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FROM THE AMERICAN MUSEUM.

REFLECTIONS on the STATE of the UNION.

" Si quid novisti rectius istis,
" Candidus imperti; si non his utere mecum."

DISPASSIONATE enquiries concerning the public interests, are attended with salutary effects, in every time and in every nation. In a country like that, which we inhabit, such examinations are unusually interesting, and may be rendered, it is believed, peculiarly beneficial.

To create the disposition requisite to the proper acceptance of such disquisitions, it is necessary to call to the public mind the variant characters of the several states when they were provinces of a more extended empire—the causes which produced that difference of character—the means which were devised to increase and perpetuate that variation, and the ends to which those characteristic differences were intended to be instrumental. Reflections duly serious upon these circumstances will remind the people of the several states, that they are natural friends, whose amity and union have been too often viewed with jealousy by rival eyes. They will perceive the wisdom and the high duty of cultivating a spirit of mutual allowance and concession; and a careful examination of their actual situation will convince them, that greater blessings will result from a perfect understanding, and sedulous cultivation of their interests at home, than from almost any arrangements, which the conceptions of foreign nations will probably lead them to propose.

The consideration of our present situation and of some interesting circumstances which have grown out of it, is the object of this investigation, in which the benefits to be derived from a liberal intercourse with foreign nations will not be undervalued. As no apology is necessary for such an endeavour, a miscellaneous enquiry into several matters, which are always deeply interesting to nations, and into others which have resulted from our public operations, will be prosecuted without further introduction.

Concerning the exports of the United States.

It has been apprehended by persons of observation, at home, and the idea has prevailed in the councils of a foreign nation*, that the exports of the United States for the year preceding October, 1790, were greater in value than could be expected again, by reason of the prices for grain which were consequent on the scarcity in France. The exports of the subsequent year will aid us in testing this opinion, which attracts the more attention, because it is sometimes suggested that agriculture and trade have been injured by the measures of the government in regard to the public debt. The first return of exports, on which this conjecture was founded, includes a term of thirteen months and a half, and amounted to 20,415,966 dollars. From this aggregate value a ninth part is to be deducted, to equalize it with one year's exportation, which reduces the sum to 18,147,526 dollars. It is very well known, that the prices of our produce through the year lately returned, and which ended with September, 1791, had fallen to their antecedent rates, and it will be perceived on a comparison, that our exports exceeded in their aggregate value those of the former year. The last return, exclusively of two quarters of Charleston, was

dollars 17,571,551

Those two quarters, at the rate of the corresponding term in the preceding year, would be about

700,000

dollars 18,271,551

There remains not, therefore, the least cause to doubt, that our total exportations were eighteen millions and a quarter, and consequently more than in the antecedent year. It is to be observed, too, that the high prices which were current through the time of the first return, must have produced an exportation of all the grain, that could be got to market, and none of the old crop could have been left as usual, to sell with the new. The obvious effect of this must have been an unusual diminution of the exports in the last year. The valuation of the exports of these states immediately before the revolution is not precisely ascertained: but the whole exportati-

ons from America, including the remaining colonies, Newfoundland, Bermuda, and the Bahamas, were computed to have been in 1771, dollars, 15,280,000. In these were comprised the shipments between those islands and the main, and from province to province, as every vessel, which departed from one American port for another, was obliged to clear out her cargo, as if destined for a foreign country. It will appear to be safe to subtract for the difference produced by these two circumstances, one half of the former exports, when it is remembered that two-thirds of the quantity of tonnage is employed in the intercourse between the various parts of the present union, which is engaged in that with foreign nations; and that the British Newfoundland fishery alone, was estimated at more than 2,200,000 dollars in 1775. The increase of the tonnage employed in the foreign trade affords another proof of the increase of our exports. About 330,000 tons were laden in the present United States in the year 1770, part of which were destined for ports now within the Union. About 600,000 tons have been loaded in each of the two last years for foreign ports, though our exports being in a much greater degree manufactured, are now contained in a smaller compass: and boards, scantling, and staves, which are our most bulky commodities, have not increased in half the ratio of the tonnage employed.

An addition may be also made to the amount of the return for the increased supplies in provisions, cordage, and other materials, for the use and outfit of foreign ships. Since the prices of salt provisions have been reduced below those of Ireland, and many articles applicable to ships' use, have been manufactured here, this item has become very considerable; and so far as the articles are sold to foreigners, they are essentially exports.

Under this head, the increased number of ships sold to foreign nations, may be fairly mentioned, and although much has been said of the number formerly disposed of abroad, it is not doubted that a greater value was sold in that way in the time of the last return. Of this fact some further illustration will probably be given in the sequel. It will be sufficient to observe here, that the whole quantity of tonnage built, and native vessels repaired the last year, exceed in value one million of dollars.

The enlarged consumption made within our country by foreign persons of every description, who are certainly much more numerous than they formerly were, is as profitable to the country, as the same value in exports would have been. This item will appear to be very considerable, when the expenditures of foreign ministers, consuls, transient persons, fleets and seamen, are called to mind.

