

Gazette of the United States.

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SATURDAY, DECEMBER 31, 1791.

[Whole No. 279.]

FOR THE GAZETTE OF THE UNITED STATES.
MR. FENNO,

THIS day closes another annual measure of time; and happy would be the consequences, if mankind were more disposed to avail themselves of such periods, for the indulgence of reflection, and a retrospective view of the various events of life, which, at a distance, and divested of the false colourings that prejudice may have given them at the time of their occurrence, will often present a useful lesson for future conduct, and subserve valuable purposes in society—moral and political.

The critical observer of human affairs, who has viewed the progress of those evils to which men are constantly exposed by the treachery of the heart, and the errors of judgment, will be ready to acknowledge the advantages to be derived—from a review of former scenes, analyzing the secret springs to action on the great drama of the world—with the several causes of success or disappointment.

If in the course of events we have seen the throne of a Despot consuming on the sacred altar of Liberty—let Kings, by this, be taught to venerate the rights of men—and to know that the affections of a free and generous people are the only satisfactory and durable basis of all authority.—If we have observed a Minister sacrificed to the just resentment of his country—let those in similar situations be careful to shun the causes which led to his disgrace, and to cherish those virtues which will alone ensure them the esteem and confidence of their fellow-citizens.

If, by the rays of mental light, the wiles of priestcraft have been exposed to view, and we have seen the pampered sons of luxury deprived of the wealth they procured by the worst of all abuses—Priests are hereby taught that such pursuits will not in future avail them, as men will be no longer led the blind votaries of superstition and bigotry.

Have we heard that millions of our fellow men (magnanimously asserting the rights of human nature) have dared to break the chains which bound them for ages, and determined to be free—we will indulge the generous emotions of joy, be stimulated to future exertions in the cause of liberty, and nourish fair science in our land, as the source of all social happiness.

If we, on the other hand, have been informed that thousands have fallen victims to the pride of royalty—while, with just indignation, we contemplate the sad effects which the lust of domination is ever found to produce, let us guard with cautious eye among ourselves the aspiring efforts of ambition, and cultivate those sentiments of philanthropy, which teach men to know and feel that they are the brethren of one common family.

Have the bounties of Nature been heaped upon us with a liberal hand—may gratitude inspire our devotions, and our future conduct evidence our sense of the obligation.

If, in the pursuits of private life, fortune has deigned to afford us her smiles—let us, by the exercise of genuine benevolence, endeavor to merit her future favors.

Have we been deprived of some of our most valuable friends—let us study to copy those virtues which procured them esteem, as the best tribute due to their memory. MENTOR.

(TO BE CONTINUED.)

NEW-YORK, December 26.

Official accounts being received of the death of Major-General Butler, Major Ferguson, Major Heart, Capt. Smith, Capt. Bradford, Capt. Newman, Capt. Phelon, and Lieutenant Spear, members of the society of the Cincinnati, who fell in the late action with the Indians, the members of the New-York State Society of the Cincinnati, are requested to wear the usual mourning for three months, as a particular mark of respect for the memory of their brave deceased brethren.

By order of the President, W. S. SMITH.

BOSTON, Dec. 17, 1791.

THE Subscribers to the AMERICAN APOLLO are informed, that the first number will, agreeably to the proposal, be published on the first Friday in January next.—Those gentlemen who hold subscriptions, are requested to return them, as soon as possible, to BELKNAP & YOUNG, in State-Street—who request their brethren of the Type, in this and the other States, to assist them with their usual communications, and publish this advertisement in their respective papers.

PHILADELPHIA.

TUESDAY last being the anniversary of St. John the Evangelist, an elegant Oration was delivered at the Lodge-Room, the corner of Arch and Fifth-street, by the Rev. Brother Smith, and the following persons were installed Grand Officers for the ensuing year:

- R. W. Jonathan B. Smith, Esq. Grand Master.
- Joseph Few, Deputy Grand Master.
- Thomas Proctor, Sen. Grand Warden.
- Gavin Hamilton, jun. Junior Grand Warden.
- P. le B. Duobellis, Grand Secretary.
- Mr. Benjamin Mason, Grand Treasurer.

After which the feast of St. John was celebrated at Mr. Oeller's Hotel, and a liberal collection of charity for the poor of the institution was made, and the following toasts were given:

1. The widow's son.
2. All the Mason's round the globe.
3. May the circle of happiness be commensurate with the square of existence.
4. Our illustrious brother Washington. [3 times 3, and 3 huzzas.]
5. May the constitution of France, which has rushed in a right line from tyranny, ever be guided by the square, and everlasting role in the circle of happiness.
6. May the torch of masonry be centered in the western sky, and illumine with its brilliant rays United America.
7. May heaven give double blessings in resurrection to those masons, who have fallen in defence of their country in the western territory.

S O N G,

Composed and sung on Tuesday last,
AT THE FESTIVAL OF
ST. JOHN THE EVANGELIST.

BY A BROTHER.

YE gracious powers of choral song,
Attend; inspire your festive throng;
Let harmless mirth, and frolic glee,
Dance sportive at our Jubilee.

We ask no found of spear or shield,
No trophies of th' ensanguined field;
Let hope, let faith and charity,
Begin and end our Jubilee.

No savage warrior's scarlet name,
Shall e'er defile our roll of fame;
But peace, with white robb'd train we see,
Presiding at our Jubilee.

