

immediately from hunting to agriculture—This seems to have been the case with the ancient Greeks and the Peruvians. Others, in a certain stage of their progression, practise something that belongs to every state of improvement, without taking a character from either—This happens generally when the transition is making from one period of improvement to another. The progress of nations in refinement is by no means equal; a combination of natural and moral causes may accelerate or retard their advancement—A favorable climate, a genial soil, a healthy atmosphere, rapid population, security from invasion, and domestic peace, hasten their progress in improvement—while, on the contrary, circumstances the reverse of these have an opposite effect.

Again, the neighborhood of an improved and social people—frequent and friendly intercourse with them—connections by marriage, by treaty and alliance—a mutual communication of favors and exchange of commodities—and especially all exertions made directly for this purpose, soften the native ferocity of their temper—humanize their affections—excite the tender movements of the soul, and render them susceptible of liberal sentiments and delicate sensations—inspire them with a taste for society, and greatly accelerate the progress of national refinement.

From this subject we learn, 1st. That the civilization of a savage nation may be greatly accelerated by the concurrence of foreign causes—and 2d. That all attempts for this purpose, should be conformable to the natural order and progress of society.

FROM A LATE IRISH PAPER.

CURIOUS LETTER.

[The following letter was found, two months ago, in a porter-house, and we give it to our readers as a curiosity.]

My Dear Mr. Printers,

I ME a very plain man, I hav no lattin and verie littel English, tho I can tauke Irish as faste as any man in Munster, except my wif, who to be sure can tauke me def; and afterwards tauke oon till Ime tired of hearing hur. But tho Ime not booklarnd, yet father Tedy O'Rorke, who is a deepe skollard, often tells me, when Ime giving him a jorum of whiskey punch; that tho Ime ignorent, yet I hav a goode undurstanding. But if this be aule bliarney, and if I have no undurstanding at aule, this neede nat hindor me from riting abaute pollyticks, becaise this is a thing that every bodie undurstands. But it is time for me to be after telling you what it is I mane. The society of United Irish men are sartinely my fine peepel; they can't but noe every thing, for they hav amung um aule professions, atarnies, and bruers, and freymakars, and docturs, and grand jontlemen, who ware formerly parlament men, and if they ware able to by burros, wud be the seme agen; and they hav likewise amung um, priests, and prospiterion ministurs, and etheists, and aule the othur religions in the kingdom. Now this society tells us that the Frenshe revolution is the most charmin, vartuous, noble biznise that the world ever sawe, and that we aut to imitate it as faste as we can. But on the othur hand, ther ere toppin bookmakers who swere that it is the most abominable, hellish worke that ever was done sence Addeem was crifened, and that if we atempt any such thing, we shall destroy aule Ireland, and what is worser, distroy ourselves. Now by the vestment, these grete peepel bodder me so, by their palauvering on both sides, that I don't noe what to think of it, at all at all; and therefor I send you my own thauts about the subject—I think then that ten years is littel enuff for giving the Frenshe revolution a fare triel. If we finde in the year 1800 that it has broat to the Frenshmen, riches, and honor, and happynefs, and all that, then in the name of the blesit virgin, let us aule drawe our spedes, and stanns, and shillies, and hav a grand bodderation of our aun. But iff we see that it has made the Frenshmen poor and infimous, and wicket, then lett us remane snug, and passible, and content ourselves with wouunteering, and singing trezon, and drinking rebellion, jett to sho that we are breve Irish boys, but not carry the joak any farther. In the mane time, until that hapy yeer shal come, in which we may possibly have the pleasure of cutting one anoders throats, lett us be industrus, and ern a grete dele of money, and save more. For tho England, to be shure, is no mach for us, yet in case of a war wid hur, we shud want sum money.—War is like a lawhute; and I know, to my grief, what a lawhute is, for I was almost ruind by gaining a cauze against a gossip of mine, that cheted me; but the devel shal have all my gossups, men, wimen, and childrin, befor I go to law with one of um agen. War requires money as bad as a lawhute: withoute money our generuls and cornits, and granny deers wood'nt fite; without mony our preefits wood'nt prey us out of purgatory, when we were kilt; nay, our drumminers wood no moar rattle their sliks without mony, then Counfillor O'Curran, or Counfillor O'Driscoll wood rattle their tungs without their hire. When we hav got mony, then wil be the time to invade Englonde, take Lannon, bring it hoam with us, and bild it in Belfast. My deer countrymen, every one of you noes parfely, that you are a wize nashion; therefor, my sweet duels, take a fool's advice, and be quiet.

I am, my deer printur, your farvent, to cummand til deth.

PATRICK O'FLAHERTY.