(TO BE CONTINUED.)

P A R I S, February 6.

WHEN M. de la Jaille, the officer who went to Brest, about two months ago, to take upon him the command of the ships destined to St. Domingo, was attacked by the populace at Brest, on suspicion of being an Aristocrat, a National Guard stepped forward and demanded the honor of being his executioner. By this artifice he got possession of his person, conducted him to prison, and saved his life.

M. de la Jaille was accompanied by his deliverer to Paris, where they went together to the King's mafs. Being there pointed out to their Majesties, the King said to them, *I am sorry that I have not about me the medal which I have caused to be struck in memory of your gallant action. I should have felt great pleasure in presenting it to you with my own hand.* The Queen added to the National Guard, *I am happy to see you; you have preserved to the state a worthy citizen and a good officer. It gives us pleasure to express our gratitude.*

The following words were handed last week to the President of the National Assembly:—*"Set down all the notes on the same line; and you will have no music; place all men upon the same level, and you destroy all social harmony."* The biller was written by a beautiful Aristocrat.

FEBRUARY 7.

Letters from Germany have been received at Paris, which mention, that the Emperor has offered to the Prince de Condé the choice of either Fribourg or Brisgaw for his residence, and that of his suite; and has assured him, that he shall not be molested in either of those towns.

In the department of Lot, the most dreadful outrages are daily committed; Duke Fitz-James's, and other noblemen's castles, have been burnt to the ground; the miscreants spread havoc and terror through the country; they burnt all before them, threaten the peaceable, and stir up the peasants to insurrection.

Fifty men of the National guard are to do duty at the palace with the King's household. There was some noise yesterday at the Thuilleries; the mob were not allowed to walk in the apartments after prayers; they shouted their discontent.

Assignats lose 56 per cent. A Louis-d'or is sold for fourteen livres more than its former value.

Madame the Duchess of Orleans met with a pleasing proof of the consideration to which her virtues have entitled her.—At the meeting of the Duke's creditors in the Hall of the Palais-Royal, it was debated what annuity should be allowed to the Duke. The sum was eagerly contested, diminished, and diminished again; the most trivial interests were disputed and refused; contingencies and fractions were the subject of quarrel and debate. But when the question was stated to the creditors, What income should be allowed to the Duchess? the cry was instant and unanimous, "Every thing she chooses; we leave it entirely to her Highness; let her name it, we will sign before hand."

The architects employed to arrange the saloon where the Assembly holds its sittings in a more convenient manner, have reversed it entirely. The Presidents armed chair and bureau are now placed where the tribunal was situated before, the RIGHT HAND is consequently become the LEFT, and we behold the Abbe Fauchet, and the Brissots and Isnards, upon the bench which was filled by Maury, Cazales and Malouet. The wits make merry with the circumstance. They call the Assembly the MICROCOSME. Thus, say they, in the great world, the King, who was at the top, is pushed down to the bottom; the Attornies are become essentially the Aristocratic Body; Curates are amazed to find themselves Bishops; the soldier commands his officer, and the ass rides his master.

L O N D O N, February 14.

M. Rochambeau, the son of the Marshal, lately pronounced, in the parish of Maubeuge, an eulogium on the valour and patriotism of Bernard, a private in the third regiment of cavalry, who closed a long military career in the service of his country. An officer preaching a funeral sermon on a common soldier could not fail to be peculiarly striking.

Extract of a letter from Paris, February 6.

"The King looks very ill; he is more than usually pensive, eats little, sleeps less, takes no exercise, and abstains from his wonted comforter, Burgundy. The Queen's *en-bon point* increases."

FEBRUARY 23.

A great personage, with that justice and liberality which have ever constituted the force of his character, has, it is said, requested an account of his son's debts to be laid before him, that he may pay them out of his privy purse; it is said, that, in consideration of the decrease of the value of money, it will be proposed to make an addition of 10,000, a year to the income of the illustrious debtor.—This will most assuredly be just, as well as generous.

A great commercial house at Bordeaux, has received a letter from a correspondent at Madrid, dated January 26th, stating that the inhabitants of the capital of Spain are in a great ferment, and the Court in the utmost consternation.

The occasion is stated to have been as follows: The Corregidor of Madrid had given leave to a Bookfeller to print an edition of the French Constitution, on condition of printing but a very small number of copies. Five or six thousand were, however, printed, which were instantly purchased and carried off.

Count Florida Blanca, the Minister, gave orders to seize the Printer, the Corregidor, the copies, and the buyers of the work.

This proceeding roused the indignant people; and it is also stated, that the Minister paid very dear for his arbitrary rashness.

The letter concludes thus,—*"Things are going forward here, which I dare not trust to paper."*

A few days ago died, at Fish-hill, in Cumberland, Mr. Frederick Harpe, at the extraordinary great age of 120 years.

* See the report of a committee of the lords of the British privy council, published in the Gazette (of March) in Charleston, South-Carolina.