

FOR THE GAZETTE.

Mr. Feau, It is recommended to the public spirited citizens to establish a Robinhood debating Society—Important points of legislation could be settled cheaply at a tavern—Doubts could be unravelled, and the threads of sophistry unravelled. Generous wine would produce generous toasts, and banish the forbidding spirit of calumny and detraction. The orators, after having ventilated their lungs by discharging the inflammable air in speeches against the abuses of our vile government, the gambling money schemes, the bank speculations, courtly covetousness and pandemoniac abominations of the crew in office, could sit down to rest their weary and disgusted virtue with a rubber at whist. This debating society would thus promote the cause of republican purity and simplicity of manners, and bind the true brotherhood more closely together. It would add true eloquence and make it careful to ministers, by dulling it frequently for the combat. The symphonies of Bedlam, the ferocious screams, the ear-piercing yells could be nicely practised over beforehand, like the rehearsal of a tragedy. But in these exhibitions a man really half crack-brained would out do any mimic. By introducing whist after the debates of the Society, a favorite amusement would be so blended with severe duty, that the declaimers against gambling and speculation might thus, if the cards were favorable, pick their wages out of their work. It is no small advantage for any scheme to pay its way, and execute itself as this does. There is no need of fines to compel attendance. The reformers would throng to the meetings, especially towards the close of the debates. These are the chief recommendations of the scheme. In time there may be still greater advantages derived from it. Congress has been a diligent strait going body in times past, where all was brotherly love and harmony. No time was lost in attempts to embarrass necessary measures—Ignorance never grated there, and malice never boiled over. But if it should happen hereafter that a knot of ten or a dozen factious ambitious men, not caring a straw for the interest, honor, or peace of the nation, but raging against two or three public officers—should embarrass every thing but do nothing themselves—should start enquiries to make the people suspicious and angry without any grounds, and then take special care to prevent their coming to any decision—should bawl for information which they have already got, and stop all the common business of the treasury to send them volumes of copies of documents, to prove what every one well knew before—so that a whole session of Congress should be wasted, and the great business of enacting a plan to sink the public debt should be postponed.—Surely if this should ever be the misfortune of this country, it would be wise by way of prevention, now to establish a separate society, where all this mock business could be transacted—Sham motions could there be made more cheaply for the public, and with less risk of the general peace and harmony than in the House of Representatives.—For this society would let off the meanest and most malignant passions of the human heart, and the faction having thus discharged their gall, could appear decent in a public assembly. It would be a kind of waste gate to carry the frothy torrent harmlessly away, without endangering the mill-dam.

Philadelphia, good men and true, you are so happy as to read and hear the oracles of wisdom delivered by the haters of the constitution, the minister and funding system—the word-merchants who shuffle and cut in your city, the huxters and hawkers of cant phrases about aristocracy and corruption in the administration, and who keep a shop to distribute grievances to the people, show that your city is worthy of its rank as the metropolis, and do some good to your country by setting up and supporting such a society, which hereafter in degenerate times may save our money and our union. For if it should happen that our pure-virtue should run low in spite of all that our gamblers and the ambitious bawlers, who cry, DO SOMETHING FOR THE PEOPLE, (meaning themselves) can do to keep the flock good.—The Congress house would certainly rank below the dignity of a bear garden. Half a dozen men who would stick at nothing after the death of virtue, would keep the country in a flame.—They would circulate any story no matter how false—declare that the administration is corrupt, and such as would “disgrace pandemonium”—and yet sit down satisfied with big words, without proving who is corrupt, the act of corruption, and the circumstances which would turn the officer out and bring him to punishment.—Since eloquence disdains facts, like her filler poetry, she would be tame if she was accurate—and like her filler, she is the most sublime when she is the maddest. To proceed with the terrible change that Congress may undergo. It may happen hereafter, that enquiries will be begun and kept up as long as jealousy and resentment can be kept alive by means of them. Papers may be called for to make the people believe there is a great mystery in these affairs, and a cheat of five millions found out. This half dozen party leaders would pretend that they have a great deal of merit because they do all in their power to blacken the fame of the just and able servants of the people, and when the calumny should be refuted, and their base arts and ignorance confounded by a complete account of all the transactions of the administration, they will not be ashamed to say, all we had in view was truth and the good of the people, who ought to be made acquainted with the true state of their concerns.