Balt-booby, near Tipperary,
Oggus the 15th, 1792.

Foreign Intelligence.

FRANCE.
NATIONAL CONVENTION.
MARCH 19.

THE ministers for the home department laid before the convention several papers respecting the disturbances which broke out lately in the departments of La Vendee, La Loire, Inferieure, &c. referred to the committee of general safety.

The minister for foreign affairs announced, that several communes, the population of which amounted to forty or forty-five thousand persons, had expressed a desire to be united to the French republic.

Julien moved, that all those who had been guilty of profanation in churches should be prosecuted before the tribunals.—Decreed.

The administrators of the district of Vendee informed the convention, that being threatened by a body of rebels, they had called forth the national guards of their district, to the number of from two to three hundred men.

The municipal officers of Rochelle announced, that instead of 240 volunteers which that place ought to furnish, 263 had offered themselves for the defence of their country; they added, that the patriotic gifts already received, amounted to forty six millions, in gold, silver, or assignats, and that the women were bringing in their rings, bracelets and other jewels. The convention ordered, that honorable mention should be made in their journals of this patriotic spirit.

Different bodies of new raised volunteers filed off through the hall in the course of this sitting; and swore to live free or die, amidst the acclamations of the convention.

MARCH 20.

A letter from the commissioners in the department of Mont Blanc, announced two advantages gained by the French troops. They had taken an important post in the lower Alps, where the Piedmontese lost 27 prisoners. The other affair took place at the bottom of Mount-Cenis, from which the Piedmontese were dislodged, with the loss of 30 men killed.

The minister for foreign affairs requested the Convention to take into consideration the state of the French who are in Spain; and who he said were subjected to the most cruel proscription.—The Convention ordered the diplomatic committee to give in, during the sitting, a report on the measures to be pursued for affording protection to the French in foreign countries.

Letter from a Commissioner in Belgium, to Salangron, a member of the Convention.

Brussels, March 18.

“Good news, my dear Salangron! Dumourier for two days has been butchering the Austrians and their cavalry. I hope my next letter will be dated from Liege. A considerable force is arrived here from the north to guard the Belgian towns.”

(Signed) “GOSSUIN.”

ANDERNACH, (Ger.) March 16.

Since morning, we have heard a heavy cannonade, which appears to have proceeded from the environs of Mentz. All the boatmen who arrive here assure us, that a numerous body of Prussian troops crossed the Rhine on the 9th inst. near St. Goar, to cut off all communication on that side between the French and the city of Mentz.

H A G U E, March 22.

Last night dispatches were received by their High Mightinesses from the Prince of Hesse Cassel, Governor of Maestricht, dated March 20th, from which we learn, that a most bloody & decisive battle was fought on Monday the 18th inst. between the Austrian army, headed by the Generalissimo Prince of Saxe-Cobourg, and the French forces under the command of Gen. Dumourier.

The following are the particulars which have transpired respecting this important event:

On the 17th instant the French

drove the Austrians from Tirel-mont, after a most heroic resistance, and with very considerable loss.

Flushed with this success, Gen. Dumourier made preparations to attack the Austrians, on the 18th, between Landen and Dormel, at the distance of six English miles from St. Tron, where the Imperial Royal armies had their head quarters.—The attack commenced at seven o'clock in the morning, and continued, with the most dreadful slaughter, until half after five in the afternoon, when, through the superior tactic manœuvres of the Austrians, and the consummate skill and intrepid gallantry of the Prince of Saxe-Cobourg, Count de Clairfayt, the Archduke Charles, the Prince of Wurtemberg, and other Imperial Generals, and the unexpected arrival of a corps of Austrian Cuirassiers, Hussars, Chasseurs and Dragoons, the ranks of the French were broke through from all quarters, and the latter obliged to take flight, and leave the Austrians masters of the field.

Clairfayt and the Archduke Charles performed prodigies of valour, and pursued the French fugitives, thousands of whom were cut in pieces.

The battle of Landen will form an epoch in the annals of history, and being a decisive pitched engagement, must be followed by the immediate evacuation of the Austrian Netherlands.

The French fought like lions, but their desperate fury, which pierced twice through the left wing of the Imperialists, could not avail against the superior tactics of the Austrians.

The Imperial army broke up in the morning of the 19th, to pursue their glorious career, and it being impossible for the French dispersed hosts to rally, the small-corps headed by Dumourier, which made its retreat to Louvain, will be cut off, and the Austrians must by this time be masters of Brussels. The National Guards, to the number of 70,000 men, are drawing together, but having neither discipline nor order among them, they must soon fall victims to their irresistible conquerors.

