

Gazette of the United States.

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WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 12, 1791.

[Whole No. 256.]

FOR THE GAZETTE OF THE UNITED STATES.

Extract of a letter from the Hon. EZRA L'HOMME-DIEU to S. L. MITCHILL, Esq. dated Suffolk county, September 12, 1791.

"WE have suffered equally with you by the severity of the drought. I have found out one manure which, notwithstanding the dryness of the season, has caused the land to produce wonderfully more than any other manure in a wet season. You will be anxious to know what it is— I'll tell you.—'Tis Fish.—The same they call *Mesbuncurs* in New-York. We call them *Mehaden*. Some call them *Shad*. A very long fish, but fat.

"I have not time to give you the particulars, but as there are millions of these fishes around Long-Island, I have thoughts of making it one subject of communication to the *Agricultural Society*."

Extract of another letter from SIMON DE WITT, Esq. Surgeon-General of the State of New-York, to Mr. SAM. L. MITCHILL, dated Albany, May 8, 1791.

"I AM very much pleased with your idea of keeping a *Calendarium Floræ*, in addition to the common Meteorological observations. It will at least enable us to make the necessary allowances for difference of climate, when in *practical agriculture* we wish to improve from experiments made in different places. For the want of this knowledge for instance, we are in this place in some measure at a loss in following the practice of Pennsylvania; and much more so, that which is given us in books written for the several parts of Europe. But before this can be done to advantage, a plan must be formed for making correspondent observations, not only in the State, but it should extend at least, throughout the Union. For this purpose, I would choose those vegetables in the first place, which bud or blossom earliest in the Spring, and which are universally to be found throughout the States. I have thought of the *Anemone*, the species I believe is *thalictroides*, a plant very common throughout this State, growing chiefly in the woods, and one of the first which makes its appearance. The *Dandelion* may be another, its flowers coming out early. The *Mespilus Nivea*, (so called in Bartram's *Arbutrum Americanum*) the excellent *Medlar*, or *wild-service tree*, is very common in this State at least, and one of the earliest bloomers we see in the woods: the banks of the Hudson from hence to New-York, are now white with them; with us they are in much greater plenty than the *Cornus Florida*, or *Dog-wood*; this, I think, would be another proper vegetable to place particular dependence upon;—besides which, there ought to be remarks made on *exotics*, particularly *fruit-trees*. By carrying into effect a plan like this, it is probable something new, and more useful than has been usually done by *Agricultural Societies* might be struck out, and an endeavour made to obtain the cooperation of the Societies of that description in the other States."

[Gardeners and Farmers will undoubtedly be benefited by attention to the above remarks, for instead of regulating their planting and sowing by the day of the month found in the Almanacks, they will be guided by the unerring phenomena of the season itself; 'tis well known that the vegetation of Spring is in some years six or eight weeks more backward than in others, whereby the husbandmen who go to work by the day of the month, rather than by the state of the weather, commit egregious mistakes. How much better is it for instance, to *sew flax when Peach-trees are in blossom*, than to stick to the old method of putting the seed into the ground on the first of April, be the season as it may. How much more intelligible to strangers and foreigners, to read in the acts of *Agricultural Societies*, that *Cabbage-plants should be set for winter eating, when cherries turn red, rather than on the twenty-sixth day of June!* &c. A register made on Mr. DE WITT's plan, would be so advantageous, that it is earnestly to be desired the several *Agricultural Societies* on the continent may adopt it.]

The capital town of *Cape-Francois*, which by the late accounts was in imminent danger of destruction, is large, elegant, and very opulent. It is said to contain upwards of 6000 houses, and between 50 and 60,000 inhabitants, three quarters of which are Negroes—a circumstance highly unfavorable in the present conjuncture.

FROM THE COLUMBIAN CENTINEL.

PUBLIC HAPPINESS.

No. III.

THE Bank of the United States will be one of the essential and most powerful springs in this great republic, being constituted with great discernment to answer the many beneficial purposes intended. It may justly be questioned, whether there is a bank in any country so well calculated to promote the interest of the community. It will increase the revenue, and facilitate the collection of it; it will throw into circulation from time to time as much money as the necessary trade and business of the people may require; by these means it will be the general regulation of money, and while it moves a thousand wheels of industry it will check any excess in the circulating medium. The wisdom of government, will aid the body of Directors, in the wise management of this great source of national and individual wealth. As one fifth of the bank is owned by the public, it will constantly engage the most discerning eye of government; and as twenty-five Directors are annually to be elected by the stockholders, to watch over and preserve its best interest, no institution can be better guarded or have a clearer prospect of extensive usefulness. During its progress while the institution was forming, every possible circumstance unfavorable was suggested, which learned ingenuity could invent; but the more it has been considered the more it has been admired. As the Stockholders will soon meet for the choice of Directors, the time draws near for the commencement of its operations. It being highly interesting to the government, and to the people in general, in particular the Stockholders, to have the bank commence its loans as soon as possible, the wisdom and energy of the Directors, will make every effort for this purpose. And as the business of banks is now so well understood, and this great national object has been so long in contemplation, we may suppose the Directors will commence its operations early in December.

Congress will commence their next session with a prospect so grateful and under circumstances so animating, they may proceed with facility and pleasure to complete the business of the Union. The President, and the Congress, may justly be considered as the most fortunate and successful legislators and rulers that ever governed a nation. May the glorious work still prosper in their hands, and the world be illuminated by their wisdom.

