

When I consider what noble efforts have been made in Britain on behalf of the poor negroes, with respect to abolishing the Slave Trade, I hope no one will blame these hasty efforts on behalf of those, who are the countrymen of

AN INDIVIDUAL.

Note. I have just seen with pleasure, the resolution proposed by a Foreigner "that the committee of commerce and manufactures, be instructed to enquire into the propriety of making effectual provision for preventing the kidnapping of negroes and malattoes, and of carrying them from their respective states, contrary to the laws of the said states."—Such a proposal (in my opinion) does credit to any man, and would have been honorable even to a Pennsylvanian, if he was ever so well acquainted with the history of his country, and the numerous pleasing accounts, which were given by our happy ancestors, of that reciprocal friendship which subsisted (with such dignified energy) for so long a time, between the native aborigines, and the white inhabitants.

P. S. As there are several names alluded to in the course of these foregoing remarks, I dare believe, that though I know not the persons of any of those gentlemen, they will not be offended if I refer them to a pretty story in this day's paper (the 20th instant) concerning a free black man of the name of Derry; whose generous benevolence to his ancient Mistress is, like a grand example, worthy of due attention.

FOR THE GAZETTE OF THE UNITED STATES.

Mr. FENNO,

AT the Synod of Florence, Gemistus Pletho foretold to George of Crete, that mankind would unanimously renounce the gospel and the Koran for a religion similar to that of the Pagans. To this opinion he was led by seeing the number of new and elegant Poems which made their appearance in Italy about this time, in which the mythology of the heathens was introduced as the machinery of the poem. Had he lived in the present age and beheld the inundation of NOVELS, the avidity with which they are read, and the superstitious notions of ghosts and visions with which they abound, he would, in all probability, have prophesied the return of the darkness and superstition of the middle ages. But far be it from me to predict the return of Ignorance! I have too good an opinion of the enlightened sense of my fair countrywomen, to suppose that the idle nonsense of a romance can ever overstep their firm and well established principles of Philosophy. But, as the continued dropping of water may wear away the hardest rock; they should be on their guard against the unceasing assaults of prejudice, lest it wear away their adamantine philosophy.

The human mind may be compared to the Camelion, which derives its hue from the colour of the substance on which it feeds. If the comparison is just; how careful ought we to be that its food is of the purest kind! The happiness of our life depends upon the choice. If it is a bad one, whatever may be our situation in life, misery will be our constant inmate. But, if a good one, it will serve us as a shield to ward off

"The stings and arrows of outrageous fortune." If so important then are the consequences involved in the choice of those works from which we derive our ideas; let us attend, for a few moments, to that species of books now under consideration.

It is a well known fact that the human mind is prone to superstition. Every age, every nation, confirms the truth of this assertion. In our earliest youth, when yet the mind is incapable of judging for itself, the legendary tale of ghosts and witches is carefully instilled into it; and it is not till reason has made great progress, if at all, that we are enabled to expell the poison thus sucked in with our infant breath. Every thing therefore, that has a tendency to foster superstition is a real evil to society. And what can more completely encourage it than to introduce it into a high wrought tale adorned with all the charms of language. Such are the books of which I am now speaking; which, under the garb of entertainment, convey fuel to a flame already consuming every noble trait of reason.

There is another species of romance so nearly allied to this, that I cannot help speaking of it here. I mean that in which a number of circumstances occur, which at first sight are thought supernatural, but which at the close of the novel turn out to be nothing more than natural. As a specimen of this kind of composition I shall give the following short epitome of a late novel called the Abbey of Saint Aloph.

"The author has thought it necessary, in compliance with the present rage for the terrible, to conduct the reader into a horrid cavern, (where the father of the heroine has been shut up for the unmerciful term of nineteen years,) and there to terrify him with a fiery spectre emitting from its gaping jaws sulphureous flames and sending forth horrid screams, and with a moving and shrieking skeleton,—only that he may afterwards have the pleasure of finding that he had no occasion to be frightened, the spectre being only a man, its infernal flames being nothing more than a preparation of phosphorus, and the inhabitant of the skeleton not a ghost but a man." To attempt seriously to reason on the ridiculousness of such absurd performances, might with propriety excite the smile of contempt, and I shall only remark, that the mind which is continually occupied in perusing such writings, like the stomach long used to an improper diet, will at length be unable to receive and digest its natural and wholesome food.

