

FROM THE PROVIDENCE GAZETTE.

To the FREEMEN of the Town of PROVIDENCE.

Full many a gem, of purest ray serene,  
The dark unathorn'd caves of Ocean bear;  
Full many a flower is born to blush unseen,  
And waste its sweetness on the desert air."

ON Monday next the petition of a number of respectable inhabitants, preferred to the last Town-Meeting, will be discussed, and the report of your School Committee heard.

An object of such importance demands attention. Patriotism and charity must awake the attention of the rich and the poor.

Let all reflect on the great and manifest advantages, to be derived from an adoption of the measure proposed by the petition. Let the patriotism of all induce them zealously to forward an attempt to secure our political felicity, by giving to the rising generation the means of acquiring a knowledge of the nature of civil liberty, and of the measures to be adopted to perpetuate the enjoyment of it.

A system, giving to all equal opportunity for the acquisition of knowledge, would tend more toward establishing in practice the theoretical rights of men, than all our Constitutions or Bills of Rights. The savage is inferior to the citizen in proportion to their advantages in point of education.

The same cause, in civilized life, works the same difference.—The son of the rich man, enjoying all possible assistances from instructors and books, is more powerful in mental acquisitions than the son of the poor man, from whom the hand of penury, and the coldness of charity have withheld the means of perfecting his powers.

Had the latter possessed equal advantages, he had, perhaps, demonstrated to the world, that not birth and rank, but education and merit, produce in society the only rational inequality.

All other inequalities should, if possible, be remedied; but never can be remedied, while children, at the first dawn of reason, and through their whole lives, see such distinctions as now prevail in point of education.—The unhappy being, who finds his instruction neglected and discouraged by the world, must surely think, that nothing useful could be expected from him, or that instruction had no power over the faculties of his soul.—Is he in fact a genius of the first rank?—He will then either waste his powers in indolence—or, from the irresistible efforts of his genius to activity, will become great in vice, and fall abhorred by the virtuous, a miserable example of the depravity of man.

On the present system of education, the mental powers of about a third part only of its citizens are ever known to society. The rest are not even tried. From this third part alone can the people choose their magistrates, or fill up the professions of the liberal arts.

In case a plan could be devised, by which the whole rising generation might be placed nearly on a level in the means of acquiring knowledge, they would proceed equably, till by the operation of an emulative ambition the natural and rational inequality should be produced.

Here every genius would be tried—every faculty exercised—every talent exerted—the most brilliant and useful discovered—and the body of men best qualified for the discharge of important duties selected, not from a third part only, but from the whole. Upon a plan of this sort, the superior mind, which on the present system is lost to the world, would come forward to his station, which might otherwise be occupied by his natural inferior.

To diffuse a general knowledge of the most useful learning—to place in such a situation the native diamond, oft encased with ignorance, that the splendour of its rays may add lustre to our day, is the object of the plan to be preferred on Monday by your School-Committee. By this plan a general system is proposed to be carried into effect, at the expense and under the direction of the town, by which all the children of the inhabitants will receive instruction in the same schools. This is not to be merely a Free School, to which those whose pride will permit them to acknowledge their poverty may send their children, sometimes to be taught, and oftener to be abused. This is to be instituted on the broad basis of republican principles.—Here all the young freemen shall for once be equal; they will here all be instructed, and alike instructed, at the town's expense.—Here, placed at one forum, the children of the humble and of the high shall make trial of their genius; and at the termination of their exertions, the scholar shall be compensated by the value of his acquisitions, and the applause of his townsmen.

This is no visionary scheme; it is not the offspring of a heated imagination, or an itch for novelty. It is framed by our wisest citizens, as an improvement on a plan long ago adopted, and successfully adhered to, in other places, celebrated for their love of freedom and good government.

See its effects in the town of Boston: I am credibly informed, that at least six out of eight of their principal statesmen, magistrates, lawyers and divines, owe the foundation of their eminence to schools of this kind. Without the aid of these, their parents, perhaps from poverty, had given them no education, or from ignorance of their talents had neglected to cherish them.

From the latter cause, frequently arises a most deplorable neglect of genius: But give the parent an opportunity to discover, without expense, the abilities of his child, and if the experiment succeeds agreeable to his wishes, he will use every exertion to forward his education, and thus from accident at first, and a certain parental pride or tenderness afterwards, his country may be benefited by a sage philosopher, or a wise politician.

My indulgent fellow-citizens will pardon the liberty I have taken, while I only add, that it is my earnest request, and in which I am joined by a very great number of more ancient and influential characters than myself, that every free male inhabitant, heads of families in a more especial manner, would lay aside other concerns, and attend on the Town-Meeting next Monday, in the afternoon, to consider and decide on the important measure of establishing Town-Schools.

THE SHADE OF BUSBY.

FROM THE VERMONT GAZETTE.

QUALIFICATIONS which a REPRESENTATIVE TO CONGRESS ought to possess.

