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[Whole No. 366.]

ON THE DISCOVERY OF AMERICA.

An Oration, delivered by Mr. Joseph Reed, of this City, at the late anniversary Commencement held at Princeton, New-Jersey.

(CONCLUDED.)

IT is the glory of Columbus that this great discovery can in no degree be ascribed to accident. In contemplating the origin of the arts and sciences, and those first discoveries which have extended the knowledge, the power, or the happiness of mankind, we find that most of them were the result of some fortunate accident, and, as it were, the unfought gift of heaven. Few of them were foreseen, and few of them systematically pursued. The discovery of Columbus was all his own. It was the effect of rational deduction, the offspring of a profound and penetrating mind. But genius, like his, is a flower rare to be seen, and blows, like the aloe, but once in an hundred years.

It is not my intention to detail the future conduct of this great man: his persevering exertions to extend the work he had begun—the wisdom of his establishments—his dignity under persecution, or the numerous virtues of his private life—in all, he was himself—great, original and sublime! yet Europe saw him dishonored and in chains, and meanly bestowed a Florentine adventurer to bestow his name on the world discovered by Columbus.

The beneficial effects of the discovery of America are visible and striking. To trace and illustrate these would be a grateful task; but the day, which hastens to its close, and the limits assigned me, prohibit a particular detail. Suffice it, therefore, to observe, that this great event enlarged the bounds of human knowledge, and opened a wider field to the view of the philosophic mind. Cosmography was improved, navigation advanced, distant voyages rendered familiar, and the whole globe laid open to all the beneficial effects of an enterprising commerce. The precious metals which flowed into Europe from the mines of Peru and Potofi, gave a new spring to the industry, and meliorated the manners of mankind. The native productions of America, by augmenting the means of subsistence, have contributed to the increase of mankind, and has given to Europe a capacity of supporting twice as many inhabitants as it could subsist before. To the science of medicine it has rendered essential aid, and has enriched the materia medica with the most powerful febrifuge in nature; and last, but not least, it has afforded an asylum to the oppressed of all nations. America, hidden for ages, is laid open to view, at the very time, when liberty, "hunted down in the Old World," was panting for the asylum she found in the New. Hither, she retired with our stern forefathers—here she preserved her sacred fires—here she beheld her patriot sons grow bold in her cause, till in the fullness of time, she announced herself to the world, and establishes her empire forever.

Oh! if amidst the sublime contemplations of a brighter world, the happiness of America can still interest the spirit of Columbus. With what elevation of mind must he behold the growing greatness of this New World. He sees that virtue and science are the broad foundation on which its prosperity must rest; and he rejoices to behold the numerous seminaries of learning which grace our land, and smile on the illustrious characters who patronize and support them.

[Here followed the valedictory addresses to the Trustees, President, Faculty and Students of the College.]

Among these we have the pleasure of seeing your Excellency*, and you, Rev. and worthy gentlemen.†—To your peculiar patronage are committed, the important interests of yonder seminary; and we who have just received its first honors, are bound to acknowledge your attention to its welfare. To extend the empire of science, and spread its blessings "o'er a smiling land," are the benevolent objects of your disinterested labours. How successful you have been, let the merit of our predecessors declare! Those who have shone in the Senate and in the field—those whose eloquence blazes at the bar, or beams from the sacred desk—whose talents adorn a public, and whose virtues endear a private life.—Those—those are your eulogiums, and leave the feebleness of language far behind them. Oh! may we, while we read the distinguished names that adorn the records of Nassau-hall, from that of her earliest child, the eloquent, the illustrious Stockton, whose memory is still dear within these walls, down to those of the youngest of her sons. May we, whose names shall be recorded with theirs, like them, do honor to your care. Say, my beloved friends, while we recollect the virtues of those who have gone before us, do not our hearts burn within us, to emulate their worth? Yes, Reverend and worthy Gentlemen, we feel a generous ambition to repay your care, by a life of usefulness; and deeply impressed with a sense of our obligation, we bid you respectfully—Farewell.

* The Governor of the State.

† The Trustees of the College.

[The foregoing elegant Address, is re-published, by request, from the American Daily Advertiser.]

FOR THE GAZETTE OF THE UNITED STATES.