Human affairs are liable to many changes—it is the part of prudence to guard against such events before they happen. Otherwise the most profligate unprincipled faction may tear the peace and quiet of this country to rags. Nothing is so promising a preservative as a debating society. Those who make speeches, not laws, who do all they can to prevent their being made, and who speak not to the House but to the galleries, could not object to performing all this in the club or society. It is no objection that the club would have no legislative authority to finish business—for that would exactly suit those whose labor it is to hinder its being done. They would enjoy every other advantage. The debates of the society could be published, and the work of defaming the officers of government, and of kindling jealousies, suspicions and

deadly feuds in the community, need not stand still a minute. Besides, the men who watch for the people to recover the millions which they imagine have been filched out of the strong box, would naturally approve a scheme which leaves to the mischief-makers the full use of their advantages, and favors to the public the six dollars a day.—In addition to all this mass of benefits to be derived from the plan, we have a striking example to our hands of the advantages arising to the people from clubs to govern the governors of a country.

FOR THE GAZETTE.

ELKANAH to JONATHAN. [See Nat. Gaz. June 1st.]

OH, JONATHAN! and art thou grown So wondrous fond of place, That not content with one alone, Thou fain would'st have a brace. Interpreter of unknown tongues Thou long hast been—we know it— In verse too would'st thou strain thy lungs With lies? oh muscleless Poet! To many a lie in humble prose Thy voice is wont to swear; And once, to shame thy patron's foes, Did'st lie before the May'r. Thy pittance for that lie was small, Thy howls yearn for more; And is't to great folks, one and all, Thou offer'st thy store. And yet the great folks to thy proffer, I think will not be warm, Because they seldom take an offer Which can but do them harm. Yes, friend! tho' hungry be thy maw, Thy suit will be rejected; For who would heed his lies a straw, Whose oaths have been detected.

ELKANAH,

FOR THE GAZETTE.

Q. C. I. F.

WITH every righteous government at odds, I swear by all the goddesses and gods, That where'er laws and justice send me, A restless disposition shall attend me. The soil that gave me birth I found too hot, And many a legal threshing there I got. My mind a storm, I never could be quiet— My only sustenance was mobs and riot— Until a pack, with wigs and gowns, and bands, And arms so long, none could escape their hands, To check the boiling of my patriot fury, Condemn'd me by that bane of rogues, a jury; But thank kind fortune, I escap'd a jail, And gave them for security—leg-bail. Free from their cursed gripe, to this bleak shore, A friendly bark my precious carcass bore. But here, alas, I find it to my cost, That all my virtuous deeds are labor lost; The people free, and happy, and well fed, Can't be persuaded that they have no bread. Or, that for plundering there exists a cause, So long as truth and justice prop the laws. And tho' th' industrious live in peace and ease, Some folks I find can't do just as they please; Courts, Judges, Juries, Lawyers, and such things, Contriv'd for rogues, are here, altho' no kings. This will not do—the Devil whom I serve, Knows, if the times are tranquil I must starve; My plan is therefore laid—when more at leisure, I'll tell you what success attends each measure.

Foreign Intelligence.

LISLE, April 5.

YESTERDAY, six cowardly deserters had the honor of being shaved close to the shoulders, in the new machine, by order of Gen. Feau.

BERLIN, March 5.

A few days since, several French deserters presented themselves to the Duke Frederick of Brunswick, who received them kindly, gave them a few crowns, and ordered them to a particular station to try them. They had hardly begun to do their duty but they tried to excite the Prussian soldiers to desert. They were immediately conducted to the fortress of Wesel. It was observed that these soldiers still preferred the sin of liberty, for they addressed the Duke of Brunswick with “my General”—which astonished German ears accustomed to the titles of Highness and my Lord.

