

A. POEM

For FEBRUARY 27th, 1795.

ANNIVERSARY OF THE BIRTH DAY OF GEORGE WASHINGTON.

WHILE festive songs and grateful prayers ascend For thee, O WASHINGTON, thy country's friend, Lo! to her empire's line Columbia flies, Nor with a nation's joy will blend her sighs...

(1) The first Settlers of New England arrived at Plymouth in the winter. (2) Boston was settled in 1630, and the University of Cambridge founded in 1636—A remarkable fact! (3) Townships are alluded to.

Walks on Kings' necks—yet, in the desperate strife, With poison daggers seeks fair freedom's life, Real with whole votaries blood (her fangs o'erthrown), These hands, the crisis, have hurl'd a tyrant down...

From the American Daily Advertiser.

GERMANICUS, LETTER X.

AFTER the discussions, contained in the preceding numbers, we may perhaps venture to affirm in the abstract, that every self created society, whose principle it is to condemn constitutionally laws, in order that their operation may be defeated; or, careless of consequences, disseminate, from an ignorance or perversion of facts, suspicions, jealousies and accusations of the government, ought to be avoided by the citizens of the United States...

them. And in order effectually to do so, it is likewise the duty of every freeman, to regard with attention, and to discuss without fear, the conduct of the public servants in every department of government. In considering the administration of public affairs, men and measures should be estimated according to their intrinsic merits; and, therefore, regardless of party spirit, or political connection, it is the duty of every citizen, by making the general welfare the rule of his conduct, to aid and approve those men and measures, which have an influence in promoting the prosperity of the Commonwealth. It shall be the duty of the Democratic Society to remove the prejudices; to conciliate the affections; to enlighten the understanding; and to promote the happiness of all our fellow citizens. It shall be the duty of the corresponding committee, to correspond with the various meetings of the society, and with all other societies, that may be established on similar principles, in any other of the United States; and to lay all communications, which they shall make and receive, together with such other business as they shall, from time to time deem proper, before the society, at a meeting held within their respective counties. In the address to the citizens of the State, they express their apprehension, that if France be unsuccessful, the affairs of Europe may involve the United States; and proceed: "Nor are the dangers arising from a foreign source, the only causes at this time, of apprehension and solicitude. The seeds of luxury appear to have taken root in our domestic soil; and the jealous eye of patriotism already regards the spirit of freedom and equality, as eclipsed by the pride of wealth, and the arrogance of power." This general view of our situation has led to the institution of the Democratic Society, &c. Some remarks follow upon the importance of circulating useful information. To obtain those objects then, and to cultivate, on all occasions, the love of peace, order and harmony; an attachment to the Constitutions, and a respect to the laws of our country, will be the aim of the Democratic Society. Party, and personal considerations are excluded from a system of this nature, &c. Here is a catalogue of powers, more extensive, than those granted by the constitution, to be the outline of almost any assumption whatever, I confess, that the most profuse commendations, and the most deadly abhorrence, of the measures of government are equally within their compass. But we must be as credulous, as childhood, to surrender to empty language the dictates of mature experience; by flattering ourselves, that those actions, which cannot be wrested into an unpopular shape, are the food expected, or desired by the societies. Would they have existed, had they been convinced, that they could detect no spot in the public administration? They will themselves answer in the negative; because watchfulness would be useless, if the public servants could be presumed faultless. It is in this consideration and others, which have been already stated, it is manifest, what they call faults, is the game, at which they dart, and that they would not have incurred the trouble of associating, to express their affection for the widow or uprightness of public conduct. Hence it is, that they strike at every proceeding, which can be distorted so, as to attract the attention of the people; and except in an instance or two, which shall be mentioned in this paper, they neglect to exhibit every other, which they cannot deform; alleging perhaps, that the honors and the emoluments of the agent, being an adequate reward, praise ought not to be ascribed to acts of ordinary duty. With this temper—with the professed determination to discuss without fear the conduct of the public servants "in every department of government,"—as often as their caprice can spread a plausible air of unconstitutionality over any law, they will condemn it. They thus instill into the minds of the people a doubt, whether it be obligatory on them; and make them reflect under its operation. Such being their means of planting dissensions we ought to have some assurance, that they are not "careless of the consequences" of their poison. But where is the responsibility of their members?—We ought to be sure, that they possess full information, and that facts are not misrepresented to them. But who can persuade himself, that full information will be possessed, or facts be candidly represented, where a disposition prevails, to hear on one side only, and persons are shut out, not of a particular course of thinking? It is therefore inevitable, that the very theory of the societies, when plainly exposed, leads them "to disseminate

