

Mr. DAY,

FROM the lamentable weakness and too evident corruption of human nature, parties seem to have prevailed with all their mournful effects, in every age and country. They have generally raged most, in those nations who have been understood and most enjoyed the natural and inalienable rights of man. We cannot be free, but we must become licentious. We are no longer delivered from the oppression of the few, than we assault each other; and seeing we cannot do violence to each other's persons or property, take effectual measures to diminish the enjoyments of the present existence, by disturbing, irritating and piercing the inward feelings. Indeed the extravagance of parties is often productive of effects more extensively baneful. Out of the excesses into which freemen have been hurried, by reason of their divisions, have grown up usurpations by one or more of that sovereignty, which resides only in the few, the equal and the regularly constituted Representation of the people. Should liberty escape this ruin, yet its comforts may be almost annihilated by the horrors of civil war. But should neither of these gigantic evils scourge a people for their political intemperance; yet the following ones cannot be avoided, viz.—A general and painful ferment in those passions, which God has wisely and kindly given us for our felicity, in an uninterrupted succession of the sweet emotions—a considerable diminution of the pleasures of social intercourse—ruptures between friends and sometimes between near relations—a disgusting exhibition of our own & our neighbors infirmities, a temporary but unjust forfeiture of one's good name, frequently very bitter sensations—and many more, which a knowledge of human nature will too easily bring to remembrance. All these burdensome taxes we impose on our souls, as soon as our persons and property are delivered from the oppressions of despotism. I am distressed, that freemen will not be free—that they seem not to know that the seat of felicity is the mind—and that, regardless of the pain we may suffer in that quarter, they glory only that their bodies and estates are exempt from tyranny—Is not this almost glorying in their shame?—Man then only rises to dignity, and may be pronounced free and happy, when he improves his mind, subdues his passions, controls his passions, and spends his life as the deity enjoys, in diffusing knowledge, virtue, harmony and bliss, to all his fellow creatures.

After wisdom and courage have delivered a nation from bondage, parties may exile felicity and enslave the soul.—But, say some, parties are absolutely necessary to a free state; and Montelquieu has attributed to them the preservation of Roman liberty and the extension of Roman glory. Superficial, indeed, must be the mind that, from the benefits arising from the collision of sentiments, pleads for the virulence and excesses of a party spirit. Much may be said in favor of parties and factions in a state, with all their disgusting and frequently pernicious effects: And, on the other hand, the pen of eloquence, of wisdom, and of virtue too, has been not a few times employed in favor of arbitrary power. So we often meet with romantic displays of the blessings of solitude; and many are this moment, especially in the religious world, fascinated with its all pleading charms. Yet I believe, there are few whose judgments prevail over their ignorance, prejudices or passions, but are persuaded, that solitude is a dangerous enemy to morals, to knowledge and to all useful improvements.

As in conversation on common topics of discourse, so with respect to political principles and governmental operations, there ever will be a diversity of opinion. But because we see different ways of obtaining the same object—while we choose different roads by which to proceed to the same place—shall we proclaim war against each others characters and peace? And because we will not all crowd in the same path with an infidel uniformity of thought and motion, shall we open upon each other all the pestiferous contents of Pandora's box? No Sir, we may each pursue his own course—each may advocate his own system of opinions, and labour for that success of those measures which to himself may seem most conducive to the public weal, without diminishing mutual esteem, and without impairing social happiness. No one, that sees what man is, expects; no one that has reaped the benefit and tasted the pleasures of social intercourse can desire, that we should all jump into one judgment and remain immovably there for ever. A diversity of sentiments we ever will have; but I

do contend we may have it without animosity, and ought to maintain it with a manly temperance.

The utility of this temperance in debate has been frequently pointed out, and many respectable authorities might be quoted in order to recommend it to us: But I shall content myself with a single extract from a Mr. James, an author who wrote a good while ago, but who, as well as several of his contemporaries, admirably understood human nature, and above all who have written since and almost all who wrote before, was, by some means or other, made wonderfully acquainted with what is most for our happiness both here and hereafter. Some men, I know, object to the authenticity and unrivalled excellence of this man's writings and others of his stamp; but this fir, we all know is only because he so dissects, as sometimes to "discern the thoughts and intents of their hearts;" (and who of us does not shiver when we are cut to the quick?) and because, these writings, with a perspicuity, strength and beauty peculiar to themselves—expressing and illustrating the rights of man, smiting terror into the consciences of such as infringe them, and doing more than all that has been penned to preserve them both from diminution and decay—these men are prevented from so using their liberty, as to miserably curtail the enjoyment of it by others. Fashion is perhaps a little against me, in the approaching quotation: But if Mr. Addison, who is so high in fashion and in fame, even in that production so aptly styled by Dr Johnson "Arbiter elegantiarum" has thought proper to confirm his sentiments by quotations from the writings in question, I shall expect to be excused.