PARIS, April 8.

SITTING OF THE JACOBIENS.

April 6.

It was proposed to send a deputation from the Club to accompany the Commissioners of the Convention into all the departments, to disseminate the “holy morality of the Jacobins.” This measure was opposed by all the leading members; for two excellent reasons, 1st, because the “fraternal debt” of the Club was, already so great, that they could not bear any new expenses; and 2dly, that their deputies would certainly be massacred; for the Jacobins were held in the greatest abhorrence through all the departments. That they were regarded by the whole nation (the Sans Culottes of Paris excepted) as a band of assassins, who with Marat at their head, were wantonly spilling the blood of the purest patriots. These assertions were proved by letters

from all parts of the republic.—Marat said the Brissotists had deceived the nation, and that if the French had withdrawn their confidence from the Jacobins they were all fools.

April 8.—A deputation of the section of Bonconseil, read an address, which they were going to present to the Convention. The following is an extract: “Legislators, An infernal faction influences the Convention—a gang of villains are plotting and executing a counter-revolution. We demand in the name of the law, in the name of the people, that the Guadets, the Vergniaux, the Brissots, the Buzois, the Barbaroux, the Petions be driven from among you. Mount Sinai! on thee the Most High reposes himself; in thee alone is founded our hope; then wilt thou deliver us from our enemies; but how long wilt thou suffer those Catalines in thy bosom! Ministers of an avenging God! deliver to the justice of the people his unfaithful mandatories!—And thou people! rise and crush the traitors who are in this assembly.” (Long & loud applause.) “Yes my friends and brothers, continued the orator, the people must help us again to cleanse the dung-hill of aristocracy.”

Albiste.—I applaud with all my heart the patriotism of those citizens; but while striving to serve us, they will embarrass us; it is not sufficient to demand the punishment of traitors; we must know them before we can judge them.—At these words, the tribunes, and all the Jacobins rose in a fury, crying, “We know them all, and will kill them all.”—After much confusion in the Club, Albiste recommenced with his last sentence; but was stopt again by loud murmurs. The Vice-President begs them to hear Albiste with moderation, and then refute him.—What! cries a hot patriot, foaming with rage, hear a moderate with moderation! Albiste continues, I am not a moderate, I subscribe to every thing you propose. It is true there are traitors in the Convention, but our denunciations ought not to condemn them; they must be judged by the law. For my own part I will not condemn Brissot and the rest on a mere suspicion. He was again interrupted by a cry of “down with the moderate.”—Ho rose once more, and said if he was wrong, it was by excess of zeal; promised to conform to the decisions of the Club; was now convinced the address was good, and declared he would support it. This repentance was now too late; a general hiss proved to him, that to act from reason was an unpardonable crime among the Jacobins.

Deslieux supported the petition with all his might. He pretended to prove that Petion, Brissot, &c. were the agents of Dumourier, and that they, with the other moderates, wanted to sacrifice the virtuous Egalite because his son was a traitor.

St. Just said, 1792, I told you there was but one man that stopp'd our progress, his head is fallen. We had better swim to liberty through oceans of aristocratic blood, than to see a single patriot receive a scratch. Albiste talks of forms and laws—as if any were to be observed in such a crisis. We must have blood, the country is in danger; Dumourier is gone but his satellites are among us; they must be delivered up to the revolutionary tribunal, and to the National Razor. (applauded with transport.)

NATIONAL CONVENTION.

MARCH 11.

M. Garnier.—Citizens! one of the greatest Counter-Revolutionists of St. Domingo, M. Blanchelande, is arrived in Paris a prisoner—he is charged with the blackest crimes—he has made it a practice to vex and persecute the patriots; he caused one of them named Boroco to be seized, and was ferocious enough to cause his satellites to cut him to pieces before his face. He has been known to go about, with his sword drawn, and with his own hand to massacre infants at the breasts of their mothers. I demand that M. Blanchelande be arraigned before the revolutionary tribunal.”

