

Farmer's Repository.

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POLITICAL.

We extract the following from a letter written June 19, 1809, by President Adams in reply to one received from S. Perley. Its frankness does honor to the writer:

The newspapers have represented my writings as monarchical, as having a monarchial tendency, as an attack on the American Constitution. In answer to these charges, I have only to tell them that I have represented the British constitution as the most perfect model that has as yet been discovered or invented by human genius and experience, for the government of the great nations of Europe. It is a masterpiece. It is the only system that has preserved or can preserve the shadow, the color, or the semblance of liberty to the people, in any of the great nations of Europe.

Consider the republics of Venice, Holland and Switzerland; not a particle of liberty to the people was preserved in any of them more than there was in France, nor so much neither.

Our own constitution I have represented as the best for us, in our peculiar situation, while we preserve ourselves independent and unallied to any of the great nations of Europe. An alliance with either France or England, would, in my humble opinion, soon put an end to our fine system of liberty.

Let me give you a few hints of the history of my "Defence of the constitutions of government of the U. S."

In 1775 and 1776 there had been great disputes in Congress and the several States concerning a proper constitution for the several States to adopt for their government. A convention in Pennsylvania adopted a government in one representative assembly, and Dr. Franklin was President of that convention. The Doctor when he went to France in 1776, carried with him the printed copy of that constitution and it was immediately propagated through France that this was the plan of government of Mr. Franklin. In truth, it was not Franklin's, but Timothy Matlack, James Cannon, Thomas Young, and Thomas Paine, were the authors of it. Mr. Turgot, the Duke de la Rochefoucault, Mr. Condorcet, and many others, became enamored with the constitution of Mr. Franklin. And in my opinion the two last owed their final and fatal catastrophe to this blind love.

In 1780, when I arrived in France, I carried a printed copy of the report of the grand committee of the Massachusetts convention which I had drawn up. And this became an object of speculation. Mr. Turgot, the Duke de la Rochefoucault, Mr. Condorcet and others admired Mr. Franklin's constitution and reproached mine.

Mr. Turgot in a letter to Dr. Price, which Dr. Price printed in London, censured the American constitutions as adopting three branches in imitation of the constitution of G. Britain.

The intention was to celebrate Franklin's constitution and condemn mine. I understood it; and undertook to defend my constitution, and it cost me three volumes.

In justice to myself, however, I ought to say that it was not the miserable vanity of justifying my own work, or eclipsing the glory of Mr. Franklin, that induced me to write. I never thought of writing, till the assembly of Notables in France had commenced a revolution, with the Duke de la Rochefoucault and Mr. Condorcet at their head, who I knew would establish a government in one assembly, and that I knew would involve France, and all Europe in all the horrors we have seen—carriage and desolation for forty, perhaps for an hundred years.

At the same time every western wind brought us news of town and country meetings in Massachusetts, adopting Mr. Turgot's ideas, condemning my constitution, reproaching the office of Governor, and the assembly of the Senate as expensive, useless and pernicious branches, and not only to lop them off, but rising in rebellion against them.

In this situation I was determined to wash my hands of the blood that was about to be shed in France, Europe and America, and how to the world that neither my sentiments nor my actions should have any share in countenancing or encouraging any such pernicious, destructive and fatal schemes. In this view I wrote my defence of the American Constitution. I had the Massachusetts constitution in view, and such others as agreed with it in the distribution of the Legislative power into three branches; in separating the Executive from the Legislative power; and the Judiciary from both.

These three volumes had no relation to the constitution of the U. S. That was not in existence; and I scarcely knew that such a thing was in contemplation, till I received it at the moment my third volume was about to issue from the press. I had barely time to annex it to the end.

I was perfectly acquainted with Mr. Turgot, the Duke de la Rochefoucault, and Mr. Condorcet. They were as sensible, learned and honest men as any in France. But such was their inexperience in all that relates to free government; so superficial their reading in the science of government, and so obtinate in their confidence in their own good characters in science and literature, that I would truthfully say, they were ignorant of their own government, sooner than any or even all of them."