The great instrument of violence and excess from whence flow the evils so pernicious to free states—is the tongue; and let us not forget, that the pen on paper is precisely the same as the tongue in conversation and in public assemblies—Hence the government of the tongue is the great desideratum in order to social comfort and to the due and pleasant enjoyment of our precious political privileges. To effect this valuable purpose, Mr. James wrote to the men of the old times, and he had also a considerable eye to the men of the present day, "If any man offend not in word, the same is a perfect man and able also to bridle the whole body. Behold! we put bits in the horses mouths, that they may obey us; and we turn about their whole body. Behold also the ships, which, though they be so great and are driven of fierce winds, yet are they turned about with a very small helm whithersoever the governor listeth. Even so the tongue is a little member and boasteth great things. Behold! how great a matter a little fire kindleth. And the tongue is a fire, a world of iniquity; so is the tongue among our members, that it defileth the whole body and setteth on fire the course of nature; and it is set on fire of hell. For every kind of beasts, and of birds, and of serpents, and of things in the sea, is tamed and hath been tamed of mankind: But the tongue can no man tame; it is an unruly evil, full of deadly poison.—I could detain you a long while in pointing out the perfect justness and classical elegance of this passage; but shall refrain.—I have only one observation to make, after which I shall conclude.

The expressions in this passage may to some seem too strong and not justified by fact: But to prove to the contrary, I would ask every virtuous and intelligent fellow citizen, what inconceivable mischief might not be effected in this most happy land, if, in our supreme legislature, groundless accusations of our best public officers were sustained and adopted? and what, if they were even believed by the people—with as much ignorance, rashness and imprudence as they have been known to be made—might we not suffer, if all our legislators subjected their judgments to their passions, and expended their hours of public duty, not in discourses that inform and convince, but in heated invectives and inflammatory declamation? Should Britain in her dotage, prosecuting her late incredible folly and arrogance, commence the war we have sometime apprehended—what advantages might she not have gained? what fatal injury might she not have done us, if all the members of Congress had raved with the same unbridled passion, against her on the one hand, and against preparing for her hostilities on the other? Surely the hour may be on the eve of an arrival, when we shall detect the incoherent procedure of those, who provoke war with as much eagerness as if war only could give them importance and wealth—and yet, in the same breath, with the same tongue, that "fire," that "world of iniquity," that "untameable monster," that "unruly evil, full of deadly poison," vehemently declaim within and labour with-

out, to frustrate every scheme for being fully prepared for that awful event.

May your Gazette prove an instrument of calming the passions—of informing the public mind—and of promoting internal and external PEACE.

From the American Daily Advertiser.

Gentlemen,

The base and cowardly attack upon the character and conduct of General Wayne, which lately appeared in a Virginia paper, and has since been republished in several others, is so replete with scurrility as to afford an antidote to its poison and render a refutation hardly necessary; was the author of the slander known to its object as the latter is to the former, he would probably be treated with silent contempt or receive the reward of his virulent abuse, from the foot and not from the sword of a soldier who is too brave to draw it against a paltrion, or to sheath it when attacked by true courage.—From a thorough knowledge of Gen. Wayne, I venture to pronounce the author of *Stubborn Facts*, a rancorous assassin—and, his production to be as false as his heart is venomous.

General Wayne, after having fought and bled in his country's cause, from the frozen lakes of the North, to the burning sands of the South, was selected from amongst his former brethren in arms, to the chief command, against a bold and savage enemy.