PORTSMOUTH, June 23.

By the Brig Industry, Capt. Frank, who touched at this port, on Wednesday last from Bristol, bound to Boston, we were favoured with a Bristol paper of May 9, from which we have extracted part of the following Late European Intelligence.

VIENNA, (Germany,) April 20.

HER Imperial Majesty was yesterday delivered of a Prince, who was this day baptized by the names of FERDINAND, CHARLES, LEOPOLD, JOSEPH, FRANCIS, MARCEL, LIN. His Sicilian Majesty, represented by his Ambassador the Marquis of Gallo, was the sole sponsor. After the ceremony there was a court, when the Nobility and Foreign Ministers had the honour to pay their respects to the Emperor, and to congratulate his Imperial Majesty on the birth of an heir.

PARIS, April 9.

AT four in the afternoon of yesterday the following Bulletin was delivered in the convention:

“Yesterday morning Philip Egalite was conveyed to the prison la Conciergerie, where he occupies the apartment which was once destined for the too celebrated Cardinal de Rohan. It is said, that on entering this apartment, Egalite fancied he perceived some partiality, some particular attention towards himself which might hurt the feelings of his fellow prisoners; and that he in consequence demanded for Citizen Egalite, the apartment a la Pistole; It will no doubt be granted him to-morrow.

“By the apartment a la Pistole is meant a particular room for which ten livres are paid at entrance. The furniture of this room consists of a table placed before a window, secured by iron bars, a chair of walnut wood, and a bed furnished with a bundle of straw, and over that a mattress of the thickness of a pancake that has not swelled in frying! At one of the sides of the apartment a la Pistole are two beams, the superior surface of which is usually stored with morsels of black mouldy bread, left there by malefactors condemned to the galleys, the gallows, or the wheel. The apartment a la Pistole looks into a superb square, in the middle of which rises a magnificent post that has appended to it a collar of superlative beauty. [By the description this would appear to be a kind of pillory] This collar is not like that of the cardinal de Rohan, enriched with the spoils of Golconda and Visapour; but in the eyes of Egalite possesses a pre-eminent merit; that of being fitted to all, of being alike calculated to adorn the neck of the descendant of St. Louis, and the son of a coachman.

NATIONAL CONVENTION.

APRIL 24.

A body of Citizens, petitioners, appeared before the Assembly—they announced that Marat had been acquitted by the Tribunal Extraordinary, and they begged permission to defile through the Assembly, to show to the Representatives of the people their joy to find Marat innocent!

Permission being granted, they entered without arms, in great numbers, of both sexes, and as many as could take possession of the unoccupied seats, the Tribunes and Citizens crying loudly, “Long live the Republic—Long live the Nation—Long live Marat!”

At the head of the Citizens were the Gendarmes, and the Municipal Officers. At length Marat arrived, and proceeded to take his seat; he had on his head a crown which he himself took off; he was embraced by all the Citizens, Women, and Deputies; after which he mounted the Tribune, and made the following speech:

“Citizens, You see a Representative of the people whose rights have been violated, but justice has been done him. I wear a new to espouse the cause of Equality, Liberty, and of the People.”

He was loudly applauded. The Cote droit, or minority of the Assembly, had entirely left the hall.

LONDON, May 9.

Extrait of a letter from Paris, April 21.

“Letters from Lyons announce that city to be in a most dreadful state of confusion; and those from Brittany contain Intelligence equally disagreeable. The 60 parishes encamped at Sormieres have, in answer to the third proclamation of the Commissioners of the Convention, published a declaration, in which they address themselves to the Commissioners in the name of the true and only God whom the latter have adored. In this piece they set forth their reliance on Providence in consequence of the justness of their cause; reprobate the designs and crimes of them and their contributors; and declare they will never, whilst they breathe, submit to their laws, or seek protection from them.