THEOPHRASTUS.

LONDON, March 4.

In the neighbourhood of London it is only from a very late date, that the farmers have found out the value of the sweepings of the streets, and coal ashes sifted, as manure. The wish of Marybone a few years ago, paid to the scavengers 500l. to remove these—now the scavengers pay the parish 1050l. per annum, for the liberty of carrying them away.

A nobleman of high rank, ordered his coachman on Wednesday, to purchase a load of straw

when it was estried home, it was immediately threshed, and, to the surprize of the Duke, and several gentlemen who attended to observe the process, yielded a bushel and a half of straw. Such a shameful waste of so necessary an article of life, owing entirely to the neglect in the farmers, certainly calls for the interference of our Legislators.

Two days ago, hundreds of people in this metropolis, were eye-witnesses of the great plenty that prevails at present. In Back Street, Portman Square, a quantity of straw was spread opposite to two houses, to prevent the noise of coaches from disturbing some sick persons. Many poor people were employed for hours shaking off the grain that had been left in the ears, and carrying it away in hat fulls.

PROVIDENCE, April 23.

Yesterday afternoon, at a very numerous and respectable meeting of the Merchants, Traders, and other inhabitants of this town, a memorial to the house of Representatives of the United States was unanimously agreed on, recommending that provision be made for carrying the treaty with Great Britain into immediate effect. A committee of 15 was appointed to sign the memorial, and transmit the same by this day's mail.

POSTSCRIPT.

By a gentleman last evening from Newburyport, we are informed, that

On Saturday last, the inhabitants of Newburyport assembled for the purpose of taking into consideration the subject of the Treaty between Great Britain and the United States, which they conceived to be of the greatest importance to the community at large. After having chosen General TITCOMB, as moderator, the question was put,— "Will you petition Congress to make provision for carrying the treaty with Great Britain into execution, as it is now become the supreme law of the land" which passed unanimously, except one, and upwards of 400 signed the petition that evening.

Philadelphia.

SATURDAY EVENING, APRIL 30, 1796.

The Resolution for carrying into effect the Treaty with Great Britain, was passed this day in the House of Representatives of the United States, 51 to 48—without any qualification or modification—and a committee ordered to bring in a bill or bills accordingly.

Extract of a Letter from Capt. Thomas Truston, to his friend in this city, dated Baltimore, April 25th, 1796.

"I got here on Saturday last, when I found my ship Friends Adventure nearly loaded and ready to sail, but feel myself awkwardly situated, having applied for insurance on this vessel against all risks, and received an answer that it had been determined for some days past to write the Sea-Risks only, until the House of Representatives of the United States had decided on the resolution now before them, respecting the British Treaty; hence it is, that I must either let a large and expensive ship of the burthen of near 800 hogheads of tobacco, lay with a cargo on board, or do an act that prudence and justice to my family forbid, (send her to sea uncovered.) You will, therefore, be pleased to give me your opinion by return of post, what hope there is of the House speedily coming to a favorable determination on this great and momentous question; and whether there is any prospect of my effecting an insurance against risks, in Philadelphia, on the above ship and cargo. Every gentleman that I have conversed with on the subject, whether merchant or of any other occupation, seems to wait, day after day, with anxious hope of hearing the appropriation is voted, and 'tho' there appears a difference of opinion as to the propriety of instructing a Representative, the unanimous wish of the community (as far as I can judge) is for carrying the British treaty into full & complete effect; and I am sure such a determination in Congress would cause a day of general rejoicing in this flourishing town. "Some of my acquaintance have feared that General Smith would vote against the appropriation, but from the various conversations I have had with that gentleman on the subject, I have drawn my conclusion, that his fears were not well founded—of course, I have seen drooping spirits on that head revive."