suspicious, jealousies and accusations" of the whole government. And this too, without the intervention of any direct depravity. But when we calculate on the working of party or secret influence, imaginary faults will be multiplied without end;—they will be conjured up, instead of being found in their natural growth. That the societies are susceptible of this application, is a cogent reason for discountenancing them. For things, liable to great abuse, ought not to be adopted without an invincible necessity, and under competent guards. But their practice has not falsified their theory; proofs of which will be gathered from them indiscriminately. Let me not be charged with pretending, that the acts of government are too sacred to be canvassed. The contrary has been admitted and asserted. But in the present view of the question it is immaterial, and the inquiry would be too prolix, how far the measures, which have been assailed, were politic or not. Nothing more need be shown, than that the societies acquire undue opportunities of enforcing their opinions, and employ them, in undermining the confidence in government. They have endeavoured to hold up to general detestation, the Proclamation of the President of the United States, exhorting his fellow-citizens, not to embark themselves in the European war;—the appointment of Mr. James Monroe, as our minister plenipotentiary, to maintain a friendly intercourse with the French Republic;—the not publishing of negotiations, as if every degree of secrecy was to be banished;—and the recommendation to the Governor of Pennsylvania to suspend the establishment at Presque Isle, left the threat of a war from the Six Nations should be realized. They have denounced the Vice President and twelve members of the Senate, and indeed both houses of Congress. These and other resolutions, which might be referred to, indisputably prove, that there is no important step of government, which they will not struggle to influence, from the inability of individuals, who are not entrenched in counter-societies, to oppose them. It has been said, that praise and censure are distributed with impartiality. If this be conformable with fact, it is extremely unfortunate, that so few occasions for applause have been offered by government, since only two are recollecting, the letters written to the French Republic, and the management of the late insurrection. But it is not remarkable, that the Society of Philadelphia, when they bore testimony against that insurrection, on the 31st of July 1794, after it had commenced, upon the basis of the excise-laws, declared as their opinion, that excise systems, were oppressive, hostile to the liberties of this country, and a nursery of vice and sycophancy? The Society in New-York, on the 20th of Aug. 1794, treating in the footsteps of that of Philadelphia, in the same breath, commend the executive of Pennsylvania for appointing persons to confer with the citizens in the Western parts of Pennsylvania, and add this resolution: "It is the decided opinion of this society, that the mode of collecting public revenues by means of excises, is oppressive and dangerous to civil liberty, because among a number of evils, they are partial in their operation and productive of innumerable vexations, oppressions and acts of violence in their collection, because they have generally been destructive to the internal tranquility of those communities in which they have been established; because they create dangerous and pernicious influence in government, by unnecessarily increasing the number of its officers and subordinate dependants; because they tend to alienate the affections of the people from the government, and to excite those alarming jealousies and dissensions which can only end in opposition and resistance on the one part, and violence and oppression on the other. And lastly, because in these United States, we have every reason to believe they are immediately contrary to the wishes of the people whose authority in every free country only can be supreme. And this society, while they pledge themselves to use their unmerited exertions by every constitutional means in their power, to obtain a repeal of those immoral, oppressive, and expensive laws do most earnestly recommend to their western brethren, an immediate and unanimous return to that state of order and tranquility, which it is the duty of all good citizens to preserve. But, it is asked, have not other societies unequivocally praised the steps for reducing the insurrection; and the letters to France? Perhaps they have. For it would be the height of folly in

