

Gazette of the United States.

PUBLISHED WEDNESDAYS AND SATURDAYS BY JOHN FENNO, No. 69, HIGH-STREET, BETWEEN SECOND AND THIRD STREETS, PHILADELPHIA.

[No. 101, of Vol. II.]

SATURDAY, APRIL 16, 1791.

[Whole No. 205.]

Discourses on Davila.—No. 30.

THE Hugonots lay siege to Poitiers. The Duke of Guise resolves to throw himself into it to succour the garrison. This young Prince, the object of the hopes of the Catholics, proposed to himself to become one day their Chief, by imitating thus, at the beginning of his career, by an illustrious and memorable example, the glory of his father; who, by the defence of Metz against the forces of the Emperor Charles the Vth. had prepared his way to the highest power and most brilliant reputation.

The Duke of Anjou proposes to raise the siege by a diversion—he assembles his army, and leads it to Chatelleraud. The Admiral raises the siege of Poitiers, and obliges the Duke of Anjou to raise that of Chatelleraud. The Duke of Guise, however, by his activity in defence of Poitiers, and his frequent sallies, came out of it covered with glory and applause; the whole Catholic party began to consider him as the support of religion, and the worthy successor of the power of his father. Sanfac in vain lays siege to la Charité. The Earl of Montgomery defeats the Royalists in Bearn, surrounds Terfide, and takes him prisoner. The Duke of Anjou comes to Tours, to consult with the King his brother, and the Queen Mother: The Duke of Guise came there also, shining with honor and glory for the great actions by which he had signified himself at the defence of Poitiers. They all deliberated on the means of pushing the war, and the Duke of Guise, coming in the place of his father, was then admitted for the first time into the secret council: he owed this favor to the splendor of his birth, to the services of his father, to his own valor, to the protection of the Cardinal of Lorraine his uncle, but above all to the implacable hatred which the King had conceived against the Admiral. After the death of the Prince of Condé, at the battle of Bassac, Charles had entertained hopes that the Calvinistical party, no longer supported by the authority of a Prince of the blood, nor of a General capable by his reputation and his valor of supporting the weight of so great an enterprise, would separate and disperse, or at least incline to submit. But he saw, on the contrary, that the policy of the Admiral had re-animated the forces of his party; that his valor and his ability, by availing himself of the name of the two young Princes of the blood royal, had preserved union among the Calvinists, caused greater commotions, and exposed the State to dangers more terrible than any which had been before experienced. He therefore caused the Admiral Coligni to be declared a rebel, by an arret of the Parliament of Paris, which was published and translated into several languages. They dragged him in effigy upon an hurdle, and attached him to a gibbet in the place destined to the execution of malefactors: they ordained that his houses should be razed to the foundations, and his goods sold at auction. From this time the King resolved to pursue the Admiral to death, began to elevate and favor the house of Lorraine, and above all the Duke of Guise, who, burning with ardor to revenge the death of his father, did not dissimulate the implacable hatred he bore to Coligni. The Admiral continues the war with vigor. The Duke of Anjou, whose army had been reinforced, seeks a battle: the Admiral endeavors to avoid it. At length he prepares for it, forced by a mutiny of his own army who demand it: he endeavors nevertheless to retire: the Duke of Anjou pursues him, and joins him near Moncontour: the two armies come to action on the plains of Moncontour, and a bloody battle ensues; victory remains to the Duke of Anjou, with a great carnage of the Hugonots. The party is discouraged; but the Admiral, although dangerously wounded, raises their spirits, and persuades them to continue the war. The Princes and the Admiral abandon the whole country, except Rochelle, Angoulême, and Saint Jean d'Angeli.