[The following should have preceded the letter from Greene County, published yesterday.]

Extract of a Letter from a Gentleman in Savannah, (Georgia) to his friend in this city, dated 24th April, 1796.

"The enclosed is an extract of a letter from the Western Country, to which the facts mentioned give the highest degree of probability; and the reflections are so just, that I think they ought to be published in the papers, to shew the deep-laid designs of certain persons to involve the country in war. The partisans here hold the same language that those are said to do in the Western country, and matters are fast drawing to conclusion. General Jackson mentioned a few days ago, to an officer of government here, that if there was no treaty, the people of Hancock County were ready and would go over the Oconee, and take possession of the country—and his aid-de-camp told me yesterday, that if the United States attempted to restrain them by force, it would require three thousand men. The madness, the guilt, and the danger of this conspiracy is no argument against its probability. Shays had less ambition, less local influence, and much more moderation than Jackson. Such is the passion of the latter for distinction, that rather than not occupy a niche in the Temple of Fame, he would be content to be placed by the side of Robespierre, Cataline, and a Grecian incendiary, whose name I have forgot, that burnt the Temple at Ephesus, that by the singularity of the crime he might immortalize his name. His hatred against the general government, and all its officers, from the President down to poor Hill, is such, that nothing can exceed it, but his mortification that he did not join in the sales of the Yazoo country, that he might have shared some of the profits he supposes "the Lords Proprietors," as he calls the purchasers, have made.

"Their judicial system has been so ill contrived, and hastily put together, that the Superior Courts have met, but could do no business; so that Harrison's fair and speedy trial must remain twelve months longer."

Deputy Marshal.

Extract of a letter from Boston, April 25.

I most cordially congratulate you on the decision of this day. You will see by the papers, that the merchants, traders and mechanics, alarmed at the

present posture of political affairs, have united in a petition to the House, to let no partial considerations govern them in their decision on the treaty, but that measures be taken to put it into fair and honourable effect. This memorial has been signed by 1500 citizens—not one mark, &c. While this memorial was signing, "certain persons," to the number of about 20, presented a petition to the Selectmen, (not, by the bye, until after an inflammatory hand-bill, which I enclose you, had issued from the Chronicle press) praying to call a town-meeting, to meet this day; where they expected, by the powerful eloquence of Dr. Jarvis, to defeat the object and intent of that memorial. The signers readily acquiesced in the measure; and this morning, precisely at 10 o'clock, assembled at Faneuil-Hall. The Hon. Col. Dawes was chosen Moderator; and the Hall being too small to hold the large body of citizens who assembled, they immediately adjourned to that large and capacious building the Old South Meeting-House. Assembled here, the Dr. opened the debate in a flow of eloquence, but which was more addressed to the passions than to the reason of the citizens—He was followed by Austin; but he was not imitated in any thing but sophistry. To the Doctor, Mr. Otis replied in one of the most masterly harangues ever uttered. Bursts of applause were involuntarily extorted by the splendid display. He soared with his subject, and eyed the solar rays of truth, reason, and sound policy. He spoke twice. Dr. Warren also supported the memorial in a very handsome speech. The Hon. Mr. Jones defended the promoters of the memorial in an eloquent, able and animated manner—and some personal allusion being made by the Town-Clerk to the Moderator, he requested the leave of the town, and defended his conduct, as a signer of the memorial, with great ability and effect. The most argumentative speaker against the memorial was Mr. Morton—He analyzed the constitution, and proposed, as a substitute to the memorial, a petition to the President to give up the papers. He was replied to by Mr. Otis with effect, and I think with conviction. Never, perhaps, were there greater exertions of oratory since men were endowed with the powers of speech—Flash succeeded flash, in continued consultations. The Doctor was by far the most powerful; and had he advocated the inherent right of the citizen to petition the legislator, he must have been invincible. He, however, moved that the question should be taken at 4 o'clock:—not thinking it necessary to consume another half day, his motion was negatived. He then moved that Mr. Maclay's motion in Congress should be read, and Mr. Otis moved, as an amendment, that in addition to that, the President's message on the treaty papers should also be read. Both motions were, after debate, withdrawn. The motion for taking the question by yeas and nays at 4 o'clock, made by the Doctor, was then renewed, and again negatived by a great majority. The question was then taken, "whether the memorial contains the sense of the town?"—and here description would fail to paint the forest of hands, which rose in favour of it—Some of the best informed of their party confessed there were ten to one in favor of the memorial—I religiously believe more—There could not be less than 2500 hundred voters on the occasion; and I am confident there were not one hundred and fifty hands held up in opposition.—I was in the gallery; and had a very fair opportunity of seeing all the transactions. The vote was so accordant to the feelings of the citizens, that notwithstanding the sense of gravity which the place inspired, there were no less than nine cheers given—so loud and unanimous as to be heard, I am truly told, in several of the streets a considerable way from the House.—I enclose you a Centinel extra, and a handbill—In addition to the intelligence contained therein, we have heard that Portland has adopted similar measures.