Gen. Beaulieu is before Dinant, a few leagues from Namur, and has rendered himself master of LaRoche and Rochefort, where the French sustained a loss of upwards of 3,000 men.

Letter from the Governor of Williamstadt to their High Mightinesses.

High and Mighty Lords,

“I have the honor to report to your High Mightinesses, that I have been invaded by the French troops, since the 23d of February last. On the 20th, at five o'clock at night, one Berneron, calling himself Camp Marschal in the pretended Republic of France, sent me a summons, to which I answered in writing, ‘far from intending to give up the place which was entrusted to me, I should defend it as a man of honor.’ Accordingly on the next day, about 5 o'clock in the morning, the enemy commenced a very lively bombardment of this fortress; attacked it, at the same time, with red hot balls: bombs, and grenades. This lasted, with the interval of some moments, until the 9th of this month, when, at 11 o'clock in the morning, I received a second summons, to which I gave again my refusal in writing. Upon this refusal, the cannonade recommenced in the most violent manner, and it continued, at intervals, till this moment, 10 o'clock in the morning, when I perceived that the enemy had retired. I sent directly a detachment, which found the batteries of the enemy abandoned, with some cannon, two mortars, and a great quantity of amunition and siege utensils. I have had the whole transported into the town.

“High and Mighty Lords,

“I cannot sufficiently praise the conduct of the brave garrison, which is under my orders, as well as that of the Burgesses. The town has suffered much. There is not one house, which is not damaged by the bullets of the enemy. I shall have

the honor to send your high mightinesses a more detailed report, returning myself to the verbal report, which the lieutenant of the regiment of Saxe-Gotha, Esau, the bearer of the above, shall have the honor to make to your high mightinesses. He and lieutenant Staal, of Holstein, of the regiment of Calmette, served as volunteers, during the siege of the town, and conducted themselves in a manner, which does them much honor.”

LONDON, March 23.

General Bontzelar, the gallant commander at Williamstadt, is in the 68th year of his age.

Colonel Tarleton has offered to raise a regiment of light cavalry.

Major Hanger has made a proposal to government, rather of a singular nature, to raise a corps of men from among the convicts. He has received his answer, that at present government can give no countenance to his application.

Commerce. In the reign of Elizabeth, the largest vessel in the port of Liverpool, was only 40 tons burthen, and the tonnage of its whole trade no more than 133. In the year 1766, the people of Liverpool had 400 vessels, and their average burthen was 150 tons. The accumulation of two centuries was in the proportion of 269 to 1.

Can it be believed—Dumourier lately published a canning proclamation at Brussels, expressive of the deeply impressed sense the National Convention of France had of the prophane insults which had been offered to the Belgic places of worship!—What a different kind of language this is to that which he held out when advancing towards the Dutch territory.

The deserters who have poured into Dunkirk, Calais, &c. from the French armies, are supposed by some to be no other than the Sans Culottes, which it is said Dumourier disbanded at Brussels.

Quere, Did not the Sans Culottes disband themselves, and afterwards the cunning general makes a merit of doing that which was already done to his hands, or how came the deserters in question possessed of arms, and above all artillery? It should appear, cowards and knaves as they were, that he dismissed them with all the honors of war!

The French papers of the 15th and 16th inst. are entirely silent respecting any capture of vessels. We may therefore conclude that the report of three of our East Indiamen having fallen into their hands is unfounded; for they would not have been slow in announcing such an event.

The conquest of Holland, in attempting which the French have lost the flower of their army, and the whole of their spirit, was promised in their Convention by Isnard exactly in these terms, “Amsterdam est la veille d'ouvrier ses portes a Dumourier.” It was in the sitting of Monday, the 11th inst. that these ever memorable words were used.

Two Provincial regiments are to be raised in America, viz: One in Nova-Scotia—Colonel—Gov. Wentworth—Lt. Col. Borde, and Major Kearnez. One in New-Brunswick.—Col.—Gov. Carlton, Lt. Col. Robinson, an American gentleman—Major, Murray. They are to be in service, in the absence of the regular troops, who are ordered to the West-Indies.

The Fox frigate of 36 guns, is lost on the Gunfleet sand in the Swin.

MARCH 26.

The English fleet goes out with singular advantage in point of signals and manœuvring, the enemy's ships being wholly officiated with captains and mates of merchantmen, who may no doubt be able navigators, but certainly totally ignorant of military tactics; besides, want of proper subordination in their fleet, is a mill-stone about their neck, which must inevitably destroy them.

We have accounts from Jersey, as late as Friday, which state, that no descent on these islands had then been attempted.

The force the Islanders have to oppose to an invading enemy, con-