

From the Virginia Gazette.

MARCELLUS—No. 11.

In the preceding number, I have fully shown the absurdity and folly of those vague indefinite party-distinguitions, which have been, and I may say for no good purposes, actually introduced amongst us, by the terms aristocrat and democrat; distinctions which have no existence in this country, as understood in the European world, from whence we have imported them, as to render further observations unnecessary. But if by the term aristocrat, is meant a person attached to a government of privileged orders, and monarchy;—and by the term democrat, a friend to a republican representative government; as this is the only important meaning which can be given to the words, I will take the liberty of adding a few remarks on the subject. Life without the comforts derived from property is not worth possessing. "He takes my life who takes the means whereby I live." Every human being is enabled by nature to labour—consequently to acquire property. But vain would be the exercise of human ingenuity and human industry, unless the acquisitions of our toils were secured to us by fixed laws. This security is in all social institutions regarded as a primary motive and object—and all governments are defective which do not afford it—but where the acquisitions of labour are secured, property will necessarily accumulate in the hands of individuals. Industry, and superior frugality, must necessarily acquire superior property. Equality of property, however desirable in theory, is a thing totally unattainable in practice, and never existed, even in the most savage society, on account of the natural inequalities in the mental and corporeal powers of men. In every well ordered society therefore, the accumulations of property cannot be prevented; and they may become so great, as to have an undue and baneful influence on the community. That government therefore is most wisely constructed, which, while it gives every security and consequently activity to the ingenuity and industry of its citizens, prevents the accumulations of property from progressing to a dangerous point. And this fortunately is not an object difficult to be obtained, for so natural to all human things seek to their just level, that dangerous accumulations of property cannot exist unless supported by the laws. And the aristocracies of Europe would long ago have crumbled into dust, unless they had been propped with peculiar care by laws, which either prevented, or imposed almost insurmountable clogs on the alienation of real estates. So great is the influence attached to property, that it has been judged indispensable to secure it by all possible means, even by perpetual inheritances, as the only substantial support to the aristocratic system of Europe. If it requires so much care to preserve this system in Europe, what ground have we to apprehend danger from its growth in America, where so far from being a favorite of the laws, it is proscribed by them. I believe that the only remnant of feudal privileges to be found in America, exists in our own state. The protection of land from encroachments for debt, is not known, I think, in any other state; and whether it would be now prudent to abolish this privilege here, must be left to the wisdom of our legislature. But this is the only protection given to property, which favours of favoritism to aristocracy. Our other regulations concerning land, tend to, and most effectually counteract dangerous accumulations of property in the hands of individuals, from which, and the unalienable quality, attached to them in the European world, Aristocracies have sprung up and been maintained there. But in all instances notwithstanding the supports which they have had, they have not been able to maintain their ground, as is now fully exemplified by the recent revolution in France. What then have we to apprehend from the growth of a plant which must be continually nursed in a hot-bed, and can never grow to a noxious size in our soil and under our culture. When I reflect upon the provisions of our laws regulating descents, I am led to admire as well the policy as the wisdom and justice of institutions, which while they encourage industry, and secure the obedience and subordination of children to their parents, so necessary to the happiness of human life, effectually prevent dangerous accumulations of property: the natural foundation of aristocratic orders. From this just and candid review of our situation, where do we find that danger of aristocracy so often and so vociferously founded in our ears? What man of sense with such obstacles in his way, even if he had the wickedness to wish in this country, for monarchy and aristocracy, as understood in Europe, would attempt to introduce such a system amongst us; a system which would require the total overthrow of our social edifice; and the erection of another on a very different structure, on its ruins? But it is not an easy thing to change the habits and fundamental laws of any people, especially when these laws are founded on reason, and the immutable principles of justice and truth. The aristocracies of Europe owe their birth to the ages of barbarism and ignorance. And as science has progressively shed its light on the world, these proud towers, notwithstanding all the pillars by which they have been supported, have been gradually undermined and already universally begin to totter to their foundations. We have arrived at the point to which the people of Europe are advancing. If they advance in despite of the decrepitude and corruption of ages; in spite of habits and laws, hostile to their progress, shall we in the vigour of our youth, in the purity of our morals, and with laws and customs which prevent the seed of aristocracy from vegetating in our soil; shall we think so lightly of our virtue and our knowledge as to apprehend a retrograde in the path of social happiness? let the haughty and self-created dictators of the day, distinguish their fellow-citizens, by the suspicion? I think too highly of their minds, and their hearts to harbour one moment, the ungenerous sentiment in my breast, to envy my fellow-citizens, you will never retrograde; the wisdom of your laws as well as your own understandings, and your virtue will for ever bar it. I allude then again, whence proceeds the danger of the growth of aristocratic orders amongst us. Certainly not from the accumulations of landed property. I may be answered from the funding system, I may may be told in the same cant and indefinite and intelligible language of the existence of a paper nobility. As to the examination of the funding system, a very particular investigation of it would lead me too far from the points which I wish to bring into view: It will be sufficient to say that we owed the debt—that if we were honest, we were bound to pay it—if we could not pay it at once, the least we could do, was to pay the interest; that Virginia was in the habit of punctually paying the interest on her public debt, previous to the funding system.

