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WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 5, 1791.

[Whole No. 254.]

FROM THE COLUMBIAN CENTINEL.

PUBLIC HAPPINESS.

No. I.

AS public happiness includes the general welfare of the people, our observations will respect equally national and individual prosperity. We will first consider the facts and circumstances, which now exist favorable to happiness in the United States of America. The territory is as great as the wives of man, it is diversified with all the variety of soils and climates necessary for every production; it is accommodated with the finest rivers and harbors, in the known world, with every other circumstance conducive to agriculture and commerce—its seas and rivers are strewed with the greatest variety and plenty of fish, and its forests with deer, and other useful animals, which supply the new settlers with provisions—in short, this quarter of the world is unequalled on the globe for its natural advantages.

The next circumstance to be considered, is the government. As no people can long prosper without a good government, this is of high importance; and in this particular the United States, are as happy as they are in their natural situation; their government is established on the basis of public welfare, and its principles the result of reason and the experience of all ages. It has also this superlative excellency, a principle of improvement in it, by which the people may, at any time, when a majority judge it necessary, make amendments. By this admirable principle, all tumults and revolutions, which have convulsed and ruined other nations, may be forever prevented; for whenever a majority wish for alterations, they can effect them by a vote. If the minority unreasonably clamour, they will throw their words to the wind, and if they use force, they will be treated as rebels against liberty. Therefore the government of this country may justly be considered as the most perfect freedom, and the most permanent, that ever existed. Neither the kingly, or republican governments, of ancient or modern times, will bear a comparison with the United States of America, either for excellency or duration. Nothing less than a total perversion of human minds, can ever produce anarchy or tyranny in this land.

We will next consider the flourishing state of the country since the establishment of their excellent government, and the improvement the people are making of their natural advantages. One of the most striking features, which arrests the attention of all reflecting minds, is the rapid population. By the late enumeration, it appears, that the United States have about four millions of people! Such a growth, was never before seen under the sun. Their progress in arts and sciences, in agriculture, manufactures and commerce, have more than equalled the rapidity of population. From their past improvements, we may conclusively reason, as to their future advances, and build with all human certainty on events yet to come.

A TRAVELLER.

No. II.

PUBLIC credit being essential to the welfare of the people, they can never hope for permanent prosperity until funds are provided and sacredly employed to pay their debts. Therefore, Congress with great wisdom funded the public debts, and provided for the payment of the interest, and gradual extinction of the principal. The revenue system was formed, and is executed with such discernment that public credit has risen in the United States in a degree unparalleled in the world; and the general prosperity of the people has also increased beyond calculation. Nothing is now wanting to complete and perpetuate the general welfare, but a steady pursuit of the means which have been so eminently successful. As sinking fund is part of the system, and has already begun its operation, and as the money produced by the sale of lands is solely appropriated to this purpose, with the proceeds of the Post-Office, together with the surplus of the money raised by all imposts and excises, after paying the necessary expenses of government, it is reasonable to expect the public debts will be rapidly reduced until their final extinction. Although the funding and revenue system has not been two years in operation, the revenue already exceeds the expenses of government, and in addition to the interest of the debt, large sums of the principal have been paid. And as the revenue will increase with a rapidity equal to the growth of the country, the sinking fund must enlarge from two causes, whose operations will perpetually augment each other; the reduction of expenses as the debt lessens, and the growing revenue. The period may not be far distant when the government may be employed to appropriate the revenue to such public purposes as will most advance and insure the greatest interest and happiness of the people. As our capital mean to accelerate a day so desirable and glorious, and to increase the general interest at the present and intervening time, let us consider the tendency of that important institution formed the last session of Congress, establishing the BANK of the United States. But as this is so highly interesting, and opens so wide a field for contemplation, we will refer it to another paper.

A TRAVELLER.

PROCLAMATION.

Published in Martinique, on the 7th of July, by the King's Commissioners, sent to enforce the law of the 8th of last December, relative to the situation of that Colony.

IMPRESSED with the importance of our mission, and eager to ensure its success, we have hitherto taken, for the rule of our conduct, a principle which as strongly prevails in our hearts, as it is laid down in our instructions—that our ministry is a ministry of peace, not of rigour.

