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[Whole No. 210.]

TRANSLATED

For the GAZETTE of the UNITED STATES.

A DISCOURSE OF STEPHEN BOETIUS, Concerning voluntary Servitude: Or the Anti-One.

[CONTINUED.]

Οικ αγαθην πολυκοιρανιαν εις κερως εσα, Εις Βασιλευς. Iliad, lib. 2, v. 204, 205.

TO endure the depredations, the debaucheries, the cruelties, not of an army, not of a camp of barbarians, against whom we ought to shed our blood and sacrifice our lives; but of ONE, ALONE?—not of an Hercules or a Sampson; but of a little man, frequently the most cowardly and effeminate of the nation: not accustomed to the powder of battles, nor yet scarcely to the dust of a horse-race?—not one who, by force, can command over men, but one who is wholly unqualified to contend even with women? Shall we call this cowardice?—Shall we say that those who serve thus are paltrons and drivelers?—If two, if three, if four, should not defend themselves against one, this would be strange; still it is possible. But, even in these cases, we should have a good right to say it was for want of heart or spirit. But if an hundred, if a thousand, suffer from one alone, shall we say that they will not resist, that they dare not oppose?—shall we say that it is fear, cowardice, or rather contempt and disdain? If we should see, not an hundred, not a thousand men, but an hundred countries, a thousand cities, a million of men, not attempt to attack or oppose one alone, from whom these who were best treated, received nothing but slavery and villainage: How could we name this conduct? Is this cowardice? There is to every vice some limit, beyond which it cannot pass. Two may be afraid of one; and so possibly may ten: but a thousand, a million, a thousand cities, if these defend not themselves against one, this is not cowardice. Cowardice extends not this length, no more than bravery can extend so far as that one man might scale a fortress, defeat an army, or conquer a kingdom. What monster then of vice is this, which merits not the title of cowardice? which cannot find a name base enough, which nature denies to have produced, and the tongue refuses to name?

Place, on one side, fifty thousand men in arms—as many more on the other—make your dispositions for battle, and let it begin—one army consists of freemen fighting for their liberty—the other to take it away from them—to which side should you prophesy the victory? Which would go the most gallantly to action—those who hoped as a reward of their pains the maintenance of their liberty?—or those who could expect nothing for the blows they might give or receive, but the servitude of others? The one have always before their eyes the happiness of their past life, and the hope of the like to come. They regard not the pain to be endured for the short time of the continuance of a battle, so much as those to be borne forever by themselves, their children, and all their posterity. The others have nothing to embolden them but a little point of covetousness, which is suddenly blunted by danger, and which cannot be so ardent, but that it ought and must be extinguished by the smallest drop of blood which flows from their wounds. In the battles so celebrated of Miltiades, of Leonidas, and of Themistocles, which were waged two thousand years ago, and which still live as fresh in the memory of books and of men, as if they had been fought but the last month; battles which were fought in Greece, for the good of Greece, and for examples to all the world: What was it which gave to so small a number of men as were the Greeks, not the power but the heart to support the force of so many ships, that the sea seemed to be overloaded with them? to defeat so many nations, who were so numerous that the whole squadron of the Greeks could not have furnished Captains to the armies of the enemy? In those glorious days, it was not so much a battle of Greeks against Persians, as the victory of liberty over domination, of privilege over avarice.

It is a wonderful thing to speak of the valour which liberty inspires into the hearts of those who defend her. But a thing that happens in all countries, among all men, and every day, or in all ages, that a single man should become the master of an hundred cities, and deprive them of their liberties—who would believe it, if he only heard it related, and did not see it? If he saw it

not in his own country, and only heard it related of foreign nations and distant lands, would he not think it to be fiction and romance, fraud and forgery? (To be continued.)

FOR THE GAZETTE OF THE UNITED STATES.

O D E S.

O D E II.

FURTHER HINTS TO REVIEWERS.

AGAIN, dispensers of the birch and bays, The Muse inspires; and JOHN advice displays. Such is my nature—when I cease pretend, Or undertake, a purpose to perform;

No power that purpose from my soul can rend: I heed not hatred, jealousy, plague, or storm.