That by the funding system, the interest on the debt was reduced, which was a gain to the public, while the value of the principal was increased to the holder. That much speculation existed at the commencement of this system is true; and perhaps much property acquired by fraud, but are not all other speculations also subject to a fraud? Has not land risen almost as rapidly in value as stock in the funds? If a man makes a fortunate purchase of land, is he censured for it. If he buys the bond of an individual for half its nominal value, is he censured for it: Why then load with opprobrious epithets—why endeavour to prejudice the community, against those who have purchased the obligations of the public. But if an aristocracy has been built upon this paper foundation, it is the first instance of the kind known in the world. The aristocracies of Europe have been gradually crumbling, though built upon the solid foundation of land. This is the first time that the holders of a circulating paper medium, which is continually passing from hand to hand, and never acquires a fixed station, and which is subject to all the laws in its distribution, which are calculated to equalize property, have been magnified into a dangerous Aristocracy. But is there then no danger of introducing this monster, aristocracy, amongst us? Yes, there is, it may be introduced as it was introduced into Europe; it may be introduced by foreign conquests, or by civil wars. The first we have no reason to apprehend, except as the consequence of the last. But if it should be our misfortune to experience civil convulsions, from the calamities of anarchy, such a system may arise. A victorious chief may then distribute the property of the nation amongst his officers and soldiers, and new model the laws so as to maintain the aristocracy he has established while he constitutes himself their monarch. A true Patriot therefore instead of vilifying his fellow-citizens with inapplicable, indefinite, and opprobrious distinctions, will study how best to preserve our peace and union, and prevent such calamitous events, as disunion, civil wars, consequent anarchy, and destruction of Liberty.

MARCELLUS.

From the Western Star.

THE CORWAINER.—No. 12

It is certainly some compensation for the labors, the waitings, and the fatigues of an Author, to find one's self inquired, and be praised for one's writings. There is none of us without a small tincture of vanity in our composition. The tear is starting in my eye when I tell my dear reader that I am taking my leave of him. The following is happily come just in time to be noticed. I at first protested downright that I would not publish it; but when I reflected upon the practice of my predecessors, the Spectator, and other periodical Essayists, I paused;—and when I recollected that the Jockey Club was gone to press, I consented. But they the reader to be assured that I am blushing as red as a pin-cushion all the time he is reading it; and I here promise that if I should receive an hundred such, I never will publish another as long as I live.

To Ned Nipper, Esquire, Author of the Essay renowned, entitled The Cordwainer.

Honored and learned Sir,

You must know that I have the honor to be Secretary to one of those Societies to which you seem to allude in the last number of your patriotic Essays; & that I have it in charge to inform you that, in consideration of the services which you have rendered to the cause which we have espoused, by your learned and ingenious Essays, entitled The Cordwainer, your name is recorded in our Books as an honorary member.

And now, having discharged my official duty, permit me, dear Sir, to address you in another and a more familiar capacity, that of a brother politician, and to give you some account of myself and the Society to which I belong.

If you was candid enough to declare your profession in your first number, I will not be behind-hand with you—I am a Tinker. Believe me, Sir, I was so overjoyed at the sight of your first Essay, that in my exultation I overthrew and spoiled a job which had been two days in hand.—Yet why this transport? Is it so strange a thing that because a man mends shoes, or a pewter-plate, or a pair of breeches, he should likewise turn his hand to the political machine? And I appeal to the makers of constitutions and laws, if they have not always more or less rents to patch, or cracks to solder.

As to our Society, we are a jovial parcel of fellows; but tho' punch, pipes and tobacco are "in requisition" yet patriotism and the public safety, are ever the order of the day. To this are all our operations directed; and not a measure of public concern, from an act of Congress, or a President's Proclamation, down to a newspaper paragraph, but is sanctioned or condemned on our board. It would have done your soul good, Sir, to have heard our discussions of the Neutrality business, of Discrimination, the Sequestration Bills &c.