In effect, we are the organs of the mother country, and the depositaries of her will, which she has charged us to carry into execution, among Frenchmen, her sons, and our brethren. We had therefore reason to think, that it would have been sufficient for us to speak in the name of the nation, the law and the king; and that instant obedience would be paid, and order and legal subordination restored.

And must we relinquish such flattering hopes? Shall the benevolent views of the nation and the king be disappointed? After having tried every measure, that patience, moderation, and the love of peace, could suggest, must we now be obliged to have recourse to coercive means, in order to ensure respect to the law?

The object of that law is, the general pacification of the Windward Isles, and principally Martinique. But how far is that object from being accomplished! It seems to be misunderstood! We still see on all sides the dreadful and lasting consequences of an intestine war. On every side, the spirit of discord and hatred seems ready to renew the disturbances which have desolated this unfortunate island.

Yet it is Frenchmen who inhabit it!—children, who, deaf to their mother's voice, thus sacrifice her favors and their own interests, to their private passions and resentment!—brothers, whom it is necessary to restrain from cutting each other's throats!

A simple error is but of short duration. When the intention is pure, the mind is easily brought back to reason. When the common cause is at stake, all private pretensions are forgotten, all animosities are appeased. But it is evident, that there do exist men sufficiently wicked, sufficiently mad, to persist in their private resentment, to ferment that of others, to endeavor to perpetuate disorder, and to rekindle the flames of war in this colony.

A proof of this wicked disposition appears in those threats dictated by party spirit, against individuals of the opposite party—in those acts of violence committed in several places, against their persons and their property—in that universal terror which has spread through the island, and produces daily emigrations.

If the legal authority has proved insufficient to prevent such excesses, which almost all originate in mysterious darkness, it becomes only the more necessary to check their progress, and to inflict a signal punishment on those who shall be discovered to be the authors.

In consequence—having received information of the late insurrection at Saint Pierre, on the 6th inst, and being convinced by this mortifying example, that steps less serious indeed, but not less criminal, had preceded, and that private quarrels, and the most trifling acts of violence committed by two individuals, are sufficient to cause a general ferment in that city—we renew the prohibitions already expressed in our proclamation of the 21st of last April, forbidding all persons, of what rank soever, to offer any insult, or commit any act, whereby peace and good order may be violated, on pain of being prosecuted and punished, according to the rigour of the law.

We likewise forbid all persons, under what pretext soever, to cry out, To Arms, or to appear in armed bodies in the streets, on pain of death, in conformity to the ordinances.

We declare, that we will use every forcible means in our power to seize whoever shall contravene this proclamation, and to put into immediate execution the sentence pronounced on the authors, abettors and accomplices of such insurrections. And from the necessity of coercing, by striking examples, those who have, for so long a time, forgotten and despised the laws, we have enjoined the public officers to make all necessary searches, that information may be given, without delay, respecting the unlawful proceedings which have lately spread the alarm in the city of St. Pierre; and to act conformably to our former regulation, relative to the disturbers of the public tranquillity.

We direct and order all the tribunals, and all those whom it may concern, to publish this proclamation in their respective districts, and to aid and assist in carrying it into execution, so far as each is concerned.

(Signed)

LA COSTE,
MAGNYTOT,
MONDENNOIX,
LINGER.

St. Pierre, July 6, 1791.

Address presented Lord Dorchester, by the inhabitants of Quebec, on his intended departure for England; signed by 120 of the most respectable citizens of that place, dated August 17, 1791.

TO HIS EXCELLENCY THE RIGHT HONORABLE GUY LORD DORCHESTER, GOVERNOR GENERAL OF THE PROVINCE OF QUEBEC, &c.

May it please your Excellency,

WE, citizens of Quebec, beg leave to approach your Lordship with sentiments of dutiful affection for your person, and of lively gratitude for the experience we have repeatedly had of your Excellency's mild, benevolent and wise administration, and of the encouragement and protection given to the agriculture and commerce of this country.

To suppress our regret at your Lordship's approaching departure, would be doing violence to our feelings; yet we indulge the pleasing hope that your absence will be but temporary, and we anticipate the happy prospect of your speedy return to your governments and command.