BEWARE! BEWARE!
OF BRITISH INFLUENCE!

To the Independent Merchants, Mechanics, and Tradesmen of Boston.

Friends and Fellow-Citizens,

THE same men who condemned your town-meeting last Summer against the British Treaty, as an improper influence on the "Constituted Authorities" of our country, are attempting to take you by surprise, by an insidious subscription.—They dare not meet their fellow-citizens face to face in open day light—they collect in the dark, and issue their Mandates, as if they were masters, and you their servants.

Rouse then, Citizen!—and once more in Town or Body Meeting support the Representatives of the People. Be not deceived! You will be told the mournful worn-out ditty of PEACE or WAR!—Believe them not. The question is—Will you again be connected with your greatest enemy—or will you remain a free and independent PEOPLE.

The petition from the citizens of Frederick and Berkeley counties, Virginia, which was signed by upwards of 400 persons, expressly states, that they are not recent converts to an approbation of the British treaty, but that they have always been friendly to it.

"If I adore any thing (said a member of Congress) it is the voice of the people."—What is now that voice?

Error retracted, or

The Richmond Decree against the Treaty reversed.

Extract of a Letter from a Gentleman in Richmond (Virginia) of April 25.

"It was thought inexpedient to take measures to ascertain an expression of the public mind under the violent prejudices with which it had been impressed, so long as a hope remained, that the House of Representatives, might ultimately consult the interest and honor of the nation; but now when all hope of this has vanished, it was deemed advisable to ask the opinion of the inhabitants of this city and its vicinity, accordingly a meeting was this day held, which was more numerous than I have ever seen at this place, and after a very ardent, and zealous discussion, which consumed the day, a decided majority declared in favor of the incl. f. d

resolution; the resolution with a petition drawn by an original opponent of the Treaty, will be forwarded by the next post to Congress; the subject will probably be taken up in every county in the state, or at any rate in very many of them."

At a meeting of the inhabitants of the city of Richmond and its vicinity, at the capitol, pursuant to notice on Monday the twenty fifth day of April 1796, the following resolution was agreed to: The Hon. James Wood being appointed Chairman, and John Stewart Secretary to the meeting.

Resolved, as the opinion of this meeting, that the peace, happiness and welfare of these United States, not less than their national honor depend, in a very great degree on their giving with good faith full effect to the Treaty lately negotiated with Great Britain.

Attest JOHN STEWART, Secretary.

Died, in Cumberland county, (N. J.) on Saturday the 16th inst. and in the 76th year of his age, MASKELL EWING, Esq. He was Justice of the Peace and Judge of the Pleas in that county for many years, both before and since the revolution; was a Deacon and Elder in the Presbyterian Church of Greenwich, about 45 years; lived in the married state with his only wife (whom he has left a widow) 53 years; was the father of 10 children, all married and settled long before his death; and what is remarkable, himself was the first person that died in his family.