THE REPUBLICAN.—No. VI.

THE people of this country certainly had several great objects in view, which they hoped to attain the more easily by adopting the new constitution. What were those objects? Establishing public credit was certainly one, and a principal one. To say nothing about the justice due to individuals and the wise policy in the long run, for a nation to perform its promises, it is plain that there is nothing to be got nor saved even at present by the foulest trick a government could play, short of blotting out the public debt at once. For good credit has proved already of more value than any saving that could have been made by cheating. By means of it the rate of interest is reduced both at home and abroad.—One per cent. interest saved is equal to a sixth part of the public debt forgiven or released to the people of the United States.—We pay less than five per cent. now; formerly we paid six or even more. So far then the constitution and the revival of credit have answered the expectations of the people when they ratified it. It has lessened their burdens at least a sixth.—This is not all—we can borrow even at home now at five per cent. The United States Bank has actually lent to government at that rate and a large sum too. This capacity is useful every way, to begin with paying off our debt, and to provide for present and future emergencies. This power to borrow easily and on good terms is no light matter, and will not be thought so by those who remember the distresses of the late war. America had need of all its faculties to sustain it; every nervous cord was strained and overstrained till it had lost its spring—yet all was want, confusion and distress; the army had neither bread nor shirts nor shoes.—What would not such a government and such a state of credit as we now possess have been deemed worth could we then have enjoyed them? Would not such a weight thrown into our scale while the balance hung doubtful have been expected to turn it in our favor.—Much of the expenses of the war might have been prevented by an orderly government relying for supplies on ready money. A National Bank at such a time operating like that of the United States would have been inestimable.—That of North-America, under every disadvantage was found very beneficial.

Our liberty may be put a second time at risk, and a wife nation, pursuing the principle of self-preservation, ought to prepare every means of security. It was the saying of a good Prince that he chose his subjects should keep their money in their own pockets, for he would govern them according to their affections that he could command it all when necessary for the exigencies of the nation. Congress by pursuing honest measures for the support of credit bring every dollar in a condition to be called for when wanted to secure the liberty and safety of the country.

This then was the point to be gained: It was the great immediate interest of the people to gain it. There is nothing fanciful, no round about distant conjecture to be made much of in order to prove what has been asserted. For want of a good government and good credit, our debt was going on even in time of peace, heaping interest on principal—all the interest only amounted to no less than thirteen millions of dollars. Congress has caused the growing interest to be paid regularly, and already the sum of two millions four hundred thousand dollars of the debt is sunk. As our imports are increasing to a surprising degree, the revenue will become in a few years equal to paying off immense sums of the debt. It may safely be asserted that no nation in the world is more able to pay off its debt, or has manifested a stronger disposition to do it; perhaps considering what is due and how much is actually paid off, no nation has made greater progress. When it is considered that the government is new and the revenue of very recent operation, the people judging from what has been done have no small cause to confide in the power and intentions of Congress to free them from debt.

It is strange to hear men talk of the debt as they do—as if Congress had made it, for the convenience of having one; as if the first duty of Congress and the principal expectation of the people were a trick of State. Neither the debt nor the occasion of it are yet forgotten. Therefore this suggestion against the good intentions of Congress in providing for it may be disregarded.

When we framed the new government we expected to see the trade and manufactures of our own country protected and encouraged. The duty on imported fabrics has eminently advanced our manufactures; so far the expectation of the people has been realized; by this means we are fater than formerly. In case of a war, an army might be clothed, and furnished with gun-powder and military stores chiefly from our own workshops and mills. To those who remember how wretchedly we began and indeed carried on the war, these considerations will seem weighty. Our trade and navigation have risen in consequence of national protection to a pitch that was never before attained.

A small force is kept up to defend the frontiers against the Indians.—To provide for the common defence and protection is one of the duties which the people have enjoined upon Congress by the constitution; yet this little army, not half a match, says experience, for the Indians, is an overmatch, says cowardice or folly, for the freemen of the country, those freemen who laughed at British and hireling German armies.

These were the duties of the government. America had a right to exact from their rulers a performance of them. The public expected, and impatiently too, to see them performed. They are

performed, successfully and without oppression to the country. On the contrary, the country is growing in wealth and people faster than ever was known at any former period.