On the subject of the President's Neutrality Proclamation, some spirited observations were made, Mr. Red-Stone, the Mason, thought it was laying a foundation on which future oppressions would be built. Mr. Lintel, the Carpenter, declared it was opening a door for dangerous usurpation. Neighbor Grover, the Grazier, discovered in it the seeds of domination, which might grow to greater lengths than was imagined. Mr. Bodkin declared in his opinion that the measure would by no means fit republican spirits. And your brother Craftiman, Andrew Awl-Blade, after recapitulating the substance of the preceding observations, begged leave to close the debate by moving a resolve "that the said Proclamation is inexpedient and unconstitutional;" which was carried by a respectable majority; and it is not, perhaps, unworthy of serious remark, that this Resolve still remains in full force, unrevoked, on record.

It were dull sport, you know, if we were all of one sentiment; there would be little scope for our speeches and our arguments. We have also a minority; and you are not to suppose that our debates upon your political labors have passed without the occurrence of something like a Northern Intercourse. There have not been wanting among us some who have called in question the orthodoxy of your principles, and could discover marks of aristocracy lurking in your heart. I have with difficulty been able to satisfy several that you are a real Craftiman. "Do but mark that aristocratical sneer," they would say; "it is as plain as the nose in one's face.—And then do you observe these chips of latin? I warrant he has made ten bonds and indentures to one pair of shoes."

I have stood forth in your defence, Sir, to the last. If you conceive that my honest exertions in your behalf merit any return, pray give this letter a place in your Essays; or make honorable mention of me and our Society in such manner as you think proper; and permit me to subscribe myself

Your very sincere admirer, and
Very humble servant,
TOM TINKER.

So much for this talkative correspondent. I have certainly now balanced accounts with him for all his services, by giving his letter to the public at full length.

And now, with a heavy heart, my dear reader, do I again return to thee. This is the last paragraph thou art going to read of these my pleading labors. Methinks I see thee, in thy elbow chair, with one hand holding this goodly sheet, and with the other wiping the generous moisture from thine eyes; and I profess, the picture has almost made a very woman of me

—Well! the best friends must part.—But a word in your ear, sweet-heart! Perhaps you may meet again. Between you and me, I am only going to shift my ground.—These stony Printers, and news-paper readers, never pay us petty Paragraphists a farthing, and you know we have empty bellies, as well as heads; and may with equal propriety adopt the plea of the preacher, "For 'tis with grief of heart I tell ye, "How much this writing scours the belly." I am determined therefore to consolidate the remainder of my literary labors, and have them bound in Cass; and I know very well who stands ready for the job.—Farewell!

From the Eagle.

MR. DUNHAM.

I often amuse myself with the puerile conduct of mankind, when engaged in political squabbles. Though Mr. Hume asserts, that he must be more than mortal who kindles not in the common blaze, when the sparks of sedition, panic and faction are puffed up in society, yet, with a degree of vanity, I felicitated myself, on being exempt from a scorch, and ever peeped from a corner, with a grin of triumph. When my comrades were disputing the propriety of the Duke of York's mission, Though our river politics have flowed with indifference and unconcern, in spite of the civil duncheon in '75, the spunk of Shays, and French fanaticism, yet the old leaven of aristocracy, tho' for a long time dormant, is said still to exist on our banks. The other day, while our beef-steak club were quaffing the quill-juice bumper, for a rarity, several observations were made on the times. Some bloods from Hartford and New-York, who were present began to glow with republican heat to a degree, that a check was thought expedient; this gave fuel to the flame, and opposition ensued.—To preserve an equilibrium, I ventured with the old river department, Vattel, MASTEN, PAINE, and MUR, were quoted with fluency; the sacred rights of the people were harped on; and the happy order in a limited Monarchy was a balancing argument. Just as we had adduced the cap-sheaf proof, to deliver which with redoubled force, I rose from my seat, and as I was repeating, with my arm in a horizontal position, that, under monarchy, each member enjoyed a separate department, with sovereign independence; that a gentleman kept the vulgar rabble at a distance, and his muzzlin was unarmished by the hand of the ragamuffin—and that, though our government was called republican, yet by inflexible practice, we had ensured most of the privileges of aristocracy. But as the d— would have it, just as I supported our opponent flattered with conviction, in a sly high-way tax-gatherer, and clapt three of us on the shoulder, for one and nine pence each, then subtracting the remainder, the other party, with a horse laugh, by simply reminding us of the "privileges of aristocracy," gained a complete triumph, while we founded a retreat.—In future, while politics are on the carpet, I shall keep my old corner.

CATO.

Foreign Intelligence.