A TRAVELLER.

No. IV.

IT is of infinite importance to the welfare of the Americans, that their exports be always at least equal to their imports—On this balance will forever depend innumerable advantages. To this capital point the government will attend with all its wisdom: For so long as the balance is in favor of the country, (considering its natural superiority, and vast agriculture) it must flourish far beyond all former experience. The increasing emigrations from Europe may aid the balance of money; but the exports and the imports are the sure criterion to determine how the balance falls.

It is necessary to the landed interest, and to the manufactures, that the rate of interest for money should be low, and this can never happen until the funded debts are sold as high as they are in England. So long as four per cent. can be received for money in the public funds, individuals will not easily obtain loans under six per cent.—which is much more than the profits of land or manufactures will allow. Therefore the government, and all men of patriotism and influence, must unite their constant exertions to raise the value of the funds, as the only means to lower the rate of interest. This circumstance seems not to have been attended to in time past, and the state of the finances did not permit a proper regulation; but the revenue is now amply sufficient to raise the credit of this country immediately to that of England; and as the general prosperity so eminently depends upon it, the utmost energy of government will undoubtedly be directed to this great object. It is well known that mere superfluities cost this country a great sum; if by the wisdom of government, and the aiding example of the rulers, and the rich, the importation of these superfluities might be discouraged, a large balance of money would annually be left to carry on manufactures, and hasten the reduc-

tion of interest and the extinction of the public debt. This mighty concern should engage the laboured attention of all the people—every one can do something in this important matter to serve his country, and his exertions will be rewarded by the savings he may hereby make in his own person and family. It is certainly practicable, and the patriots of America should never leave the subject until it shall be fully accomplished. Let their enlightened writers pursue it.

A TRAVELLER.

AN [ENGLISH] ILLUSTRATION OF THE RIGHTS OF MAN.

THE doctrine of the *Rights of Man* in fact, reduces itself to this—"I am a man, consequently I am free; no man is, or can be my superior;—this world was created for me, and not being accountable to any one for my actions, I will do what I please: Having neither fortune nor industry, I address myself to the first rich man that I meet, and demand the half of his property:—He has the temerity to refuse me—I present the decree of the National Assembly with one hand, and a pistol with the other—demonstrate to him, most clearly, that the Legislature whom he supports, and whom he is bound by oath to obey, has decided, that the nobility and gentry have no longer any patrimony; that the rights they possessed, by inheritance or purchase, are transferred to the nation of which I form a part, and that I claim nothing but what is absolutely and justly my due:—Having no lodging, I fix myself in the first convenient mansion that suits me, and if my neighbour has a pretty wife or daughter, I will possess myself of one or the other, or both, if I like it. There is nothing more reasonable, according to these new discovered Rights of Man. Such is the practice, and such the strange interpretation that has been given to the doctrines lately broached in France, of the *Rights of Man*: Such is the abominable perversion!—Such the abuses that have already been committed, under the pretext of equality;—and Heaven alone can tell where the miseries already commenced will terminate."

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY OF FRANCE.

The proceedings of Thursday and Friday, August 4 and 5, having been limited to matters of but little importance, we shall come at once to

THE FRENCH CONSTITUTION.

Such is the title of the Report which M. Thouret presented on Friday from the Committees of Constitution and Revision, with the following short address:

"LAST night was the anniversary of the memorable 4th of August, in which the Representatives of the French nation laid the foundations of the Constitution. The day following, of which this is the anniversary, was consecrated to digesting those precious foundations; and at this epoch it is, that after two years labour, we present to you the constitutional Act."

The report was read and applauded; and on the motion of M. la Fayette, the Committee of Constitution was ordered to prepare a plan for presenting the Constitutional Act to the most independent examination and free acceptance by the King.

After the preamble, and 17 articles of the Declaration of the Rights of a man and a citizen, it proceeds:

The National Assembly, meaning to establish the French Constitution on the principles recognised and declared above, abolishes irrevocably the institutions that injure liberty and equality of rights.

There is no longer Nobility, or Peerage or distinction of orders, or feudal system, or patrimonial jurisdictions, or any of the titles, denominations, and prerogatives derived from them, or any orders of chivalry, corporations, or decorations, for which proofs of nobility are required, or any other superiority, but that of public officers in the exercise of their functions.

No public office is any longer saleable or hereditary. There is no longer, for any part of the nation, or for any individual, any privilege or exception to the common rights of all Frenchmen.

There is no longer wardenship, or corporations of professions, arts, and crafts.

The law no longer recognises religious vows, or any other engagement contrary to natural rights or to the Constitution.

HEAD I.

Fundamental Dispositions guaranteed by the Constitution.

The Constitution guarantees, as natural and civil rights,

I. That all citizens are admissible to places and employments without any distinction, but that of ability and virtue.

II. That all contributions shall be divided equally among all the citizens, in proportion to their means.

III. That the same crimes shall be subject to the same punishments, without any distinction of persons.

The Constitution in like manner guarantees, as natural and civil rights,

Liberty to all men of going, staying, or departing without being arrested, accused, or detained, except in cases determined by the law, and according to the forms prescribed by it.

Liberty to all men of speaking, writing, and printing their thoughts, and of exercising the religious worship to which they are attached.

Liberty to all citizens of assembling peaceably, and without arms, complying with the laws of Police.

Liberty of addressing to all constituted authorities petitions individually signed.