those, who inveigle the people, not to dash their gloomy pictures sometimes with a little light, or to refuse their voice, to what is sanctioned by the people. When will they venture to excel an act, the popularity of which is not previously ascertained, or which should in itself, be destitute of every popular profection? The three succeeding letters, which will comprehend and conclude every head of the proposed discussion, will extend this train of reflection. In the mean time it is not easy to discover how the Democratic Society of Pennsylvania reconcile their existence with their own dissolution. Resolved, as the opinion of this society, that in a democracy a majority ought in all cases to govern; and that where a constitution exists, which emanated from the people, the remedies pointed out by it against unjust and oppressive laws, and bad measures, ought to be resorted to; and that every other appeal but to the constitution itself, except in cases of extremity, is improper and dangerous? Are Democratic Societies pointed out by the constitution? or what case of extremity has come upon us? GERMANICUS. From the American Daily Advertiser. Mell's Dunlap & Claypoole. HAVING seen, a few days ago, in your paper a statement of the polls in the late election of a Senator for the state of Delaware, it may be proper, to prevent a misapprehension upon the subject, to acquaint the public, that Mr. Dickinson, whose name has been mentioned, was never a candidate for the appointment, nor in any measure considered as a competitor with Mr. Latimer. That gentleman having long since declined all public appointment, it is but justice to his character and principles to state, that few men would have been more acceptable to the public, or legislature, had it been concerned that he could have been prevailed upon to have suffered his name to be mentioned. In every federal view, the names presented to the public are equally respectable and worthy of regard. IMPARTIAL. From the American Daily Advertiser. The conflagration of Rop-walks at Bolton, brought to my remembrance what I read in a periodical paper, called the English Intelligence Leaf, of the year 1795 about some productions of the cotton which, in certain conditions, have the power to set them selves on fire by their own heat. Dr. Buckholz at Weimar has enumerated them, and here particularly has that quality. A paper containing her was enclosed; when she was made it was pleaded, that a compass brand of hemp had got on fire by its own heat. The Emperor thereupon ordered several trials, at each of the same it was found, that hemp compacted, having in the inside some part treated with oil or tallow, would in a day or two, begin to smoke, and in a short time afterwards would emit flames of fire. In the year 1790, it was found in several parts of Germany, that roasted lacery roots, which is used instead of coffee, is such a flammable substance. A groser at Magdeburg had a quantity of roasted ground and packed into casks, to send to another place; in the night it began to burn itself, and five houses were consumed by it. A caution or warning in the public prints to owners of rop-walks or magazines of hemp, captains of ships, and traders in hemp, flax and sail cloth, might, if noticed, prevent many losses by fire. CONGRESS. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES. FRIDAY, 13th February. The House went into a committee of the whole, Mr. Cobb in the chair, on the bill for continuing and regulating the military establishment of the United States, and for repealing sundry acts heretofore passed on that subject. In reading the several clauses of the bill, various objections were made. The following is a copy of the third section. And be it further enacted, that the legion of the United States be also completed to the number of four thousand eight hundred, non-commissioned officers, privates and musicians, by voluntary enlistments for the term of three years, and that the sublegions composing the same be organized in such a manner as the President of the United States shall direct. An amendment was moved by Mr. Madison, which was, that the troops should be employed for the protection of the frontier. Mr. Giles was against entrusting the President with any discretionary power, as to where the troops were to be employed. Mr. Fitzsimons said that he had enjoyed the honor of a seat in that House, ever since the beginning of the government. He had noticed with attention the progress of the standing army, and he had seen that many members, who at first had been against it were, from experience of its necessity, now for it. Mr. Wadsworth did not know a county in New-England, which could not destroy