COMMUNICATION.

It was said by one of the anti-federal members of a certain corps the last session of Congress, that he hoped the British never would make compensation to our merchants for the spoliation on our trade—being asked his reason—he replied, because in that case, the whole mercantile interest will join our party, and we will then contrive "ways and means" to make up their losses.

It is to be remarked, that if the machinations of the avowed enemies of the Constitution of the U. S. do not succeed, not one of the numerous evils which they have been predicting for seven years' past will ever be realized to justify their anticipations. It is mortifying in the extreme to be always in the wrong.

THEATRE.

The new Comedy of the Deserted Daughter was well received by a respectable company.

After the play Mr. Wignell made a handsome address to the audience, intimating his intention of leaving this country, in order to recruit his Theatrical Corps.—His address in our next.

MR. MORETON'S BENEFIT.

On Monday evening the friends of the Drama, and Dramatic excellence, will have an opportunity of gratifying their taste, and testifying their disposition to encourage merit. The entertainments for the evening are selected with judgment, they include sentiment, fancy and humor.—The exertions to please will be commensurate, particularly on the part of the candidate, whose undeviating exertions throughout the season—whose rapid improvements, and unrivalled attainments, are attractive to the distinguishing patronage of the citizens of Philadelphia, which will not, cannot, be resisted.

PORT OF PHILADELPHIA.

ARRIVED.

Schr. Polly, Wade, Jamaica 24
Sloop Jefferson, Cooke, Jamaica 22
Schr. Sea-flower, Robinson, Martha Brae 31
Betsey, Pendleton, N. Carolina 9

CLEARED.

Ship Thomas, Holland, Cork
Brig Planter, Hawkins, St. Croix
A British 64 gun ship and a frigate were seen cruising between the Capes of Delaware and Virginia, a few days ago.

Capt. Kirkpatrick of the Snow Boston, 56 days from Liverpool, in lat. 39, long. 45 was boarded by a French frigate, 14 months from L'Orient, the capt. of the frigate informed him that he had taken 7 prizes; he detained capt. K. about 3 hours in order to communicate some dispatches to the French minister.

The Ship Alexander of this port, from Dematara, bound home, was taken by the British, and sent into Grenada, where her cargo was libelled.

For SALE, or CHARTER,



THE BRIG
P. E. A. C. E.
Captain SALTER,

2500 barrels—a staunch good vessel, about five years old—ready to receive a cargo. Apply to

Peter Blight.

April 30.

Notice is hereby Given,

THAT in pursuance of an act of the General Assembly of Pennsylvania, entitled "an Act to enable the Governor of this Commonwealth, to incorporate a Company for making an artificial Road from an intersection of the Philadelphia and Lancaster Turnpike road near the Gap Tavern, in Lancaster county, to Newport and Wilmington in the State of Delaware;" the commissioners in said act appointed will procure five books and attend at the respective places directed therein to receive subscriptions for stock in the company, viz. One book will be opened in the city of Philadelphia. One in the Borough of Lancaster, one at Strasburgh in the county of Lancaster, one in the Borough of Wilmington, and one at the house of Samuel Cochran in the county of Chester on Wednesday the 1st day of June next, at 10 o'clock in the forenoon and said books will be kept open at least 6 hours in every day, for three days if three days shall be necessary; and on the first of the said days, any person of the age of 21 years shall be at liberty to subscribe in his own or any other name or names by whom he shall be authorized for one share, on the second day for one or two shares, and on the third day for one, two, or three shares, and in any succeeding day whilst the said books shall remain open for any number of shares in the said stock.

Every person previously to subscribing in said books must pay to the attending commissioners twenty five dollars for every share to be subscribed. The subscribers agreeably to their appointment in, and by the said act will attend at the city tavern in Philadelphia on the said first second and third days of June, with one of the said books for the purpose aforesaid.

GEORGE LATIMER,
ROBERT WALN,
NATHL. LEWIS,
ABIYAH DAWES.

Philadelphia, April 30.

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