Their design was to join the Earl of Montgomeri—a resource which fortune seemed to have reserved to re-establish their forces and repair their losses. After that junction, they intended to remain in the mountains until the Princes of Germany and the Queen of England should send them succours. They founded, moreover, some hopes on the Marshall of Damville, Governor of Languedoc, who for some time appeared inclined in their favor, and with whom they maintain a secret intelligence. While the Constable lived, Damville had held a distinguished rank in the Catholic party, and had shewn himself a declared enemy of the Hugonots. His jealousy against Francis of Montmorenci, his elder brother, who was connected in friendship with the Prince of Condé and the Colignis, his relations, had inspired him with this hatred of the Calvinists; which had been fomented by the esteem which the Guises professed for him, and the favors they procured him. Able and profound in dissimulation, according to conjunctures, they had employed all possible artifices to retain him in their party, and by his intervention to attach to them indissolubly, the Constable, who discovered much predilection and partiality for Damville, whom he believed superior in courage and abilities to his other children. The Queen Mother made him the same demonstrations. Obligated, during the minority of the King, to manage the grandes, she employed the Marshall Damville to preserve her the attachment of the Constable; but, after his death, all these motives and considerations ceased. The Queen, who had no longer occasion for Damville, gave herself little trouble to reward his services. The Guises, far from showing him the same regard, employed the management and persuasions of the Cardinal of Lorraine, who was now very highly in favor with Charles IXth. to depress and disserve the Marshall, as a sprout of an house which had been long the object of hatred and jealousy to that of Lorraine. Damville soon perceived this change: the death of his father put an end to his differences with his elder brother, who was not less exasperated than himself at the refusal of the office of Constable, possessed so long by their father, and which they had solicited more than once. He began to make advances to the friends and relations of his family, and sought to renew an intercourse with the Admiral, to whom he intimated secret, though uncertain hopes. This motive had hindered him from succouring Terfide in Bearn, and from taking from the Hugonots the places which they held in Gascony and Languedoc. He was the more inclined in favour of the Calvinists, as he saw the Admiral already advanced in years, and every day exposed to evident dangers. If this nobleman should die before the Princes were of an age to command, Damville hoped to succeed him in the command of the Calvinistic party:—finally, he dreaded, that if the King and the Guises should overbear the Princes, the Admiral and all the Hugonots, they would then turn their efforts against the family of Montmerenci, which would remain alone of all the ancient rivals, who had inspired him with jealousy. These dispositions did not escape the penetration of the Admiral. Excited by such hopes, he persuaded the Princes to abandon the flat country, and retire with a small number of troops into the mountains of Gascony and Languedoc. The Duke of Anjou besieges and takes Saint Jean d'Angeli, and loses much time and many soldiers: he falls sick and retires first to Angers, and then to Saint Germain. The

Princes join the Earl of Montgomeri, and reinforce their troops in Gascony. They pass the winter in the mountains, and descend into the plains in the spring: they pass the Rhone, and extend themselves into Provence and Dauphiny. They march towards Noyers and la Charité, with the design to approach Paris. The King sends against them an army under the command of the Marshall de Cossé, a general of little activity, and who desired not the ruin of the Hugonots. From a fear of confiding his armies to noblemen, whom their elevation, their power and their animosities, or the great number of their partisans, had rendered suspected by him, the King committed the conduct of it to a General, who, persisting in his ordinary inclination, gave the Hugonots a favorable opportunity to revive. This resolution was also attributed to the policy of the Duke of Anjou, who dreaded that some other General might take away the fruit of his labors and victories. It is pretended that such motives engaged him to inspire the King with suspicions against all the other Princes and Generals, and to prefer, to them, a man whom he considered as incapable of gaining any great advantages.

FOR THE GAZETTE OF THE UNITED STATES.

MR. FENNO,

THAT the legislature has a right to instruct the Senators of the State in Congress, is an assertion made to vindicate the conduct of some particular State Assemblies.

I will let the question of right alone, because I hate long arguments—and so I believe your readers do. A man has a right to do a great many unwise things: He has a right to spend his estate—or if he should not, to cut off his children with 5s. a piece—and some maintain that he has a right to beat his wife. By doing either he would disturb the peace and happiness of his family, and so far as their consent would go, the world would cheerfully give him a right to hang himself. Without touching the question of right in a legal sense, no wise Assembly will do a very mischievous act—we speak accurately enough in common when we say that they have no right to do it.

What is the tendency of an Assembly voting and giving instructions to their Senators against the proceedings of Congress? When I scribble in your Gazette, I barely obtain notice—the readers glance a careless eye over the page—and even if it amuses, it is soon forgotten: A few ideas may be laid up by some—but they are received without any authority, and retained without knowing whence they came—a memorial from a town, and especially from a great city, has weight—each individual receives it as the opinion of a great many individuals, and therefore respectable—still they are only individuals, whose opinion he may dispute, because he never authorized them to decide the matter for him.—The case is far otherwise with a representative assembly: They are chosen to enquire, to decide, and to enforce their decisions; their doings are published, not as problems for dispute, but as solemn judgments to put an end to it—and this work of judging, the citizens commonly let them pursue without taking any part in it on ordinary occasions; they mind their business, and leave their servants to do their duty, in making laws for them. In a free country, the legislature will possess the entire confidence of the people—they will not only make their laws, but in most cases, regulate their opinions. Men cannot act as a society but by their representatives, and there are reasons deduced from the nature of man, which will shew that these representatives cannot long govern a free society, without the trust and confidence which has been noticed.

