

From the General Advertiser.

"Those who consult the secret springs of the human mind will readily account for the Secretary of the Treasury's preference with the army. The excise as the child of his own heart, tho' a bastard in the soil that gave it birth, has called forth the feelings of the father, when the avenging sword was to be drawn for the punishment of its oppressors. The Secretary by his preference with the army will, thro' the means of his talents and influence, forward the views of his faction, assist in placing the principle which led to the almost unanimous exertions against the oppressors of the law, in a false light, a favourite end with the faction at the present moment. It is their wish to make the friends of constitutional law be considered as friends to the introduction into our soil of all the poisonous exotics of the old world: But the discriminating sense of the people of this country will baffle the attempt, and while they will hold up their hand against all illegal opposition to the measures of government, will also ever raise their voice against all the instrumentality systems of the Secretary."

MR. FENNO,

THE malignant spite and envy of some pitiful enemy or enemies of the Secretary of the Treasury, was never more conspicuous than in a paragraph of the General Advertiser of this date; the means of attacking the Secretary behind his back, is of a piece with the want of candor and truth in the malevolent hints thrown out; for, if the constitution fully admits of excise and other taxes, the tax on ardent spirits is in truth and reality, the child of those who formed that constitution, and of the Congress of the United States who enacted it. It was certainly the Secretary's duty when required, to report every means of raising the needful revenue for support of government, and for the defence of our country, our invaluable constitution, and of every thing dear to us; and if Congress in their wisdom, thought proper to enact, that a tax (or excise, as men choose to call it) be laid upon ardent spirits, it was properly and ultimately their child; and, in obvious truth, cannot be called the Secretary's, for these true and valid reasons—unless you will call the idea of a child (or a child in possibility) a real child in substance.

But the authors of that paragraph were afraid to "lay the saddle on the right horse," and to give offence to the true patriots and lovers of the constitution in general, and to the members of both houses of Congress in particular, and were not so discerning (or wilfully blind) as to see, that they have endeavoured to wound all these through the Secretary.

They have too long and too often endeavoured to impose on common sense, and on the now enlightened understandings of the citizens of the United States; but the cloven foot of malice, envy (and disappointed ambition of some) has appeared; and a very great majority (perhaps forty-nine fiftieths) of the candid and unprejudiced inhabitants of the United States, now treat their malicious publications with that contempt they deserve.

The latter part of that paragraph is a poor subterfuge, after the many pieces they have published, tending to raise discontent in weak and inflammatory minds, and to discourage the hearts, and weaken or embarrass the hands of the chosen representatives of the people; and puts me in mind of what the Satyr told the man who blowed hot and cold, "the devil himself had best beware of you." I remain

A Citizen, and true Friend to the United States.

N. B. A bad use may be made of a legitimate—but much more probable, of a self-created power.

Origin of Newspapers in England—from a late English paper.

IT may be gratifying to be told, that mankind are indebted to the wisdom of Elizabeth, and the prudence of Burleigh, for the first newspapers. In the British Museum there are several newspapers, which had been printed while the Spanish fleet was in the English channel, during the year 1588. It was a wise policy, to prevent, during a moment of general anxiety, the danger of false reports, by publishing real information. And the earliest newspapers are entitled. The English Mercurie, which, by authority, was imprinted at London, by Christopher Barker, her Highness's Printer, 1588.

The first newspaper which is preserved in this collection is No. 50, and is

in Roman, not in black letters. It contains the useful articles of news, like the London Gazette of the present day. In that curious paper there are news, dated from Whitehall, on the 23d of July 1588. Under the date of July the 26th, there is the following notice: "Yesterday the Scots Ambassador, being introduced by Sir Francis Willingham, had a private audience of her Majesty, to whom he delivered a letter from the King his master, containing the most cordial assurances of his resolution to adhere to her Majesty's interests, and to those of the Protestant religion. And it may not here be improper to take notice of a wife and spirited saying of this young Prince (he was twenty two) to the Queen's minister at his court, viz. That all the favor he did expect from the Spaniards, was the courtesy of Polyphemus to Ulysses, to be the last devoured." We may defy the Gazette of the day to give a more decorous account of the introduction of a foreign minister.