From the Philadelphia Gazette, (a Federal paper.)

It has been with no small degree of surprise, that I have noticed the labored attempts of certain writers in this country, to exculpate the British government, in its rejection of the settlement made between Mr. Erskine and our government. At one time they are disposed to throw all the odium upon the two kings; and on other occasions to divide the blame between the two cabinets and the minister here. What possible good can arise from these kind of speculations, in which the construction is evidently forced? Are these men disposed to come forward as the supporters of the British ministry, and that in a cause which it is out of their power to defend before the American people, who keenly feel the injury done them by that ministry? Are they prepared to accede to any terms that Mr. Canning may offer us? Do they believe that the American nation will ever agree to any arrangement, which does not fully embrace every object in Mr. Erskine's settlement? And if the Cabinet of St. James are disposed to make a treaty on equal terms, why would they disavow what Mr. Erskine has done? For the present I can see no reason why any American should be anxious to take off the blame from the British government, until we have full and evident proof that it does not attach there. Was I to give my opinion, it would be this: That nation is exceedingly jealous of our increasing commerce—the shipping interest, the West and East India merchants, and the landed interest of the kingdom are much opposed to any immediate settlement with us.—To procrastinate is their object; and in this procrastination they know its effect upon us; while with expanded sails, they are reaping a rich harvest from every part of the ocean. I am one of those who was from principle opposed to the late administration; as also to the election of Mr. Madison; but while that gentleman conducts the affairs of the nation, with the same honor, manly independence and candor as he manifested in the arrangement with Mr. Erskine, he will have the support of an

AMERICAN REPUBLICAN.

LONGEVITY.

There died in February, 1806, at Gloves, near Athenry, in Ireland, of a short illness, Dennis Coorobe, of Ballelagan, aged 117 years. The life of this man was remarkable not only for its duration, but from its exemption from most of the evils of humanity. He retained his corporal and mental faculties in full vigor to the last.—Three weeks before his death he walked out and home 26 miles in one day, and read the smallest print without glasses as distinctly and easily as a boy of sixteen. Two days previous to his death, he never remembered to have any complaint or sickness whatever, took-ache only excepted. The first fifty-six years of his life passed entirely free from even the tooth ache. After that period his teeth began to decay; but in the course of 15 years a new set appeared, of which he continued in possession till his death.

Of his moral character, it is only recorded, that he was (steadfastly) an honest man; sober, regular, and perfectly upright in his deportment.—His mind was naturally strong and acute, not disciplined by a literary education, but enriched by observation and experience. He spent his life in the cultivation of the same farm, the property of which he had acquired early in life, and bent his attention chiefly to agriculture, in which he was generally allowed to be eminently proficient. He was one of the earliest who introduced and propagated the potatoe, which he cultivated for the last seventy years.

He was seven times married.—He was first married at the age of 21.—With his first wife, who survived him, he lived longer than any of the previous ones, that is, 26 years, having married her when 93 years old. In general, they were short lived, and were young women of his immediate neighborhood. The years of his widowhood, taken together, amounted to 11. All the children born to him were forty-eight, which is on an average one for every two years, since the first year of his marriage. He had three sets of twins; and his third wife bore him 11 children in 12 years.

His grand children were in number 236, which is little more than five to each child. His great grand children amounted to 944, which is more proportionally, than 8 to each child.—He had 25 great grand children, the oldest of whom is now 4 years old.—Of 1253 descendants of his body, 487 survived him.

By his last wife, he had six sons, the youngest of whom is a fine lad of 18.

These facts are extracted from a register kept by the old man, of the names, births, marriages, deaths, and general situation of wives and descendants.—The keeping of this register was his principal amusement; and his descendants being scattered far and wide over the earth, he took great pains to make a catalogue exact and complete. It is to be hoped, that some curious person may rescue this document from oblivion, by committing it to the press.—It would certainly lead to some very valuable inferences, as to the constitution of human bodies and of human society.