Certain persons however write, not very calmly, against all these measures, and those who supported them, and those who execute them.—They prove that they are antirepublican measures and founded in ill designs against liberty. They are told that their arguments conclude against the constitution, as they accuse Congress of the crime of doing what the constitution made their specific duty, and what all America expected. They complain of this answer as severe and not just. They say they are friends to the constitution, but opposed to the measures alluded to. It will not be easy however, to persuade us that men are in their hearts friendly to the constitution, and yet enemies to the measures conforming to it, and to the sense of America when it was adopted.—Be that as it may, the people have the happiness to see their hopes realized and their condition every day improving.

FROM THE MARYLAND JOURNAL.

TO THE PEOPLE OF MARYLAND.

A PUBLICATION, in the Maryland Journal and Baltimore Advertiser, of last Tuesday, signed "A Citizen," contains the following paragraph: "We all, as men of gratitude, are, I doubt not, interested in the re-appointment of the present worthy President; but as men, who have a sense of equality and a disgust of supercilious superiority, are, I am in hopes, linked as a strong chain against the Vice-President.—In fact, taking such for granted, permit me to recommend Charles Carroll, of Carrollton, Esq. as meriting the appointment of Vice-President."

To a recommendation so pointed and unexpected, in Maryland, as that to turn out the Vice-President, it may not be thought unreasonable to offer a few remarks for consideration.

I observe, my fellow-citizens, in the first place, that those men in the several states, who have been opposed to our constitution, have ever since its establishment, incessantly applied themselves to depreciate the character of Mr. ADAMS; because his abilities and principles were formidable to their views and ambition; and because to prevent his re-election would be a point gained over the constitution itself. Little sagacity is requisite to perceive, that every man of ability, who can be turned out of the administration, or kept out of Congress, adds strength to their cause and vigour to their hopes; and that against the most eminent of those their heaviest batteries have been raised, and their principal mines sprung. To prove the justness of this charge, I appeal to your recollection for the miscellaneous publications you have read, and travelling whispermongers you have heard, calculated to destroy the well-earned fame of Mr. ADAMS. Some of you are also acquainted with what virulence an anti-government faction have treated a HAMILTON, whose attachment to the constitution is unquestionable, and whose virtue and integrity are equalled only by his great capacity and extraordinary powers. From the master-workman in this craft, down to the meanest of his laborers, each in his way, or in his district, has something to object, to insinuate, to flatter, that may irritate sensibility, and lead to resignation; or that, floating on the popular gale, may infect that general esteem and confidence he possesses, which no patriot has ever acquired with greater purity of conduct, or held by a more unexceptionable title. From the same quarter also you see sometimes to descend, upon the President himself, a thin and subtle mist, which would soon increase to the solidity of absolute censure, was not the radiance of the character too powerful to be obscured, and the veneration of the people too strong to bear an open attack with impunity. These circumstances are notorious; they are to be found in print; they are in the mouth of almost every antifederal from New-Hampshire to Georgia; they are the ingredients of their incantations, and the spells by which they would transform our best patriots into our greatest enemies!—These circumstances, taken together, prove, beyond a possibility of doubt, a systematic and organized plan to drive from the administration of our affairs all those who have rescued us from anarchy, and restored us to the dignity of men, and the various advantages of an efficient government. It will not be said, that known friends to the constitution and the laws are engaged in the combination against Mr. ADAMS. I deny that any such are engaged, and call upon the opposition to name a single individual of that description, save, perhaps, a few who know Mr. ADAMS through the medium only of the misrepresentations of his enemies; a delusion which, in men of candour, must yield to better information.