Burleigh's newspapers were all Extraordinary Gazettes, which were published from time to time, as that profound statesman wished either to inform or to terrify the people. The Mercuries were probably first printed in April 1588, when the Armada approached the shores of England. After the Spanish ships had been dispersed by a wonderful exertion of prudence and spirit, these extraordinary Gazettes very seldom appeared. The Mercurie, No 54, which is dated on Monday, Nov. 24, 1588, informed the public, that the solemn thanksgiving for the successes which had been obtained against the Spanish Armada, was this day strictly observed. This number contains also an article of news from Madrid, which speaks of putting the Queen to death, and of the instruments of torture that were on board the Spanish fleet. We may suppose that such paragraphs were designed by the policy of Burleigh, who understood all the artifices of printing, to excite the terror of the English people, to point their resentment against Spain, and to inflame their love for Elizabeth.

It is a remarkable fact, which history was either too idle to ascertain, or too much ashamed to relate, that the arms of Cromwell communicated to Scotland, with other benefits, the first newspaper which had ever illuminated the gloom, or dispelled the fanaticism of the North.—Each army carried its own printer with it, expecting either to convince by its reasonings, or delude by its falsehoods. King Charles carried Robert Barker with him to New Castle in 1639; and General Cromwell conveyed Christopher Higgins to Leith 1652. When Cromwell had there established a citadel, Higgins reprinted, in November 1652, which had been already published at London, "A Diurnal of some passages, and affairs, for the information of the English soldiers." On the 31st of December 1660, appeared at Edinburgh, "Mercurius Caledonicus, comprising the affairs in agitation in Scotland, with a survey of Foreign intelligence." Thus Scotland was to enjoy the luxury of a Newspaper, which was of Scotch manufacture; yet it only continued for ten numbers, which were very loyal, very illiterate, and very affected. By this failure, there was not a Newspaper at the era of the Revolution. The few had doubtless instructed themselves, during several years, from the London Gazette; and the many had been too busy, during the late times, with the affairs of the other world, to be very anxious about the events of this; even ten years elapsed after the Revolution, before it was deemed safe by the public, or advantageous by an individual, to print a Newspaper.

The first private, not Royal newspaper in London, began in August 1664, and was a weekly one; this was soon followed by others, under the title of Weekly Currents; in the civil wars, the Diurnal and various Mercuries came forth, which were increased in number during the reigns of Charles and James II. In 1696, the coffee-houses of London, exclusive of the votes of Parliament every day, had nine newspapers every week; but in the reign of Queen Ann, London first enjoyed the luxury of a newspaper every day; 1709 there was a daily paper, and seventeen other papers; in 1724 three daily papers were published, and eighteen others; in 1753 the number of newspapers sold in all England, according to an average of three years preceding, was 7,411,757; at the close of the late reign in 1760, it was 9,404,790—it was 14,035,939—in 1791, was 14,794,153; and in 1792, was; 15,005,760. This forms such a phenomenon of curiosity, political and literary, of riches universally diffused, and of enquiry universally awake, as has not been paralleled in any other part of the world.

Foreign Intelligence,

NATIONAL CONVENTION.

Sitting of the 2d August.

On the 2d of August, Barrere made again some mention of Robespierre, Despotism covered with seeming popu-

larity, said he, had hardly disappeared when ferocity came forth and diffused its balm on every mind; confidence revived all hearts, the citizens breathe and the armies applaud the courage of the Convention. From the centre of Paris to the extremities of the Republic, it was instantly and sensibly perceived in all families, and in every known society, that Robespierre was precipitated into the grave of conspirators.

August 5.

Bourdon de l'Oise proposed that all prisoners, whose arrestation was not justified by the decree of the 9th September, should be released and that all the revolutionary committees of the republic should be obliged to maintain the relations and friends of the prince; with the cause and motives of their arrestation. (Under Robespierre's government, it was in the power of the revolutionary committees, to arrest citizens, without being in the least obliged to inform them of what crime they were accused.)

The proposition of Bourdon was adopted.

Bassal desired that the committees of public and general safety, and the Representatives sent into the departments should also be ordered, to give a speedy account of the motives which had induced them to give orders for so many arrestations.—decreed.

Fayan opposed the above decree. There is a law, said he, that no prisoner can reclaim his liberty, before he has exhibited a certificate of his civism. The opinion of Fayan caused loud and general murmurs.

The days, replied Tallien are past, when an iron sceptre weighed down France, and dictated laws to the Convention. Our liberty has been reconquered in the nights of the 27th and 28th of July; she displays her favors again; we ought not to enjoy them alone. The people command, and will also enjoy freedom. We are far from defending aristocrats sentenced to death but it is our duty to protect the innocent who lift up their hands for assistance.

How can we conceal from these unhappy victims, the horror committed by the oppressors?—why should we refuse to acquit them with the motives of their imprisonment? No, no, was the general cry, we shall not again be misled as heretofore. I demand, therefore, continued Tallien, the confirmation of the decree just now passed. This was agreed to under loud and repeated acclamations of applause.