In all your criticisms, mind one thing: Be positive. For O what help it gives, To be determined that perfection lives, In all you say, or sing.

Whene'er you praise, with high, enthusiastic zeal, Your commendation, even to cracking, strain; And swear that he who differently doth feel, Is idiot, baby, and devoid of brain.

Yet do not praise too much;—of that beware;— But freely deal, rich condemnation forth:

Then, in particular, when modest worth, And youthful merit, novel truths declare. For they will dare but small resistance make, And you may press them with severest hand;

Exclaim—“Establish'd order they forsake, And spread opinions new, around the land.”

How will the people wonder at your wit, Scared with the dreadful thunder of your words! And, with your rueful length of visage smit, Adore the self-created Lords.

So have I mark'd the Owl, with horrid scream, Fright the sweet songsters of the warbling grove; And with a face, made wise with many a seam, Reign a dread Lord where once smiled joy and love.

JOHN.

R E P O R T

O F T H E

S E C R E T A R Y O F S T A T E,

On the fishery of the

COD AND WHALE FISHERIES,

Made conformably to an Order of the House of Representatives of the United States, referring to him the representation of the General Court of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts on those subjects;—FEBRUARY 1st, 1791.

THE Secretary of State, to whom was referred by the House of Representatives, the representation from the General Court of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, on the subjects of the cod and whale fisheries, together with the several papers accompanying it, has had the same under consideration, and thereupon makes the following Report:

The representation sets forth that, before the late war, about four thousand seamen, and twenty-four thousand tons of shipping were annually employed, from that State, in the whale fishery, the produce whereof was about three hundred and fifty thousand pounds a year.

That these branches of business, annihilated during the war, have been, in some degree, recovered since; but that they labor under many and heavy embarrassments, which, if not removed, or lessened, will render the fisheries every year less extensive and important.

That these embarrassments are, heavy duties on their produce abroad, and bounties on that of their competitors: and duties at home on several articles, particularly used in the fisheries.

And it asks that the duties be taken off; that bounties be given to the fishermen; and the national influence be used abroad for obtaining better markets for their produce.

The cod and whale fisheries, carried on by different persons, from different ports, in different vessels, in different seas, and seeking different markets, agree in one circumstance, in being as unprofitable to the adventurer, as important to the public. A succinct view of their rise, progress, and present state, with different nations, may enable us to note the circumstances which have attended their prosperity, and their decline, to judge of the embarrassments, which are said to oppress ours; to see whether they depend on our own will, and may, therefore, be remedied immediately by ourselves, or, whether, depending on the will of others, they are without the reach of remedy, from us, either directly or indirectly.

Their history, being as unconnected as their practice, they shall be separately considered.

Within twenty years after the supposed discovery of Newfoundland, by the Cabots, we find that the abundance of fish on its banks, had already drawn the attention of the people of Europe. For, as early as 1517, or 1519, we are told of fifty ships being seen there at one time. The first adventurers in that fishery, were the Biscayans of Spain, the Basques and Bas-Bretons of France, all united anciently in language, and still in habits and in extreme poverty. The last circumstance enabled them long to retain a considerable share of the fishery. In 1577, the French had one hundred and fifty vessels there; the Spaniards had still one hundred; and the Portuguese fifty, when the English had only fifteen. The Spaniards and Portuguese seem, at length, to have retired silently, the French and English claiming the fishery exclusively, as an appurtenance to their adjacent colonies, and the profits being too small for nations surcharged with the precious metals proceeding from their mines.

Without materials to trace the intermediate progress, we only know that so late as 1744, the French employed there five hundred and sixty-four ships, and twenty-seven thousand five hundred seamen, and took one million two hundred and forty-six thousand kentials of fish, which was three times the extent to which England and her colonies together carried this fishery at that time.