I observe, in the second place, that Mr. ADAMS has been as firm and uniform a patriot as America can boast to have reared in her bosom. In the first years of our revolution, when the colonies stood alone against Great Britain, he acted a bold and distinguished part in favor of the liberties of the people. Congress, sensible of his merit as a politician and patriot, created him Minister to the United Netherlands. His celebrated memorial to their High Mightinesses, the large loans of money he procured under the eye of a British Ambassador,

and their treaty with us and acknowledgment of our independence, which cost them the capture of St. Eustatius and a war with England, form a pyramid of services far more interesting to mankind than those built of stone by the Kings of Egypt. View him next as joint Minister to the court of France, and you see him conspicuously eminent for watchfulness, industry and talents, especially in negotiating and bringing to a close the treaty of peace with England, which gained from her commissioners a greater extent of territory for the United States, than had ever entered into the mind of the most sanguine American to expect. Having finished these high trusts, he was appointed Minister to the court of London, where, finding that he could not induce them to listen to a commercial treaty, on terms of equal privileges, like an honest citizen, true to the dignity and interests of his country, he requested of Congress leave to return; previous to which, he suggested measures, since adopted by our government, that have drawn from England a Minister, to treat formally here of subjects she would not there condescend to discuss. The knowledge he acquired, in these several missions, of the interests and views of the courts of Europe, fit him in a peculiar manner to fill, to the greatest advantage, the station he now occupies, where these interests and views, as they respect the United States, come so often under deliberation. To these facts may be added, that in his letters from England, and on his return to America, he expressed not an equivocal, but decided, approbation of the constitution of the United States; and that in his writings he is liberal in praise of those state-constitutions formed as ours with checks and branches, and divisions of power; those real barriers against encroachments upon liberty, hasty projects, and dangerous ebullitions of popular bodies. Take for example his introduction to *Abbe de Mably's* observations on the government and laws of America. "If human wisdom (says Mr. Adams) can ensure the duration of the only forms of government which are consistent with the dignity of human nature, the American constitutions bid fair to be lasting; nor can any thing, except an excessive partiality to the ancients, prevent our discerning their infinite superiority to the boasted republics of Sparta and Rome." Again, "it is possible that some few additional regulations, arising from local and other accidental circumstances, might be made with advantage; but of the exact propriety of these, it is impossible for any to judge, who are not immediately on the spot: And the principles of these constitutions are so obviously excellent, that every one who understands the nature, and loves the enjoyment of liberty, will acknowledge them to surpass every thing the world has hitherto seen."

Such, my fellow-citizens and countrymen, are the sentiments of Mr. ADAMS respecting our governments, where reign superiority of rights with personal equality, and distinction of office without nobility of birth. Where, then, would be American gratitude, were the friends of order and good government to be "linked as a chain against him," whose principles, or political creed, is no more than the expression or picture of our own constitution?

I would further remark, that to bring forward, at this late hour (unconsulted too) one of the best and worthiest of our citizens as his competitor, wears rather a doubtful and invidious aspect. Is it done, it may be asked, in order to deprive Mr. ADAMS of ten votes, and thereby defeat his election; or from a sincere desire to have Mr. Carroll elected? If the latter, "Citizen" ought to be convinced himself, and be possessed of facts to convince others, that a sufficient number of electors, in the different states, will vote to place Mr. Carroll in the Vice-President's chair; for on no other ground could any rational Marylander hazard a vote against Mr. ADAMS, or venture to risque losing his election without a certainty of carrying Mr. Carroll's. But can any of you think it likely, or even possible, that the antifederalists of New-York, Pennsylvania, Virginia, &c. would desert, for example, Governor Clinton, their favourite, to give their votes for so distinguished, so decided, so unshaken and incorruptible a federalist as Mr. Carroll? To change Mr. Adams for Mr. Carroll, would neither promote their views nor increase their numbers in the Senate; who then among you so credulous as to imagine that they would give a single vote to accomplish it?—Whoever can believe so, knows little of their temper, and still less of their tricks. No, my fellow-citizens, Mr. Carroll or Mr. Adams suit not their purposes, and are not to their taste; nor will they ever vote for either with a view to their election. It is a very different character they mean to carry, and your esteem for Mr. Carroll is used only as a convenient engine to withdraw you from Mr. Adams.

To these observations I think I may venture to subjoin, that it is not to disgrace a worthy and patriotic citizen that will draw Mr. Carroll into the lists of competition; and to predict, that if he ever becomes a candidate for continental favour, his merit and high qualifications will raise him to a more dignified station. But who can look forward to that moment, when we shall stand in need of all his merits and all our courage; when the United States will be convulsed to their centre by embrio Caesars, struggling for empire, and scarcely saved by the