The heart that feels for widow'd woe,
The tears, for orphans pangs, that flow,
The voice which bids distress to flee,
Shall celebrate in Jubilee.

Mercy, with pearly melting eye,
Stern Justice with her sword on high,
Shall both attendant angels be,
To guide, to guard our Jubilee.

Each Brother's soul shall rapturous swell,
Nor sorrow toll her sad'ning knell;
The voice, the hands, the heart by three,
Shall thrice repeat our Jubilee.

Then call from East to West the World,
The mystic banners are unfurl'd!
And O! departed ancients, see
From Heaven, and bless our Jubilee!

Lo! from his great or little store,
Each brother flies his mite to pour,
That men may still rejoice to see,
A Mason's lodge a Jubilee.

Then (round the circle) let the glass
(Yet in the square) convivial pass;
And when the sun winds o'er the sea,
Each lass shall have her Jubilee.

Be this the general, cordial toast,
(A wish that never should be lost)
That all the world may Masons be,
And live and love in Jubilee.

SKETCHES OF BOSTON AND ITS INHABITANTS.

[The following is extracted from a series of letters, published in a late Nova-Scotia paper.]

SKETCHES, &c.

THE habits of the people here are very favorable to oratory. Declamation is taught in every school in the country. It is a custom to call on some citizen to make a public oration on the anniversary of independence, and other interesting occasions.

On the death of a citizen of uncommon merit, if his virtues have been of the private and domestic kind, his memory receives the tribute of approbation from the pulpit: But if in the more splendid walk of public life he has deserved applause, a citizen is called upon to make his eulogium. I have since I came here heard a very sensible one pronounced by Judge LOWELL, on the late Mr. BOWDOIN, who died last summer. Governor HANCOCK, Mr. ADAMS, and every distinguished character in the place were there, a number of respectable ladies, &c. I have picked up a few orations, which I send you herewith.—Some are very lean, others will deserve your reading. The constitutions of the districts, as I have shewn you, must, by their nature, give rise and encouragement to eloquence;—there is but one assembly in the whole range of the federal

union, in which it is deemed unnecessary, and, I believe, even absurd and obtrusive. To wit, the senate, or upper house of Congress!—They are merely a deliberative meeting, in which every man delivers his concise opinion, one leg over the other, as they did in the first Congress, where an harangue was a great rarity*.

The private hospitality of Boston is equal even to that of Ireland, and the practice of it rather better understood.

In travelling through Massachusetts you are surprised that men, in whom the practice of the moral duties is so habitual, that they observe the laws of God and man without seeming conscious of obedience, should overcharge you in every payment you make, either for lodging, goods, or labour, and should seem to have no other standard of price, than the consent of the buyer; whatever his ignorance or extravagance will yield, is received without scruple. But then if you have left your watch in the temple of Cloacina at the inn, it is in perfect safety; if you have dropped your handkerchief in the street, or on the road, the first man that finds it will call you back; you may carry money loose in your furtout pockets, and remain for hours in the midst of the same extortioners; and if there are no foreigners or Europeans in the croud, your cash is secure and untouched.

A British officer lodged in a house which took fire at night; in the confusion of exertions, every thing was carried away, and the officer had many things of value, diamonds, rings, trinkets, &c. In the morning they were delivered or sent to him by different men, who might have justly repented the surprise he shewed at receiving them.

How is this dishonesty in pecuniary exchanges, in a people so exemplary in all other cases, to be accounted for? I answer, that during the war, and some time after, the value of the only money they had in circulation was very variable, and therefore an indecision and irregularity in prices and payment took place; but this is now wearing off, and when it shall entirely cease, and commercial exactness take place, I really do not know what we of Europe will do for some imputation against those folks, to counterbalance the advantages and diminish the moral pre-eminence they will assume over us.

* This wants confirmation.

Description of the curious Bridge at Nismes, in the South of France.

THIS bridge to all appearance was constructed by the Romans. The mortar and stone with which it is built, after being exposed for many hundred years, have become one cement as hard as marble. This superb monument of the Romans is composed of three distinct bridges, one above the other: It joins two mountains, the river Gardon passing under it—the upper bridge serving as an aqueduct for the passage of the little river A'iran. This aqueduct by its winding amongst mountains and rocks is 27 miles long.

The first bridge is supported by 6 arches, the river passing through the 5th which is 78 feet wide. This bridge is 498 feet wide, and 62 high. The second bridge is supported by eleven arches, being 25 feet high and 800 long. The third bridge is only 24 feet high and 819 long, being supported by 35 arches.

It is indeed a very curious circumstance to observe two rivers intersecting each other—the one being 151 feet above the other. Indeed by all the vestiges of the works of the Romans, it seems their minds and hearts were on a much larger scale than those of us modern pigmies, who are afraid to encounter what old Romans would have thought little of. To all appearance succeeding ages of Americans, will insensibly regain the dignified character of Romans. The genius of our government, and the happy situation of our country will inevitably lead to this event.

PROVIDENCE, December 17.

Sunday evening last Capt. Brown arrived in the River from Cape-Francois, which he left the 22d ult. He informs that a party of French horse had been attacked by the revolted Negroes, and about 40 of the former killed, which had given great spirits to the blacks; that the whites had abandoned Coracole and Jaquize, and that the former was in flames when he sailed.