Bourdon.—All France must know, that the opinion of Fayan was supported by no one.

A member proposed the suspension of that decree, which ordered the colonists of the Hotel de Massiac, (the name of the place where they held their sittings) to be arrested.

Bourdon opposed this motion; all France, said he, is convinced, that these people have always conspired against the liberty of the colonies: I demand the order of the day, which was accordingly resolved.

It was decreed, that every disposition, order, and judgment, of all deputies sent in the different departments, ought to be transmitted with all possible expedition to the national convention, because many of these commissioners chosen by Robespierre, were accused to have acted like independent despots in their respective departments; among others Bayve denounced, and, (it being required) signed his denunciation, that the most shocking cruelties were committed in the southern departments, and that in one church at Avignon, 2,000 citizens, whose only crime it was to be worth 15,000 livres, were incarcerated.

PARIS, August 6.

Merlin of Douai in his report on the new organization of the revolutionary tribunal, made use amongst others of the following remarkable expressions.

"The public accuser shall no more exercise a despotic authority, and arbitrarily drag the citizens before the tribunal. The accused may again justify himself, and chuse his defender. Those who are only suspected shall be treated with decency and moderation. The public shall no more be scandalized by seeing a citizen dragged before blood-thirsty judges for a crime he had already been cleared of. The tribunal of justice shall no longer resemble a den of cut-throats, whose sentences were like those of the second and third of September. The conspirators spoke only of justice, it belongs to us to exercise it. We ought to be inexorable but humane. Terror shall no longer precede instead of justice. Citizens be tranquil, Sylla is no more."

Dubois de Crance justified himself lately at a meeting of the Jacobins, from the charges formerly alleged against him by Couthon and Robespierre. I returned from Lyons to Paris, said he, convinced that they designed to bring me to the scaffold, but I was armed with a dagger, and before the hangman had presented my head to the insults of those tygers, I would at least have delivered the republic of both monsters who tyrannized over her. Let us now swear by the poignard of Brutus, never to suffer either king, dictator nor tyrant. The assembly rose and took this solemn oath. This shows what the combined powers may hope from the late change. Dubois de Crance's speech was ordered to be printed.

LONDON, Sept. 4.

The Spanish government have published an address to the People, for the avowed purpose of tranquilizing their minds with respect to the present situation of affairs. The Address itself, so far from being of a quieting tendency, only goes to prove that the Spanish Court are themselves under the influence of the most serious alarm!

PHILADELPHIA,

NOVEMBER 6.

Says a Correspondent,

There is in each of our large towns, at least one newspaper constantly employed to expose our own government, the government of the people, to the contempt and hatred of our own citizens, and of foreign nations.

Are not these Printers in the pay of some foreign nation? It is well known that when the peace of 1783 was settled, more than one European Government wished to clip the American wings, to narrow our territory, to surrender the Cod Fishery, and to make us Colonies once more, with the name of Independence. British influence is a cant word; if it exists, shame on the dupes who yield to it—shame on him that yields to any foreign influence.

But what influence is it that brings out the unexhausted calumny on the President, the officers of government, the administration, and the constitution—Is it American influence?

Honor thyself, is a maxim for America. The General Advertiser, the Independent Chronicle, and the Patriotic Register, inculcate another—Abuse thyself—as if they brought the government down to the level of their notions of patriotism, by making the world think meanly of it. The late rebellion shews that the people of the United States have not formed their estimate of the national system from the misrepresentations and caricatures of those licentious Gazettes.

Letter from Hamburg, dated 20 August, 1794. To a merchant in this City.

SIR,

THE French have conquered all the Austrian Netherlands, & are now attacking Holland with a very formidable Army. These rich and important provinces are defended by what remains of the allied Armies; the Troops are however not only much harassed, but also too greatly reduced in number, from the long and bloody contest, that there remains little doubt they will also be obliged to yield here to the superiority of their victorious, always increasing enemy. The probability of this event has naturally occasioned general alarm in Holland. Trade is there totally at a stand, and much property removing to this place. Several of our friends at Amsterdam and Rotterdam, have come to the resolution to land no more goods, and have in consequence sent forward to us, different ships, which we are now discharging. This place has thus become the Asylum, and, in a manner, the Emporium of the North. Such an important and sudden increase of trade must naturally at first occasion a glut and great depression of prices, however as the quantity of the imported articles is not augmented, but only the channel of their importation altered; the consumption will soon follow, and take off the Redundancy. Trade will then revive with redoubled vigour and increase the importation and consumption of this market considerably.