From London Papers to the 26th of September, and Bristol Papers to the 27th, brought by Capt. Dehart from Bristol.

GENOA, Sept. 1.

The Captains of several ships arrived here from Nice, bring intelligence, that two French frigates from Toulon fell in, off the coast of Barbary, with an English frigate, which had four merchantmen carrying goods to the amount of 4,000,000 of livres under her convoy. The French instantly attacked the English frigate, which made a most valiant resistance but was sunk at last. The merchantmen were then taken and carried into Toulon.

LEGHORN, Sept. 3.

By some ships arrived in this harbour we have advice that the Spanish fleet which was united with the English Squadron off the coast of Provence, having received orders from Spain to sail to Barcelona, the whole has sailed accordingly, but the British Squadron remains still stationed there.

UTRECHT, Sept. 9.

The French are still in possession of Treves. General Blankenken has been removed to the Austrian army in the Netherlands, and General Melas has taken the command of the corps destined for the attack on Treves.—A prodigious number of persons have fled from Bois-le-Duc towards this place on the approach of the enemy. It is said, that the French have sustained a very considerable loss in attacking Fort Isabella, near Bois-le-Duc. The Agio of the Bank of Amsterdam, the barometer of public credit and confidence has continued to fall since the last two or three days; it was this day at 95.—The exchange on England, Hamburg and Italy, rises in consequence; the last course on London was 40 schellings 10 and a half groats.

POSONANIA, Sept. 30.

[From the Gazette of South Prussia.]

The insurgents continue to move in small bodies, from one manor to another, force or persuade the proprietors to join them, and to furnish part of their subjects as recruits, plunder the Royal Treasure, take the Officers prisoners, seize post-horses, and render the roads so unsafe, that the communication is stopped with almost every considerable city of this Province. The insurgents had no sooner learned that the Prussians had again evacuated Gnesen on the 5th instant, than they came out of their hiding places, returned to that city, and encamped afterwards at Czerniewo two leagues from Gnesen. All the Members of the Commission appointed by the insurgents, have the title of Your Excellency, Burghers and Peasants not excepted. As a proof of the interest which the clergy, especially the Convents, manifest for insurrection, the Convent of Wongrowicz alone sent 100 armed peasants to the insurgents at Gnesen.

Our Official Gazette contains a circumstantial account of all the excesses which the insurgents committed at Gnesen, when the insurrection first broke out. Amongst others, the Prussian Eagles were trampled under foot, and one Eagle was even hung. The Royal Officers received the orders of the insurgents with pistols, clapped to their breasts. They used the acts and records of justice to make cartridges, and the German inhabitants were obliged to call balls. The chimney sweeper at Gnesen was made drummer; and the mechanics of the place were made to play for the hands of the insurgents. Every armed peasant received 20 Polish grosh, besides a plentiful allowance of brandy. The peasants received orders to cut off with their scythes the heads of those Prussian Officers who should look out of the windows of the places where they are confined.

On the 8th instant, in the morning, the Polish Prisoners of war at this place were sent under a strong escort of Cavalry to Cultrin.

PRUSSIAN HEAD QUARTERS BEFORE WARSAW, Sept. 6.

The Prussian Army stationed before Warsaw, by its indefatigable labours, and especially by the success of the 26th and 27th of last month, days which were crowned with victory, had driven the enemy into the last redoubts before this city, and was quite near accomplishing its design, by capturing Warsaw, the feat of the Polish revolutionary spirit. Just then a violent insurrection broke out all of a sudden in South Prussia, which had been excited from Warsaw, by all kind of secret suggestions and examples of mistaken and inconsistent notions of liberty. This insurrection broke out with such unexpected violence, that the greater part of the petty Nobility, led on by some of the principal Nobles, rose in all parts at once, and forced their subjects to rise in the same manner, who, freed from their former oppressive yoke, deemed themselves happy, under the sceptre of their gracious and wise Monarch. They collected all kinds of arms, and were even provided with artillery. They threatened those who would not join with them with the gallows, which they erected every where; plundered several towns, and the Royal Treasures contained in them; hung the Royal officers; surprised and murdered several small military detachments; even set fire to a magazine of gunpowder, and to some villages on the frontiers of Silesia; seized a convoy of oats which was destined for the army; committed robberies upon all the highways, so that all communication, nay, even the course of the posts were interrupted; and tho' they met with a vigorous resistance in different places, they succeeded however in making themselves masters of a convoy of 11 transports, laden with ammunition, coming up the Vistula from Grandenz.

In this concurrence of circumstances, while all South Prussia and the frontier of Silesia are exposed to the danger of an entire devastation, and while the fire against the enemy's works could not be