- 1st. A sufficient common interest with his constituents.
2. A general acquaintance with their interests and feelings.
3. He should be a man of integrity, firmness and honor.
4. He should have information, and talents to communicate that information with ease and propriety.
5. He should sustain the character of being faithful to his employers, and persevering in his measures; not easily diverted from his course. The pilot, who veers about with every gust of wind, will inevitably endanger the ship.
6. He should however have wisdom to direct, and candor to influence him in every measure.
7. He should be able to remember where he came from and to know where he has got to.

Should any man without proper qualifications procure himself to be elected, I will venture to predict, that he within two years will find himself in a very public place without his breeches.

VATES.

ANECDOTE.

SOME few years since, a counsellor Vanfittart, went the Oxford circuit, and that eminent and facetious counsellor, Mr. Bearcroft, went the same circuit. Mr. Bearcroft one day, in his usual droll manner, told Vanfittart, he thought his name was rather too long, and tedious to pronounce: "Suppose, for shortness, we agree to call you Van, and leave out fittart."—"With all my heart (says Vanfittart) if you'll do the same—strike off the cross, and let us call you Bear."

THERE are situations in life, which, being conspicuous and elevated: never fail to bring with them as attendants,—envy and jealousy. It will be needless to enquire into the effects which spring from these interested, restless and black passions. It is well known, that those whose hearts are tainted with them, are watchful and eagle-eyed, and that they do not always miss, with their pernicious darts, of wounding the most upright and patriotic.

There are others who may appear, from their station in life, to be divested of these corroding passions, or at least to have no motive originally of their own, but still, from a desire to support their favorites, or from mere wantonness, or a kind of sportive malignity, will join the rest in a hue and cry, till the object of their chase is well worried, or altogether destroyed. It is the latter, by being most numerous, that are to be dreaded.—The former give the signal, and if they are powerful, enough will join their standard.

Although success does not always crown men of the above description, and happy for mankind that it is so: yet it cannot fail of being frequently productive of bad consequences to the person on whom the attack is made. His character must at least suffer for a while—and why should innocence bear with one pang inflicted by the hands of that demon—Envy? Such however, is the lot of mortals, that to live is to suffer. But let us hope for the best. We have seen the people artfully, and with uncommon perseverance, misled for a time; but no sooner has reason and cool enquiry resumed her just station, than the man whose reputation was but the other day blasted, rises in estimation, as his integrity and patriotism are known and understood, to the shame and confusion of his enemies.

A man whose early and decided conduct in the cause of his country, whose great learning and abilities are acknowledged even by his opposers—a man whose integrity, probity and patriotism, have secured, and as they are still in existence, will continue to secure the approbation of his country—a man whose disinterestedness, mildness, and native good disposition—I say, this man, and with these qualities, which ought at least to have procured him civility, has, in the most open and unprovoked manner, been loaded with a torrent of abuse. His opposers, in the most dogmatical manner have asserted him to be the author of a reply to Mr. Paine's rights of Man. The author, in his last number, has in the most unequivocal terms declared that the Vice President had no concern whatever in the publication. His adversaries, therefore, ought to be covered with confusion, and the public should resent the injury done to a faithful old servant. Notwithstanding the declaration of Publicola, there are those who affect to believe the Vice President still to be the author, vainly hoping, by this feint, to gain a little respite from the shock that this untoward circumstance has thrown them into. To them no doubt it has been a most unfortunate discovery! Their pens were already dipped in the gall, and they were resolved to employ the remainder of the summer in exhausting the stock.

ANTI-CALUMNIATOR.

WARSAW, May 11.

THE revolution so happily begun, will, according to all appearance, be completely consolidated, without violence or tumult.

At Lubin, indeed, a weak, ineffectual shew of opposition to it, has been discovered; but in Great-Poland, all ranks and degrees of men applaud it with transport.

On the 8th inst. the King, accompanied by all the Senators, Ministers and officers of the crown, went on Horseback to the church of the Holy Cross, between multitudes of the citizens and others, by whom the streets were lined. The air was rent by acclamations of *Vive le Roi, Vive la Nation!*

LONDON, May 31.

COINAGE OF ENGLAND.

The total amount of Gold coined during the present reign, up to the last trial of the Pix, in 1782, (adding to the above, the money coined from the year 1760, to the time of the Proclamation in 1774) was, in Guineas, 874, 106lb. Troy; in Half Guineas 96,255lb. and in Quarter Guineas (coined in the year 1762) 6,381lb. the value of which is—

Guineas	-	40,842,602	14	0
Half Guineas	-	4,497,514	7	0
Quarter Guineas	-	298,152	7	6
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Total Gold	-	45,638,269	8	6
Silver coined during the same time,	22,132lb.	68,609	9	2
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		45,706,878	17	8

Upwards of forty-five millions and a half, in the space of less than thirty years; besides the quantity of the coin of former Kings now current, of which it would be difficult to make any calculation.

