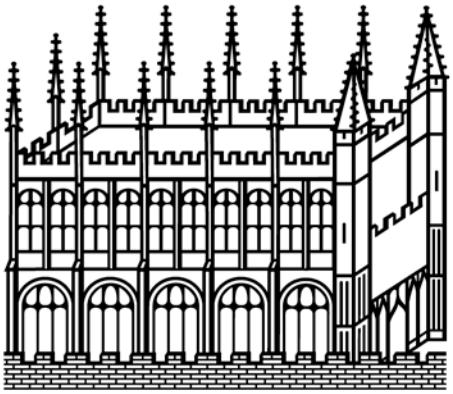

The Westminster magazine; or, The Pantheon of taste: ...

John Hope, Thomas Holcroft

No. CXXXIX.

OF

The Weſtminſter Magazine,

For JANUARY 1784.

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Sir Ed. Coke, in Vol. I. Journ. of House of Commons, page 707.

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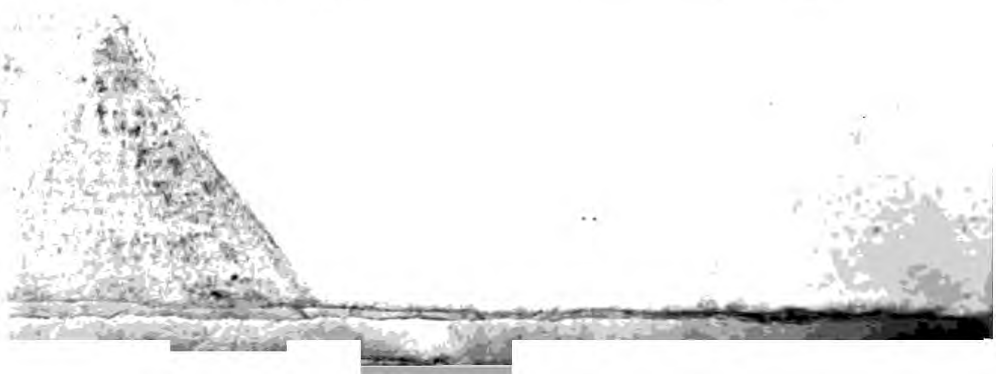
Eye Natures Walks shoot folly as it flies.
And catch the Manners living as they rise.
Pope.

VOL. XII.

LONDON

Printed for John. Walker, N°. 44 Pater-noster Row.



GEN.L WASHINGTON.

Publish'd Jan.y 31. 1784 by John Walker from an Original Painting.

The Weſtminſter Magazine;

For JANUARY, 1784.

[Embelliſhed with, 1. A beautiful Frontiſpiece; and, 2. A Striking Likeneſs of GENERAL WASHINGTON.]

CONTENTS.

LONDON: Printed for J. WALKER, No. 44, in Paternoſter-Row,

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PRICES of STOCKS in *January*, compiled by C. DOMVILLE, Stock Broker, No. 95, Cornhill.

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PREFACE.

IT may not be improper to acquaint our readers, that the preſent ſituation of affairs has not obliged us to make any change in the plan of our work. We have made it our conſtant endeavour to procure as many and as various materials, as was conſiſtent with our deſire of keeping our collection chaſte, and of preſerving the order and method which the public indulgence has lately ſo much approved.

The great encouragement this work has received, emboldens us to renew our claim of patronage from our numerous readers, and to flatter ourſelves, that the ſucceeding volumes, from the aſſiſtance of ſeveral gentlemen of reputation in the literary world, will be rendered as worthy of their attention, as any that have hitherto been publiſhed.

We are exceedingly happy to find our biographical accounts of diſtinguiſhed characters, accompanied by the maſterly repreſentations of the moſt eminent engravers, give univerſal ſatisfaction—This department ſhall therefore be particularly attended to—nor ſhall any other part of our undertaking be neglected, as we well know, that to obtain the approbation of our readers, it will be neceſſary to deſerve it.

EXPLANATION OF THE FRONTISPIECE.

THE Frontiſpiece exhibits a beautiful Repreſentation of the Buſt of the celebrated WILLIAM HAYLEY, Eſq: (whoſe poetical Works are univerſally admired) crowned by ERATO, MELPOMENE, and CLIO, three of the Muſes, who particularly patronize the different Branches of Poetry, ſupport Virtue in Diſtreſs, and reſcue worthy Actions from Oblivion.

