Gazette of the United States.

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

[No. 33, of Vol. III.] SATURDAY, AUGUST 20, 1791. [Whole No. 241.]

FROM THE FREEMAN'S JOURNAL.

MR. BAILEY,

IT is the duty of every good citizen, and every prudent man, to consider the nature and operation of the public measures, that are adopted from time to time by government, whether they be those of Congress or the State Legislature. I found myself satisfied on very little reflexion, with the impost on foreign goods, and I see plainly it tends to give a considerable part of the necessary revenue, and, at the same time, to encourage manufacturing at home. Since the new revenue law, or excise, as some call it, has been passed, I have had it in my mind a good deal, and turned it there much and often. On thinking for myself (for I do not like any man to heat or cool me too much on public subjects) some things strike me, which did not at first occur, and as they may not have come into the minds of some of my countrymen, may be it will do no harm to send them to your free paper.

The first remark that strikes me is, that by the calculations made, there appears to be *no occasion for a land tax, or any other kind of tax*, and no probability of one, if this revenue is collected; for there seems enough impost and duty on spirit to keep us clear of them all. Now I never did expect to see the public debts of this country, and the expences of government and an Indian war, all provided for at once, without one dollar of land tax, or tax on polls, or heads, or personal property! I find too, if I have a mind to be sober and frugal, and have a large family, whose maintenance obliges me to be so, I can make out with cider, mead, metheglin and beer, without paying any of this duty, and I can sell my grain for food, or to those who make a trade of distilling and brewing to sell by wholesale. There is no doubt that those, who do follow liquor-making as a trade, will do it the cheaper, in proportion as they make it in large quantities, and that they can afford to give a price for grain to distill, which it would not do for an owner of a still of fifty gallons to pay. The duty on the lowest foreign rum, is much higher than the duty on home made spirits of the same proof or strength. The home made spirits of grain and fruit, pay only nine cents, or about eight pence Pensylvania money, which is exactly the duty laid by the act of Assembly, and continued for many, many years, by as good patriotic whig Assemblies, as ever sat in this State, or in any other country upon earth. But foreign spirits *of the same proof* pays 20 cents, or 18 pence Pennsylvania money, which is above double the duty on our spirits. It is plain to me that this difference of eleven cents (or about ten pence) in favor of home-made spirits, must very soon stop the use of any great quantity of foreign rum and brandy, even on the sea coast, and that it will put an end to it in the back country, the first time we have a good crop and bad markets abroad. From accounts it seems very likely that this will be the case with our present crop. This great difference in the duty in favor of home made spirits, will be found a vast help to the farmer, and therefore sound and patriotic policy in Congress. It is better for the maker of home spirits, to pay eight pence on his rum, and to have eighteen pence on rival British rum, than to be quite free from duty, and have only seven pence as before, on foreign spirits. Under the State law, we had only 2 and 1-2 on foreign rum, and then our stills had a worse chance, by six or seven pence.

They think in Holland and Britain, that the growing of hops and barley is a very profitable part of farming; and it is plain that America will be better off, by raising great quantities of them; for the more various our produce, the more certain it will be that we shall get some of our crops through to advantage, in our various seasons wet and dry. I therefore argue, that the high duties on foreign spirits (which have been very much increased on account of the duty on ours) will bring on a deal of brewing, and call for hops, and winter and summer barley, in large quantities. Indeed I think this very season there will be such a want of barley, owing to the short impost of rum and molasses, that wheat will be malted in some places. If a man that owns a still, will work it smartly and pay by the capacity of the still, and not by the gallon, the duty will not stand him more than one third of what foreign rum is to pay, so he can afford more for grain and fruit to still. We know very well in Pennsylvania, that old William Penn was a shrewd sensible man. He kept peace with the Savages better than any of the other proprietors, governors, or old king's governors, that we read of; and he brought Pennsylvania forward by the foundations he laid, faster than any country in the world, in the same time. This wise old man, in the year 1684 fixt a duty on spirits of all kinds, of twelve pence, as the best revenue for a young country. He justly observes, that *the rich* and *the drunkard* pay nearly the whole of it. The sober and moderate pay little; and any man may pay nothing by using only cider, metheglin and beer. Penn was certainly a very wise man, a good Christian, a friend to liberty, civil and religious, and had a remarkable insight and foresight in the true interest and capacities of this country. It is my opinion, Mr. Bailey, that the regulation of spirituous liquors is as important to the happiness of man, and the true service of God, as schools and places of worship. School a youth ever so well, teach him the way of a sober and pious life ever so carefully, he will be in the greatest danger if spirituous liquors be as plenty by him as the springs and fountains. If a man will spend his money, or give his labor for drink, in such a degree as to make himself unfit for work, the more he pays for it the better, because the price will set some bounds to excesses. I find a particular comfort in the excise, on the following score—The State debts, if they had not been assumed, would have remained for the States to pay. Having vested Congress with the impost, the States would probably have laid a land tax, for they could not have laid an excise without ruining the country distilleries, unless Congress had raised the duty on foreign rum, as they have done from a regard for the home distiller; and it is but right further to mark the scrupulous justice of Congress, in regard to the money. In order that the money raised on stills and spirits in the back country, might be applied to the immediate benefit of the persons residing in those parts, they have provided, that all that shall be raised this year, by the revenue or excise law, shall be pledged to pay the expences of General St. Clair's, and General Scott's and other expeditions against the Savages, that harrass our back country, from Pennsylvania to Georgia. This is surely giving the best and fairest course to things, and is right well done.