LATE FOREIGN NEWS.

NEW-YORK, AUGUST 28.

The Irish papers received at the office of the Mercantile Advertiser on Sunday by the ship Acteon are to the 14th of July, inclusive; but their London dates, which are not later than the 8th, have been anticipated by the arrival of the British Packet.

Some articles from the London shipping list of July 10th, received by the Acteon, will be found in our marine department.

Captain Grant informs us that the British expedition had not sailed, and that no embargo had been laid by the British government. A mail arrived at Cork from London on the morning he sailed, (15th) but he did not learn that it brought any intelligence of moment.

From Cork Papers.

London, July 8.—On Saturday dispatches were received from Admiral Berkeley and Sir A. Wellesey, bro't by the Enterprenant cutter of 10 guns, from Lisbon.

When the messenger who brought the general's dispatches left the army,

sir Arthur was within sight of Victor's army, and intended to give him battle the following day. Victor's retreat was entirely cut off, and from the dispositions that were made, there was every rational hope that his army would be destroyed. Sir A. Wellesey had been joined by the 40th regiment.

By the Malta mail, we have received accounts from Smyrna, of the 20th of May, and from Constantinople of the 21st of April. The Grand Seigneur is reported to be determined to carry on the war with vigor against the Russians, and was making preparations for that purpose.

Lisbon, June 20.

(Extracts of Letters.)

"Yesterday a regiment of British troops sailed up the Tagus; and on Sunday two regiments of infantry were landed here from Gibraltar.

"A very large force is collecting in the north of Portugal. Within the last four days, one brigade and two regiments of the line which had been quartered here, have marched towards Braga.—The whole of the forces in the North are under the command of the Portuguese general Silveira, who has eminently distinguished himself, and has the unqualified confidence of the troops under his command."

"June 17.—General Beresford has been here for a few days to make arrangements; he quitted us on the 9th for Badajos. The armies are in motion; but they cannot march with great rapidity, being compelled to carry with them every necessary article of provision and stores, the country through which they pass affording nothing to their necessities.

"Victor, it is now said, is between Talavera, Merida and Truxido; his army spreading to the margin of the Tagus.—The allies are approximated to the same situation."

"We are recruiting for men who are to compose new regiments. The service is not attended with much difficulty. Towards payment of this and other extraordinary expences, a contribution has been levied on the opulent and middling classes of the inhabitants, which is not to exceed one million of crusades. The contributors pay cheerfully.

"The weather has been very unreasonable, and unusually irregular; at the time I am writing, the rain falls in torrents."

LONDON, JULY 9.

To-day we had a number of arrivals from various quarters. Dutch papers to the 7th instant, beside late Portuguese and Spanish papers have reached us.

The Monitor of the 29th of June, says, every thing renders it probable, that the English, with that perfidy and atrocity which they displayed before Copenhagen, have formed the design of destroying the Swedish fleet, because they fear Sweden will join the continental league against them.

Letters from Lubek announce, that admiral Saumarez appears to threaten the island of Gotland.

The army of Cuesta, according to accounts from Elvas, is advancing; and there has already been some skirmishes between his advanced parties and those of the armies of Victor.

The sloop of war Goree, arrived at Halifax from Lisbon, brings the following news:

Lisbon, July 12.

The Spanish forces are at Almaraz; the English at Placentia; and the French between Talavera and Montes Carlos, about 25 leagues from Madrid; Sebastian and the would be king Joseph, with 15,000 troops at Toledo.—A battle was expected about the 15th of July. Cuesta, (though he had advanced) had promised Sir Arthur Wellesey not to make an attack until the British troops had come up."

A letter of the 24th of May from Torrelia, mentions a general action between the French and the Spaniards under gen. Blake, in which the latter were completely victorious.