The following is an authentic account of the nett produce of the Taxes, consisting of Customs, Excise, Stamps, and Incidents, paid into the Exchequer from Jan. 5th, 1786, to Jan. 5th, 1791.

Taxes from	£.	s.	d.
Jan. 5, 1786, to Jan. 5, 1787,	12,389,555	1	1
Jan. 5, 1787, to Jan. 5, 1788,	12,923,134	17	2
Jan. 5, 1788, to Jan. 5, 1789,	13,007,642	18	4
Jan. 5, 1789, to Jan. 5, 1790,	13,433,063	11	3
Jan. 5, 1790, to Jan. 5, 1791,	14,072,978	19	7
To these add the yearly amount of land and malt taxes, not included in the above,	2,700,000	0	0

Hence it is clear, that the public income for the last year has amounted to the astonishing sum of nearly Seventeen Millions! Taking, therefore, Fifteen Millions for the average expenditure of the year, there will be a surplus of almost Two Millions towards the liquidation of the National Debt.

This statement exhibits such a progressive increase of revenue as promises to alleviate the public burthens, and to advance the country to a state of unexampled splendor and prosperity.

The difference in the produce of the Tobacco revenue, between the last and preceding years exceeds 100,000l.

Of the benefits arising from the extension of the Excise upon Wines, the public will judge, when they are informed, that there were but 19,000 pipes of port imported into this kingdom in 1786, and in the last year above 42,000; and yet strange to tell! there was as much wine under the denomination of port thought to be drank then as now.

JUNE 3.

Accounts were received yesterday at the Secretary of State's office, by way of France, that the plague rages with dreadful havoc in that part of Turkey next to the Mediterranean, inasmuch, that in a small district, a thousand persons have died in a day.

June 6. The press upon the river has, within these few nights, been much less active than for several weeks before.

Notwithstanding the assertions in some of the prints to the contrary, we are assured that the last dispatches from Berlin, which arrived on Wednesday, are not of a pacific tendency.

Letters from Petersburg bring accounts of the astonishing activity with which the Empress has prepared her fleets. All the British officers in her service have been replaced by French gentlemen, on the recommendation of the Prince of Nassau.

According to the last accounts, the Russian forces consisted of 537,898 men.

June 12. A letter from Portsmouth, June 6, says, "If the negotiation carrying on with Russia does not take a different turn from what is at present apprehended, part of the fleet will sail for Leith Roads the first fair wind after Wednesday next."

A letter from Portsmouth, dated June 1, says, "a most calamitous event has been prevented here by a timely discovery: a plan having been formed to fire our dock yards, by means of foreign incendiaries sent to this country for that purpose. An express received by the Commissioner, brought intelligence of the plot, with orders to take every precaution for the security of the dock yards and arsenals."

The popular toast at present on board the fleet at Spithead, is, "Perseverance to the Empress of Russia."

Translated for the INDEPENDENT GAZETTEER.

CAPE-FRANCOIS, JULY 7.

THE black and white cockades will not take; it seems that those which appeared on Tuesday last at the Theatre were only put on for an experiment.

Some citizens in the gallery of the Provincial Assembly moved to send back to Bourdeaux, the first cargo of Negroes which should enter into this port from thence: A number of other motions were made, which appeared dictated by despair.

The President represented in the name of the Assembly, that the Colony alone had a right to express the people's sense of the measure. He informed them, that notice had been sent to all the parishes of the decree of the 15th of May.

Some members moved addresses to the National Assembly, but nothing was deliberated upon.

An Address of the Merchants of Bourdeaux, to the Chambers of Commerce and Merchants of the French Colonies, on the subject of the decree of the National Assembly respecting the Negroes and Mulattoes, born of free parents, has been received.—It is couched in patriotic terms, and breathes a truly conciliatory spirit.—and recommends an acquiescence in the Decree, as "a law just in its principles, beneficent in its dispositions, and irrevocable as the constitution of the empire."

The Provincial Assembly of the north has decreed, that addresses should be sent to the National Assembly, to the directory of the department of Gironde (of which Bourdeaux is the capital) and all the chambers of commerce in France. All those addresses will tend to prove how the execution of the decree of the 15th of May, would prove hurtful to the security and prosperity of St. Domingo.

The white and black cockades have disappeared, but the greatest part of the citizens have laid by the national cockade.

The free people of colour are quiet. The order of the Board of Police, against disturbers of the public peace, has eased the minds of those who were the most alarmed, and the greatest circumspection has taken with them the place of their former terror.

There is now at the Cape, and in many other parishes of the province of the north, but one party. The citizens who respected the decrees of the National Assembly, and those who executed them after their own manner, have united against the decree of the 15th of May. The Governor, who, in the eyes of many persons, was considered as an Aristocrat, has pleased every one by manifesting in his letter to the minister, his sentiments respecting the National Laws concerning the colonies.