This duty is also to be applied in part to renewing the treaty with the emperor of Morocco, whose cruisers would take our vessels and interrupt the sales of our fish, grain, indigo, rice, tobacco and lumber in Europe, and the wine countries. Other uses to which the money produced by the excise will be applied, are to pay off our debts to France and other friendly powers, contracted in the late war with Britain, and to our creditors at home. It must therefore be the desire and interest of every good citizen, who wishes that our government may discharge these obligations, and may obey these plain dictates of policy, to give a helping hand to the law. This is growing up into a powerful and glorious country, and will continue to grow, if we have peace at home and keep faith abroad. Above all, we should try not to owe money to foreign kings, because it will give them a pretext to interfere in our affairs, and they are a sort of persons, who like to meddle with other nation's matters. I am your friend, and

A CONSTANT READER.

[*We have received several numbers of the BEE, a new work, now publishing by Dr.* ANDERSON, *in Edinburgh, from which extracts may occasionally appear in this Gazette.*]

FROM THE BEE.

REVOLUTIONS in societies and nations are not affairs universally demonstrable, that owe their perfection or circumscription to the powers of the human mind. These belong rather to the nature of cause and effect. Their hidden and secret nature are best known by their consequences. One cause however is obvious, *the oppression of men in power.* Despotic governments might preserve the peace and felicity of their subjects by lenity and equity of administration. The people under such princes might be cemented to their sovereigns without so much as knowing for why—at least without any inquiry into the rights of sovereignty: But whenever oppression begins, the painful chains speak to their understanding more emphatically than all the eloquence of Demosthenes. Another evident reason of state-revolution is, *the introduction of commerce.* The heads of the people might even be generous and humane in framing an absolute government: But these principles being only flexible, and corruptible by interest, what can save a nation from utter ruin, but the common and commercial people? and how shall these become saviours of their country, unless by mechanical ingenuity and commerce, they obtain influence to raise up their dignity? Unless they industriously cultivate those arts, which have fertility to supply the defects of nature? Oppression, therefore, matching with influence and mental refinement, will struggle and debate from their own weight and importance; and the result must turn out according to the superior balance of contending powers. Such things appear to have been two causes of the French Revolution, which, if as stedfastly maintained in infancy, as at the birth, must be productive of the manhood of liberty. If these principles laid down are general, Spain in its multiplied degrees of society, and ill situation for trade, on account of the influx of the Mexican specie, must yet spur long in the furrows of slavery.

Sketches of FOX, BURKE, PITT, SHERIDAN, &c.

[By the Author of LESSONS to a YOUNG PRINCE.]

[IT is an old, but useful adage—*Read every author with a jealous eye.*—Mankind would be under infinitely greater obligations to men of learning for their literary labors, were they more candid in their remarks upon each other; there is a kind of Turkish policy predominant in their observations on cotemporaries; not merely imaginary rivalship, but any kind of equality is intolerable—and hence it is very uncommon to find a generous acknowledgment of merit in the works of others, even on subjects in which neither are particularly interested; but with respect to an opposition of sentiment, it seldom fails to produce a copious effusion of disqualifying epithets. These observations will apply to differences in politics—the most brilliant success on the part of those who are fortunate rivals, cannot defend them from the shafts of obloquy; and tho the world may award the tribute of applause, the acrimony of a party spirit will attempt to blast their laurels. The following sketches, are the production of genius, wit and learning, but the ebullitions of envy and prejudice are so apparent that they cannot be read without indignation—The world at large have long entertained very different sentiments of the respective characters, but this writer of lessons, has stripped the group of both integrity and abilities—and with a generous design to benefit posterity no doubt, has consigned their memories to execration!]