House and Lot for Sale.

THE subscriber offers for sale his House and Lot, in Charlestown, on the main street leading to Alexandria. The dwelling house is two stories high, with a good cellar, kitchen, smoke house, and stable. Back land will be taken in part payment for this property, or will be sold very low for cash. An indisputable title will be given to the purchaser.

JOHN WARE.

July 21, 1809.

Jefferson, ss.

Robert Avis, Complainant, against Henry Gingrick, Defendant.

IN CHANCERY.

THE defendant Henry Gingrick not having entered his appearance agreeably to an act of assembly, and the rules of this court; and it appearing to the satisfaction of the court that the said defendant is not an inhabitant of this commonwealth: It is ordered that the said defendant do appear here on the second Tuesday in September next, and answer the bill of the complainant, and that a copy of this order be forthwith published at the door of the court house of Jefferson county, and in the Farmer's Repository, published in Charlestown, for three weeks successively.

A Copy, GEO. HITE, CLK.

Ten Dollars Reward.

RAN AWAY from my farm on Bullskin, in Jefferson county, early in May last, a Negro Man, Jupiter, said to be about 30 years of age, but from his appearance he would be thought some years older. He is a black man about 5 feet 8 or 9 inches high, and wore when he went off mixed Virginia cloth woollen coat and pantaloons. He has a wife at Mr. Fulton's, on Shenandoah river, a few miles below the mouth of Bullskin. The above reward will be paid to any person who will apprehend and deliver the said negro to the subscriber in Charlestown, or to the manager on my farm.

BENNETT TAYLOR.

Charlestown, August 23, 1809.

Five Dollars Reward.

STRAYED from the subscriber in Shepherdstown, on the 8th of July last, a dark bay horse, near fifteen hands high, six years old next spring, left hind leg white. This horse since he left me has been in the possession of Mr. John Grantham, sen. near Smithfield, and is still supposed to be in the same neighbourhood. The above reward will be given to any person who will return him to the subscriber in Shepherdstown.

HENRY BOTELER.

August 18, 1809.

Jefferson, ss.

Christian Moyer, Complainant, against James Watson & Giles Cooke, Defs. IN CHANCERY.

THE defendant James Watson not having entered his appearance agreeably to an act of assembly, and the rules of this court; and it appearing to the satisfaction of the court that the said defendant Watson is not an inhabitant of this commonwealth: It is ordered that the said defendant Watson do appear here on the second Tuesday in September next, and answer the bill of the complainant; and that a copy of this order be forthwith published at the door of the court-house of Jefferson county, and in the Farmer's Repository, published in Charlestown, for three weeks successively. And it is further ordered that the defendant Giles Cooke do not pay, convey away, or secret any monies by him owing to, or goods or effects in his hands, belonging to the absent defendant Watson, until the further order of this court.

A Copy, GEO. HITE, CLK.

Ten Dollars Reward.

STRAYED away from the subscribers living in Hampshire county, Va. near the mouth of little Capon, a dark bay horse, foretop and mane cropt, a star on his forehead, and has a small bell on. Also a bright bay mare colt, two years old, her hind feet white, and a star on her forehead. The above reward will be paid to any person giving information of said strays so that they be had again, or five dollars for either.

JOHN A. COX. JAMES TILER.

August 4, 1809.

A SMART BOY.

About 12 or 15 years of age, will be taken as an apprentice to the above business.

JOSEPH BROWN.

Charlestown, July 21, 1809.

Flaxseed Wanted.

THE highest price will be given by the subscriber for good flaxseed.

JOSEPH BROWN.

Charlestown, July 21, 1809.

RAGS!

Three cents per pound will be given for clean linen and cotton rags, at this office.

Writing Paper For sale by the Printer.

Valuable property for sale.