THE

WESTMINSTER MAGAZINE,

FOR

JANUARY 1784.

For the WESTMINSTER MAGAZINE.

A SKETCH *of the* LIFE *and* CHARACTER *of* GENERAL WASHINGTON.

[Illuſtrated with a STRIKING LIKENESS of that diſtinguiſhed Officer, engraved from an original Portrait.]

Written by JOHN BELL, Eſq. of Maryland, in an Epiſtle to a Friend in London.

GEORGE WASHINGTON, is the third ſon of Mr. Auguſtine Waſhington, a man of large property and diſtinguiſhed reputation in the ſtate of Virginia: an anceſtor of this gentleman, about the period of the Revolution, ſold his property, near Cave, in the Eaſt Riding of Yorkſhire, and came over to Virginia, where he purchaſed lands in King George's County; and it was here that our hero was born on the 22d of February in the year 1733. In this county he has at this time three brothers, Samuel, John and Charles, all gentlemen of conſiderable landed property, and a ſiſter who is married to Colonel Fielding Lewis.

His elder brother Lawrence, who went out a Captain of the American troops, raiſed for the Carthagena expedition, married the daughter of the Honourable William Fairfax of Belvoir, in Virginia, by whom he left one daughter, who dying young, and his ſecond brother alſo dying without iſſue, the General ſucceeded to the family ſeat, which, in compliment to the gallant Admiral of that name, is called Mount Vernon, and is delightfully ſituated on the Potomack River, a few miles below Alexandria.

General Waſhington is the eldeſt ſon by a ſecond marriage; and having never been out of America, was educated (as youths of fortune in this country generally are) under the eye of his father by a private tutorage: a ſlight tincture of the Latin language, a grammatical knowledge of his mother tongue, and the elements of the mathematics, were the chief objects he was taught to purſue. For a few years after he quitted his tutor, he applied himſelf to the practical part of ſurveying (a knowledge of which is eſſentially

ſentially requiſite to men of landed property in this country) and was appointed ſurveyor to a certain diſtrict in Virginia; an employment rather creditable than lucrative; though it afforded him an opportunity of chuſing ſome valuable tracts of land, and made him thoroughly acquainted with the frontier country.

On the Governor and Council of Virginia receiving orders from England, in October, 1753, to repel by force the encroachments of the French on the weſtern frontiers, along the rivers Ohio and de Boeuf, Mr. Waſhington, then a Major in the provincial ſervice, and an Adjutant General of their forces, was diſpatched by General Dinwiddie, with a letter to the commander in chief of the French on the Ohio, complaining of the inroads they were making in direct violation of the treaties then ſubſiſting between the two crowns; he had alſo inſtructions to treat with the ſix nations and other weſtern tribes of Indians, and to engage them to continue firm in their attachment to England.

He ſet out on this perilous embaſſy, with about fifteen attendants, late in October 1753; and ſo far ſucceeded, that on his return with Monſ. de St. Pierre's anſwer, and his good ſucceſs in the Indian negociations, he was complimented with the thanks and approbation of his country. His journal of this whole tranſaction was publiſhed in Virginia, and does great credit to his induſtry, attention, and judgment; and it has ſince proved of infinite ſervice to thoſe who have been doomed to traverſe the ſame inhoſpitable tracts.

Soon after this, the deſigns of the French becoming more manifeſt, and their movements and conduct more daring, orders were iſſued out by adminiſtration for the colonies to arm, and unite in one confederacy. The aſſembly of Virginia took the lead by voting a ſum of money for the public ſervice, and raiſing a regiment of four hundred men for the protection of the frontiers of the colony.

Major Waſhington, then about twenty-three years of age, was appointed to the command of this regiment, and before the end of May, in the enſuing year, came up with a ſtrong party of the French and Indians, at a place called Redſtone, which he effectually routed, after having taken and killed fifty men. Among the priſoners were the celebrated woods-man Monſ. De La Force and two other officers, from whom Colonel Waſhington had undoubted intelligence, that the French force on the Ohio conſiſted of upwards of one thouſand regulars, and ſome hundreds of Indians.