The President had seen the officers of the late army tried in various scenes of difficulty and danger. Their respective merits were well known to him, and if a better choice could in his opinion have been made, Gen. Wayne would not have been preferred. His activity, his zeal, and his success here justified the appointment. He had raw materials to work upon; and by a strict but necessary discipline he now finds himself at the head of a small but gallant army. The brave he trained and disciplined, and the coward and the worthless he cashiered or drummed out of his camp. In their vagrant state they or their hirclings and some others of the like principles and practices, feign *Stubborn Facts*, while the General is infusing his own martial spirit into his soldiers, and preparing to meet the enemy. That he has conducted himself with great good conduct since his appointment, appears from all well authenticated accounts from the army; that the President with the best means of judging of his conduct is highly pleased with it, appears by the following extract of a letter written by his direction:

Extract of a letter from the Secretary of War, to Major-General Anthony Wayne, dated "War Department, March 31st, 1794.

"It is with great pleasure, Sir, that I transmit you the approbation of the President of the United States, of your conduct generally since you have had the command, & more particularly for the judicious and military formation and discipline of the troops—the precautions you appear to have taken in your fortified camps, and in your arrangements to have full and abundant supplies of provisions on hand. Continue, Sir, to proceed in this manner—and, your success will be certain."

True Extract from the Records of the War-Office of the United States.

JOHN STAGG, Jun. Ch. Clk.

And the more effectually to root out any prejudices that may have arisen in the minds of some, from the piece called *Stubborn Facts*, we present the world with a letter to the Secretary of War from General Scott, who most certainly has a good right to know whether General Wayne merits censure or applause, he not only being the commander of the Kentucky volunteers, but also resided in that quarter, where any misconduct of the General would sooner be felt, and instantly made known.

Philadelphia April 30, 1794.

SIR,

It is with real concern that I hear the reports in circulation here very injurious to the Commander in Chief of the Legion, and am not yet able to learn from what cause they have originated.

Among other things it has been hinted to me, that he has reported the conduct of the officers of the volunteer corps that I had the honor to command last campaign very unfavorably—if so, he has done them injustice in not discriminating.

To be sure, there were two subalterns that behaved ill, and deserved the highest punishment—but I have too good an opinion of General Wayne, to suppose he ever possessed a thought of dam-

ing a whole corps for the misconduct of two bad men—I am sure there could be no cause for it, nor can I yet believe he has done so, until I am convinced by seeing his report to you on that head; I hope there is no impropriety in your favoring me with a sight of it; there are many other reports in circulation here highly injurious to that officer—I therefore think it my duty as far as comes within my knowledge to do him the justice he deserves. I waited on General Wayne the latter end of June, in order to make the necessary arrangements respecting the volunteers of Kentucky, during my stay I found him with great sobriety and extreme attention to the duty of the army, from that time until the 10th of October, (at which time I joined him) we kept up a constant correspondence relative to my duty, in which I found him clear and pointed in his instructions.

From about the 20th of October until the 5th of November, I was almost constantly with him, during all which time he paid the most unwearied attention to every, the most minute thing possible in person.

Notwithstanding all this, I was unhappy to find some discontent in the army, whether it was owing to the change of discipline, the difference between garrison and field duty, the hardness of the duty, or the unequivocal orders enforced, I cannot say: they were all spoken of unfavorably by some.

However, so far as I am able to judge, taking every thing in view, the army was conducted with great propriety, never losing sight of the public good, or the honor of the arms of the United States.

I believe there is not an officer that served with me under General Wayne's order but will cheerfully serve him again.

With esteem and regard,

I have the honor to be,

Your obedient servant,

(Signed) CHARLES SCOTT.

The Hon. Maj. Gen. Knox, Sec'y at War.

True copy from the original letter, on file in the War-Office of the United States.

JOHN STAGG, Jun. Ch. Clk. July 11th, 1794.

It may be proper to add, that the report which had been made by General Wayne to the Secretary at War was highly complimentary to General Scott and the officers under his command.

Read this ye calumniators and blush at your detection.

A FRIEND TO TRUTH.

P. S. The Printers who have published the piece filed *Stubborn Facts*, are requested to give a place to this.

Foreign Intelligence.

NATIONAL CONVENTION.

16 Floreal, May 5.

Dupin in the name of the committees of general surety and finances, made a report on the ci-devant farmers general. He entered into a detail of their abuses and exactions, and concluded with proposing a decree, which was unanimously adopted; the substance of which was to render all of them accountable to the revolutionary tribunal, for the purpose of forcing them to reimburse to the nation what they had unjustly acquired. The same decree was extended in its operation to the courts of Aides.