ON the first day of December next, will be exposed to public sale, to the highest bidder, on a credit to the end of the next session of the Virginia legislature, agreeably to the provisions of an act passed on the thirty-first day of January last, all the right, title and interest vested in the subscriber by a deed of trust executed by Ferdinando Fairfax on the first day of December, 1807, and recorded in the county court of Jefferson, to the following property, or so much as may be necessary to raise a sum of money due to John D. Orr, on the first day of January last past, and the costs of sale, viz. the tenement at present occupied by Samuel Spencer, (supposed to contain about four hundred acres) part of the Shannondeal tract—also the seats for water works adjacent to the upper end of said tenement, upon the margin of the river Shenandoah, so laid off as to comprehend the said seats and water advantages, and containing by a late survey thereof, about twenty acres and one quarter of an acre. This tenement has a good proportion of rich river bottom, and is heavily timbered, and the mill seats are excelled by very few in the valley, if any. The sale will take place on the premises, and commence at 12 o'clock of the day above mentioned.

Wm. BYRD PAGE, Trustee.

August 25, 1809.

SONG.

Written by the celebrated Dr. Franklin in honor of his wife.

OF their Choices and Phillis poets may prate,
I sing of my platin country Joan;
Now twelve years my wife, full the joy of my life—
Bless'd day that I made her my own!

Not a word of her shape, her face or her eyes,
Or of flames or darts shall you hear;
Tho' I beauty admire, 'tis virtue I prize;
For it fades not in seventy years.

With peace and good humor my household the guides
Right careful to save what I gain,
Yet cheerful attends and smiles on my friends,
Whom with pleasure I oft entertain.

In health a companion delightful and dear,
Still easy, engaging and free;
In sickness, no less than the tenderest nurse,
She's tender as tender can be.

She defends my good name e'en when I'm to blame,
Friend firmer to man ne'er was given;
Her compassionate breast feeds for all the distress'd;
Which draws down new blessings from Heaven.

Some faults we have all—and so may I boast,
But then they're exceedingly small;
And now I'm us'd to them they're so like my own,
I can scarcely discern them at all.

Was the fairest young Princess, with millions in purse,
To be had in exchange for my Joan,
She could not be a better, she might be a worse,
So I'd e'en be content with my own.

The following Epitaph, found on a tomb stone in Scotland, is designed to ridicule the proud pretensions of men who rely on birth and inheritance, instead of wisdom and virtue.

Johnie Carnegie lies here,
Descended from Adam and Eve;
If any gang higher,
I'll willingly gie him leave.

THE ISLAND OF WALCHERIN.

To which is said to be defined the great expedition now fitting out in England, is nearly opposite to the Thames, and lies at the mouth of the Scheldt, in lat. 51, 30, and long. 33 E. Its form is almost circular, being nine miles in length, and eight in breadth. It belongs to the province of Zealand, the most southern state of Holland. Middleburg, its capital, is in the centre of the island, and by means of a very deep canal, carries on an extensive commerce in wines, &c. It submitted to the Prince of Orange in 1575, and from that period till French Philosophy dipped her sponge in vitriol and soot, and dashed it over the map of the continent, it remained a part of the Dutch Republic. But its principal lure as a belligerent landing place, is the harbour of Flushing, on the south side of the island, which is strongly fortified, is susceptible of containing 80 ships of the line in safe moorage, commands all the adjacent islands, is considered the key of the Scheldt, and of course has every advantage of descent on Flanders and Brabant. During the seventy years war, the States gave this city to Queen Elizabeth, (who had espoused the cause of Batavian liberty,) as a pledge of their fidelity to their engagements. It was restored by James the First.

Rumour only has pointed to this island as the intended place of debarkation.—But it appears to us that the expedition could not be directed to a spot, so competent to all the purposes of defence and assault.—In British hands, its insularity renders it impregnable, and its vicinity to the shore commodious for operation.

Boston Gazette.

FOR SALE.

A valuable Negro Woman. Inquire of the printer.

July 21, 1809.