Sensible of your Lordship's zeal for the interests of this province, we hope with confidence, that whatever arrangements are necessary to bring to perfection the new establishment of a free constitution of government preparing for us, they will be objects of your Excellency's peculiar care and attention during your residence in England.

In taking leave of your Lordship, we wish to express the high respect and esteem we entertain for Lady Dorchester's distinguished and exemplary character.

Sincerely wishing your Lordship and amiable family a safe and prosperous voyage and return, we have the honor to be, may it please your Excellency, your Lordship's most obedient servants, &c.

DOCTOR PRIESTLY.

The personal abuse and destruction of property which this gentleman, and the other Dissenters, have largely experienced at Birmingham, appear to be, and certainly are great evils; But, like all other apparent evils, they will, in the course of events, most assuredly produce some greater good—"Persecution has always been the means of promoting the persecuted Religion.—The blood of the Martyrs was the seed of the church."

LONDON, August 1.

THE Duke of York, after his marriage, is expected to reside a good deal at Berlin. The Princess Frederica is so much a favourite with her father, that it is not thought he will readily consent to her residence in England.

The following are extracts of several letters from Birmingham.

"Many manuscripts of Dr. Priestley's writing lie scattered near his late house. Report says that a bond of annuity from Earl Shelburn, now Marquis of Lansdown, for 300l. a year to the Doctor was found—but this I cannot aver as fact.

"Some pamphlets of an inflammatory nature, and a private printing press being found in the house of Mr. Russell, were the cause of its being burned. Indignation, and not plunder, appears to be the governing principle of the populace. Long live the King, and God protect our Constitution, is constantly exclaimed: And when a house is pulled down—the cry is, so perish all the enemies of Great-Britain.

"The house of Mr. Hobson, a Presbyterian Parson, and the dwellings of Messieurs Budd, Hawkes, Harwood, and a farm house in the neighbourhood of Moseley, were also demolished. These persons were marked as principal applauders of the French Revolution.

"Mr. Taylor's fine house is never to be rebuilt—he says it shall remain in its present state as a monument of the majesty of the people!!

Aug. 3. The Courts of Vienna and Madrid are earnestly pursuing some concealed object of political moment. Couriers are continually passing with amazing expedition. This, however, touches us not.

The letters of the King and Queen of France to Vienna, can contain nothing confidential, for they are all avowedly examined by M la Fayette and his satellites. They are therefore fabricated for their inspection.

The return of the King of Sweden from his political journey, indicates a suspension of the hostile projects against France, which rumor has so confidently attributed to the continental powers. For the Swedish Monarch has generally been considered as the probable general of the confederates.

The spirit of revolt, the embers of which are still discernable in the Netherlands, will be a powerful restraint on the interposition of the Emperor in the projected counter-revolution in France. The National Assembly would without doubt stimulate, probably with success, the discontented Flemings to insurrection, and would give them effectual support.

Reports are now circulating in the city of news received from Madras, that Bangalore was in possession of the British troops, and Lord Cornwallis in full march to Seringapatam on the 10th of March. These, we presume, are anticipations of the news expected to be received, for they are not of a nature to be kept back from the public.

INTELLIGENCE FROM INDIA.

BOMBAY GAZETTE.

Dec. 15. Eight Bengal cargoes of Rice have already been landed, and disposed of from eight and a quarter, to eight rupees six annas per bag; but retailed at nine and nine and a quarter per bag, and is still very scarce.

CALCUTTA GAZETTE.

January 12. Mr. Wroughton formerly collector of the district of Moming Sing, has proceeded for Europe on board the Trautsmadorff, under Imperial colours; on a representation from the Sheriff, the Pilot received orders not to carry the ship out unless Mr. Wroughton was delivered up, but the Captain, we understand, refused to do so, and sent to Chandernagore for a French Pilot, so that it is probable Mr. Wroughton will still escape.

Feb. 3. The letters from Madras of the 15th and 16th ult. mention, that a large body of the enemy's horse was supposed to have formed a lodgement in the neighbourhood of the Mount, and that in consequence the people from the surrounding villages were flocking into the Black Town, and the families were moving from their houses on Choultree plain into the Fort—Colonel Wangenheim's regiment of Hessians, had been ordered into the Fort from the Black Town.

The army on the 14th, were in the vicinity of Triumally, and were proceeding further to the