Couthon—It is time to convert the numerous edifices, monuments of former luxury, to purposes of national benefit. St. Cloud may be converted into a school of sculpture; Belvedere into a school of painting, Rincy into a Menagerie, and Versailles into a seminary of education. In the mean time the committee have charged me to present the plan of a decree for preventing the sale of these houses, and for converting them to public purposes.—Decreed.

The popular society of Vabres, informed the convention, that lately a band of insurgents had been dispersed by the efforts of the Republicans, and six of the ringleaders arrested.

The popular society of Aubenas communicated an event of the same nature, which had taken place in the department of l'Ardèche.

FRENCH ACCOUNT

Of the BATTLE FOUGHT May 7th.

From French Papers.

Lille, May 18.

CITIZENS,

The letter of exchange drawn by the Alpine army, on that of the north begins to be duly honoured. Victory is here the order of the day.—The enemy

is in full rout. Notwithstanding their losses at Courtray, Mouveron and Menin, they determined to attack us again, and to use every endeavor to resume their former position.

Yesterday having assembled their troops of the centre, they attacked us on all points. They obliged us to fall back from Pont a Marque and Lannoy. We retreated in good order. Proud of this first success, they expected by attacking us again to make further progress. It was their object to cut off our communication; but we did not give them time to effect it; we attacked them, and every where drove them back, beat to the charge and our victory was complete.

Adjutant-General Revel fought with the greatest vigor. We took a train of artillery complete, made the garrison of Lannoy prisoners; near three hundred Hessians have fallen into our hands. They asked for quarter, we ought not by the laws of war, to have granted it, since the town was taken by assault yet they obtained it. We shall shew to the world that Frenchmen are only to be feared in battle.

We learned that the enemy opposed to our forces 60,000 men. The commander in chief just returns from his round with my colleague Richard; I hope soon to be able to communicate new victories. We have taken 50 pieces of cannon, the enemy lost 1000 men. This division needed this victory.

CHODIEU,

Representative of the people.

P. S. I learn this moment that the enemy evacuated Pont a Marque, and has fallen back upon Orchies, consequently the communication between Donay and Lille is re-established.

We promised not to suffer the enemy to rest. We keep good our word. We attacked them yesterday in all quarters and every where beat. We have driven them to Tournay and Mount Trinity. The battle lasted 15 hours, and was well fought. The enemy were considerably reinforced and we retired in good order, having taken a considerable convoy on the Scheldt. We lost two cannon that were dismounted. We took seven from the enemy and 600 prisoners. We shall soon begin again.

CHODIEU.

Account of this last action by the General in chief of the Northern army.

Courtray, May 23.

CITIZENS REPRESENTATIVES,

We fought yesterday the whole day long. We have driven the enemy beyond the Scheldt; we captured a convoy of hay, oats and coal. We carried off what we could; the remainder was burnt. The affair was bloody on both sides. There has been a great number wounded. We took from the enemy seven pieces of cannon, who took two of ours. We made about 500 prisoners.

Traits of courage were numerous; cowardice and treachery in some parts injured us. Many Soldiers left their duty to pillage; which so weakened the battalions, that towards evening we were near being driven back.

The right of the army, on the 21st May was near Binche, and must thence have proceeded to Mons or Charleroi.

PICHEGRU.

ARMY OF THE ARDENNES.

Commanded by Gen. FROMENTIN.

Binches, May 22.

We have crossed the Sambre in several points. Our divisions acted with concert and success. I have taken from the enemy all their travelling hospital, a great many sheets, a considerable number of Flemish horses. We also have taken several droves of cattle; I send them to Philipville. We drive on the enemy with expedition, and may anticipate successes the most important. The representative of the people Levasseur follows us every where; he is always in the heat of action. I expedite this moment 900 carriages that bring us all kind of goods. In a skirmish this day a chasseur had his arm carried away; he said, turning round to an artilleryman,—"Put the arm in the mouth of your cannon and send it back to those brigands."

MOSELLE ARMY.

Commanded by JOURDAN.

Arlon, May 22.

We arrived this day at Arlon. The small number of the enemy here did not attempt to resist. I have here a body of troops to protect the march of our artillery and provisions which pass thro' the country of Treves, and of Luxembourg, and I march on. Expect great successes.

JOURDAN.