was *monstrous indelicate* for a young lady to love a man. She might love an elegant house, a carriage and even money; but to love a man's person was shocking. But every one to her notion.

When I was a young man, I knew an attorney who was attached to what is called *family*; that is, whose family, by good luck, had stripped off their woollen shirts and checked aprons, just one generation before, and kept them off, till their companions who had associated with them in their woollen dress, were mostly dead. The attorney had not wore linen shirts so long by ten years as this *family*; and yet had the assurance to fall in love with one of the daughters. The man however did not meet with cold looks from the daughter—but the parents walked a tip-toe at the affront offered *their family*. The daughter was *notional* as well as the parents—they intended to have their *notion*, but she had *her's*—and a very good *notion* it was, for a more happy couple does not exist.

But the queereft of all notions is, that parents will not permit a daughter, no not even a son, to love for themselves. I know a widow with a family of likely daughters, who insists upon it that her daughters do not know how to love for themselves—the therefore means to love for them. She is a queer woman, and a notional creature; but every one to his notion.



CONGRESS.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

FRIDAY, Jan. 21.

THE bill laying duties on distilled spirits, under consideration.

Mr. Jackson proposed an amendment, by adding a clause to prevent Inspectors, or any officers under them, from interfering, either directly, or indirectly, in elections, further than giving their own votes, on penalty of forfeiting their offices.—This being seconded—

Mr. Sherman said he should propose an addition to the amendment, and that was to extend the prohibition to every other person whatever: He supposed that to practise the arts of electioneering would be as criminal in persons in general, as in the officers of the revenue; but if any provision is necessary in the case, he thought it might be made in some other bill.

Mr. Livermore approved the motion: These officers said he, will hold their places under the government—and from the duties assigned them, will acquire such a knowledge of persons and characters, as will give them great advantages, and enable them to influence in elections to a great degree: He thought the proposition important, and merited the attention of the house.

Mr. Vining observed, that the motion went to disfranchise a great number of citizens of the rights of suffrage: It appeared to him also, to be unconstitutional, as it will deprive them of speaking and writing their minds—a right, of which no law can divest them: He offered some observations on the eligibility of the duty now com-