I AM going to hazard an opinion, on which I would hazard my life—that Fox, by far the superior man of the party, is remarkably defective in the great and inventive properties of wisdom—schemes, plans, information, or materials, have ever been collected for Fox, by all the talents and industry of a powerful party; and he has, above all men, the faculty of instantly giving order and expression to uncouth and enormous masses; but his mind not embracing the origin of measures, it is a chance that he directs them to the ruin or advantage of his party. I will give as instances—the coalition—the India bill—the inherent right of regency—and the trial of Warren Hastings—events which mark the public life of Mr. Fox with national odium; and he has incurred it, not from dishonesty, for if there be an honest man among the political adventurers and champions of the time, he is Charles Fox; but for want of abilities, for want of wisdom.——

Who projected the coalition I am not informed. By internal evidence, I should adjudged it to be the idea of Burke; the extravagant absurdity of it suits no other mind.

The India bill, I am well assured, is Burke's own offspring, and it strongly bears the impressions of its parent.

The doctrine of hereditary regency was furnished by Lord Loughborough (the well known Wedderburne) with abundant promises of authorities and reasons, which are not fulfilled.

In the trial of Hastings, eloquence has been employed like water in an inundation, without judgment and without advantage.

All the objects in the contemplation of Mr. Fox on these celebrated occasions, might have been obtained—not only without infamy, but with applause.

Pitt has obtained them all, with abilities greatly inferior, but with the art of profiting by the errors of Fox. He has all the advantages of a coalition, by detaching ROBINSON* from his old master. He has acquired more power in India, than Mr. Fox aimed at, by only saving appearances with the King: he has acquired popularity by a doctrine respecting the power of two estates in Parliament, which if advanced by Mr. Fox, would have procured his impeachment—and he has rendered his opponents the instruments of his own purposes respecting Mr. Hastings†.

Such are the superlative abilities of your Royal Highness's principal, though, perhaps, not your favorite counsellor.

That Burke has talents, no man of sense will pretend to deny; but they are superficial, ostentatious, and want the guidance of judgment and science. *Satis eloquentiæ, sapientiæ parum.*

Sheridan, with equal imagination has more art; and being educated on the stage, understands the method of giving effect to every sentiment, action and expression. But he is a mere artificer of scenes; his orations are plays in a new form, and they produce amusement and admiration, never conviction or respect.

The abilities and accomplishments of the three united, would not constitute a statesman, or a truly great man. Their fancies or imaginations are not balanced by science, or that high and exalted reason which is formed by the calm and patient study of Philosophy, a profound acquaintance with history, and strict discipline of mathematics.

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* Lord North's confidential secretary.

† If the conduct of the Minister were thoroughly understood in this business; if the motives of his sudden conversion to the opinion that Hastings should be impeached, were stated to Parliament and the country by an able and honest Senator, we might see what we have long wanted, a minister rendered actually responsible.

EXTRACT from the ALBANY REGISTER.

SUPPOSE a man to have six children, three of them sons, whose estate is worth 3000l.—the interest of this is only 180l. per annum;—with this small sum he has six children to maintain, clothe and educate—He certainly cannot bring all his sons up professional men, nor his daughters fine ladies. Let him then make them *useful* members of society. Two of his sons let him make tradesmen. By this he will save the expence of supporting them from 14 years of age, and ever after; and give them what they will ever have reason to bless him for, a *trade*, which is better than an estate, because it can never be spent.—The third, if he be favored by the indulgent hand of Providence, with that desirable blessing *genius*, let him make a professional man. And his daughters, let them be instructed to spin, knit and sew, as well as the ordinary work of a house, but by no means neglect their education. Let them boast, with a conscious pride, that the cloaths they wear every day are the fruits of their own industry; and I'll engage those allurements will soon attract the notice of men of sense, and dazzle in their eyes, superior to the brilliancy of a crimson silk—the gay appearance of a sugar-loaf hat, thrown carelessly on one side of the head, with the addition of an elastic bishop, and a full breasted stomacher.

AN OBSERVER.