Is not the tendency of the resolutions of state assemblies censuring the acts of Congress, destructive of this confidence, and of consequence of the peace and safety of government? What is it but resorting to the confidence of their constituents, to weaken and destroy that which is placed in Congress? It is an attempt by means of the influence and authority of the legislature of a state, over the minds of the people, to throw them into the scale against the general authority of the Union. It breaks asunder the very ties of society, and incites one part against another, by setting the fundamental principal of social union, in opposition to itself: Some will answer that it is true, state-remonstrances against Congress have this tendency—but they will say, the interests and opinions of the people of a state are matters of fact, which it is very proper Congress should know—and that a remonstrance from the state legislature, conveys this information. To prove facts, and to establish arguments, Congress should resort to the authority of truth, not of a state. A measure that is likely to effect men's interests will be remonstrated against by private persons, and their facts and arguments will be brought to

the test of truth. If the people should overlook or neglect their interests, their members in Congress may be supposed watchful and active enough to assert them. But when a state interposes to stop a measure, will it be pretended that it is to represent facts or arguments merely, or to overawe Congress—some late events remove all doubt.

To be continued.

From the NEW-YORK DAILY ADVERTISER.

IT is a very rare occasion indeed to see a fashionable practice receive such an improvement as to become a real utility, and to challenge the approbation of every discreet and reflecting person.—Wealth judiciously applied is treasure indeed—But I must remark that, the jollity of clubs;—the selfish pursuits of new-fangled societies—and the interchange of polite attentions among those wealthy citizens who reciprocate splendid civilities in order to pamper and gratify each other, come in no shape within the pale of such a reflection. The festivity ordinarily attendant on marriages in this city, has never till yesterday, as far as I know, penetrated into those doleful habitations

Where wants and debts and sicknesses devour,
And heart-enliv'ning freedom's quite shut out.

The uncommon method, which I am well informed Mr. Alexander Robertson took to honor the nuptials of his daughter gave rise to these thoughts, and furnish a lesson well worthy of record, and highly deserving of imitation.

The following statement while it exhibits Mr. Robertson's MANNER OF MAKING MERRY, will illustrate without the aid of further commentary, those sentiments which cannot fail touching every heart alive to the impulses of a disinterested benevolence. To cheer the hearts of the sick in the Alms House, and the hapless Debtors in Jail:

150 Loaves of Bread,
300 lb. of Beef,
130 lb. of Cheese,
3 barrels strong Ale,
3 barrels of Apples.

These items I conceive evince a spirit of ingenious humanity:

Blush grandeur, blush, ye proud withdraw your blaze,
Share, if ye dare, your wealth;—if not, give praise!

Friday, April 8.

OLD TIMES.

Extract from the reports of the London Humane Society.

TWO of his Sicilian Majesty's galleys being on a cruize, pursued and took an Algerine vessel of 20 guns and 100 men. The prize was sent to Naples, and whilst lying under guard at the Mole, a young gentleman then bathing, was seized with the cramp, and immediately sunk, in the presence of numbers who did not attempt any thing for his relief. One of the Algerine sailors who was standing on the gunwale of the prize, instantly jumped into the water, and having laid hold of the body in its rise, tied one end of a handkerchief round the shoulder, the other end of which he fastened to his own, and swam with it to shore. The drowned person was recovered by proper applications; and the Marquis de Palluchi, whose son was thus preserved, being introduced to the King, threw himself on his knees, and requested the liberty of the gallant Algerine. His Sicilian majesty's reply was truly noble. "Your request, Sir, (said he) is both reasonable and humane; the Moor is your's, and you may dispose of him as you please. The remainder of the crew are mine, and by the laws of war perpetual slaves: but they are free from this moment. Ten righteous men would have saved Sodom from the wrath of the Almighty, and shall not one gallant and humane man, who has risked his life for an enemy, and restored to me so valuable a subject, merit the pardon of a few companions? Next day an order was published for their release, and they departed amidst the acclamations of the populace.

A NECDOTE.

ON the arrival of one of the last Indiamen in England, a monkey, in the absence of his master (one of the officers) amused himself with throwing from the cabin into the custom-house officers boat, rolls of silk, to the value of 100l. which were intended to be sent on shore by a different conveyance. The silk was of course seized, and the offender hanged at the yard-arm for his ingenious imitations.