As to the prices of our articles of export, they continue, a few excepted, the same as quoted in our former price-currents. It therefore becomes unnecessary to trouble you with a copy. You will only be pleased to remark that, from the great demand for hemp, iron, Russia and Westphalia linens, these articles have experienced an advance. Petersburg clean hemp cannot be put on board under L. Sterl. 28 a

ton, Swedish assorted iron L. Sterl. 18. Russia and Westphalia linens from 15 to 20 p. C. dearer than our last quotation.

By this Day's Mail.

NORFOLK, October 28.

By the brig Molly Capt. Gould Linnell, from Madeira, we are informed that on the 17th September, in commemoration of our present happy Constitution, Mr. Pintard, the American Consul at that island, gave a dinner to all the masters of American vessels then in port, thirteen in number—to wit:

Capt. Goodrich, of the brig Eliza, of New-York. Capt. M'Collon, of the Catherine, of Philadelphia, Capt. Travers, of the Martha and Mary, of Baltimore. Capt. Kean, of the Eagle of do. Capt. Woodbridge, of the Aurora of do. Marblehead. Capt. Allen of the Pallas, of Boston. Cap. Linnell of the Molly of Norfolk. Capt. Prowers, of the George, of Portsmouth, Capt. Farmer, of the Providence of New-York.—Capt. Prince, of the Prince and Liberty, of do. Capt. Dyer, of the Ranger, of Penobscot. Capt. Gore, of the Loranx, of New-York. And Capt. Benjamin Ward, of the Enterprize, of do.

Mr. Pintard on the evening of the 26th requested the Captains of the different vessels to hoist their colours at sun rise, and give three cheers, and gave to each of the Captains a list of the vessels, and when they were to cheer, beginning from the brig Eliza, Capt. Goodrich, who lay the westernmost vessel, and ending with the Enterprize, Capt. Ward—Capt Ward was at Mr. Pintard's house and received the list from with apparent satisfaction, but on the morning of the 17th, when the other vessels hoisted their colours and cheered, Capt. Benjamin Ward did not think proper to hoist his colours. This conduct greatly surprised every American in port, and it was intimated to Mr. Pintard that Capt. Ward was displeased at being put down last on the list. Mr. Pintard immediately wrote him a letter, copy of which Capt. Linnell has favored us with—Capt. Ward took no notice of it. The next day, on the 18th when he went to clear out at the Consul's office, Mr. Pintard with great politeness asked Capt. Ward to explain what he meant by not hoisting his colours, to which Captain Ward answered with impudence, that he would not hoist his colours but when he pleased. The American masters in port were so engaged with Capt. Ward's conduct, that it was with difficulty they were restrained by Mr. Pintard, from taking his yards from his masts.

The following are the toasts that were drank at Mr. Pintard's table, on the 17th September.

1. The United States of America.
2. The President of the United States.
3. The Vice President.
4. The Senate and House of Representatives—may they never forget the true interest of their constituents.
5. Mr. Jay and success to his embassy.
6. The French Republic.
7. Success to the Poles in their glorious struggle.
8. Our unfortunate countrymen in captivity at Algiers, and a speedy relief to them.
9. The 4th of July, 1776—may Americans remember it with pleasure, and tyrants tremble when they think of it.
10. The Fifteen Stripes—may they never be entrusted to any one who is ashamed or unwilling to shew them.
11. To the memory of the American heroes who have fallen in the cause of liberty.
12. The friends of liberty throughout the world.
13. The American Fair.
14. Col. Humphries, our minister resident at the Court of Portugal.
15. The day and all who honor it.

October 29.

Extract of a letter from Liverpool, to a gentleman in this town, dated August 27th, 1794.

"The Fame, Capt. Davis, an American ship, which had laden with tobacco in Rappahannock river, for this port, was taken ten days ago by a French frigate; but Capt. Davis and his men rose upon the French prize-master and his crew, retaken her, and brought her in safe here yesterday. Capt. Davis says he saw the Captain of the French frigate's orders, which were to take all American vessels bound to England, or elsewhere, without respect to their cargoes. This will be a serious matter for the Americans."

From an English paper.

ROBESPIERRE'S WILL.

The following is circulated as the last will and testament of the late Maximilian Robespierre:

1. Maximilian Robespierre, citizen of Paris, and member of the republic of France, one, indivisible and unimpeachable, knowing the uncertainty of all things, and, in particular, that of human life, do make this my last will and testament in manner and form as follows:

Impiety—I resign my soul to him who has of late inspired me with so many capital efforts in favour of liberty, Equality, and the Rights of Man.

My body I commit to the earth, and knowing I shall be buried at the public