The English, in the beginning of the seventeenth century, had employed, generally, about one hundred and fifty vessels in the Newfoundland fishery. About 1670, we find them reduced to eighty, and one hundred, the inhabitants of New-England beginning now to supplant them. A little before this, the British parliament, perceiving that their citizens were unable to subsist on the scanty profits which sufficed for their poorer competitors, endeavored to give them some advantage by prohibiting the importation of foreign fish; and, at the close of the century, they formed some regulations for their government and protection: and remitted to them some duties. A successful war enabled them in 1713 to force from the French, a cession of the island of Newfoundland. Under these encouragements, the English and American fisheries began to thrive. In 1731, we find the English take two hundred thousand kentials of fish, and the Americans two hundred and thirty thousand, besides the refuse fish not fit for European markets. They continue to gain ground, and the French to lose it, inasmuch, that about 1755, they are said to have been on a par; and, in 1768, the French have only two hundred and fifty-nine vessels of twenty-four thousand four hundred and twenty tons, nine thousand seven hundred and twenty-two seamen, taking two hundred thousand kentials, while America alone, for some three or four years before that, and so on to the commencement of the late war, employed six hundred and sixty-five vessels, of twenty-five thousand six hundred and fifty tons, and four thousand four hundred and five seamen, and took from three hundred and fifty thousand, to upwards of four hundred thousand kentials of fish, and England a still greater quantity, five hundred and twenty-six thousand kentials, as is said.

Spain had formally relinquished her pretensions to a participation in these fisheries, at the close of the preceding war; and, at the end of this, the adjacent continent and islands, being divided between the United States, the English and French (for the last retained two small islands merely for this object) the right of fishing was appropriated to them also.

France, sensible of the necessity of balancing the power of England on the water, and therefore, of improving every resource for raising seamen, and seeing that her fishermen could not maintain their competition without some public patronage, adopted the experiment of bounties on her own fish, and duties on that of foreign nations brought into her markets. But, notwithstanding this, her fisheries dwindle, from a change taken place, insensibly, in the character of her navigation, which, from being the most economical, is now become the most expensive. In 1786, she is said to have employed but seven thousand men in this fishery, and to have taken four hundred and twenty-six thousand kentials; and in 1787, but six thousand men, and one hundred and twenty-eight thousand kentials. She seems not yet sensible that the unprofitableness of her fisheries proceeds from the want of economy, and not the want of markets; and that the encouragement of our fishery abridges that of a rival nation, whose power on the ocean has long threatened the loss of all balance on that element.

(To be continued.)

By the Ship CANTON, Captain TRUXTON.

CALCUTTA, October 21.

THE following account of the late action of the 13th and 14th, received in a letter from Arnee, of date the 26th September, in several respects differs from, and is more particular than others which have been given to the public; and we trust it will therefore be acceptable to our readers.

Tippoo descended the Gaults on the 12th of September, and reinforced Seyd Saheb. He moved early in the morning of the 13th towards Colonel Floyd, whose detachment consisted of his own regiment of dragoons, two regiments of native cavalry, three battalions of seapoys, and two companies of the Bengal artillery, under the command of Captains Sampson and Elwood, with one eighteen-pounder, two twelve pounders, and eight six-pounders.

The enemy's cavalry first began skirmishing, but were worsted by our cavalry. About eleven o'clock in the forenoon, Tippoo's whole army crossed the Bavani, and advanced within 600 yards of our line, before they fired a single shot; they then opened at once, with all their guns and rockets, and, having ascertained our distance, did amazing execution.

The enemy's cavalry repeatedly charged our line, with great order and regularity: but were always repulsed with considerable loss.

On the night of the 13th, a board of field officers being assembled, it was resolved upon to retreat: accordingly, the detachment moved off before day, on the 14th, leaving the whole of the baggage, together with the eighteen-pounder, two of the twelve-pounders, and three six-pounders, for want of bullocks to draw them.

The enemy were not long in getting information of this retreat, but they were so busily occupied in plundering the baggage, that they did not again come up with the detachment until 12 o'clock that day, when a second engagement commenced, in which the enemy made every possible exertion to break our line, but without effect; for both Europeans and seapoys behaved with the utmost steadiness and cool intrepidity. Night coming on, put a stop to the action; and our little army continued retreating in good order until 8 o'clock, when they halted. About 3 o'clock the next morning, (the 15th) they again moved, and marched to effect a junction