Upon this intelligence, although his little army was ſomewhat reduced, and intirely inſufficient to act offenſively againſt the French and Indians, yet he puſhed on towards his enemy to a good poſt; where in order to wait the arrival of ſome expected ſuccour from New York and Pennſylvania, he entrenched himſelf, and built a ſmall fort called Fort Neceſſity. At this poſt he remained unmoleſted, and without any ſuccour until the July following; when his ſmall force, reduced now to leſs than three hundred men, was attacked by an army of French and Indians of about eleven hundred and upwards, under the command of the Sieur de Villiers.

The Virginians ſuſtained the attack of the enemy's whole force for ſeveral hours, and laid near two hundred of them dead in the field, when the French Commander, diſcouraged by ſuch determined reſolution, propoſed the leſs dangerous method of diſlodging his enemy by a parley, which ended in an honourable capitulation. It was ſtipulated that Colonel Waſhington ſhould march away with all the honours of war, and be allowed to carry off all his military ſtores, effects, and baggage.

This capitulation was violated from the ungovernable diſpoſition of the ſavages, whom the French commander could not reſtrain from plundering the provincials on the onſet of their march, and from making a conſiderable ſlaughter of men, cattle, and horſes.

This breach of the capitulation was ſtrongly remonſtrated againſt by the Britiſh Ambaſſador at the Court of Verſailles, and may be looked upon as the æra when the French Court began to unmaſk, and to avow (though in a clandeſtine manner) the conduct of their governors and officers in America; they redoubled their activity and diligence on the Ohio, and in other places during the winter 1754, and the following ſpring. Virginia had determined to ſend out a larger force; the forts Cumberland and Loudon were built and a camp was formed at Wills Creek, from thence to annoy the enemy on the Ohio.

In theſe ſeveral ſervices (particularly in the conſtruction of the forts) Colonel Waſhington was principally employed, when

when he was ſummoned to attend General Braddock, who with his army arrived at Alexandria, in Virginia, in May 1755. The deſign of ſending out that army, was to penetrate through the country to Fort Du Queſne (now Fort Pitt) by the route of Wills Creek; and as no perſon was better acquainted with the frontier country than Colonel Waſhington, and no one in the colony enjóyed ſo well eſtabliſhed a military character, he was judged highly ſerviceable to General Braddock, and chearfully quitted his command to act as a volunteer and aid du camp under that unfortunate General.

The particulars of the defeat, and almoſt total ruin of Braddock's army, conſiſting of two thouſand regular Britiſh forces, and near eight hundred provincials are too well known to need a repetition; it is allowed on all ſides that the haughty poſitive behaviour of the General, his high contempt of the provincial officers and ſoldiers, and his diſdainful obſtinacy in rejecting their advice, were the genuine cauſes of this fatal diſaſter. With what reſolution and ſteadineſs the provincials and their gallant commander behaved on this trying occaſion, and in covering the confuſed retreat of the army,* let every Britiſh officer and ſoldier confeſs, who were reſcued from ſlaughter on that calamitous day by their valour and conduct.

After General Braddock's diſaſter, the colony of Virginia found it neceſſary to eſtabliſh her militia, raiſe more men, ſtrengthen her forts, undertake expeditions to check the inroads of the enemy, &c. &c. &c. In all which important ſervices Colonel Waſhington bore a principal ſhare, and acquitted himſelf to the utmoſt ſatisfaction of his country, by diſplaying, on every occaſion, the moſt perſevering induſtry, perſonal courage, and military abilities. He was again appointed to the command of the Virginia troops, and held it with ſignal credit till his reſignation in 1759, when he married the young widow of Mr. Cuſtis, his preſent lady; with whom he had a fortune of twenty thouſand pounds ſterling in her own right, beſides her dower in one of the principal eſtates in Virginia.

From this period he became as aſſiduous to ſerve the ſtate as a ſenator, as he had hitherto been active to defend it as a ſoldier. For ſeveral years he repreſented Frederick County, and had a ſeat for Fairfax County; at the time he was appointed by the aſſembly, in conformity with the univerſal wiſh of the people, to be one of their four delegates at the firſt general Congreſs. It was with no ſmall reluctance that he engaged again in the active ſcenes of life; and I ſincerely believe that no motives but ſuch as ſpring from a moſt diſintereſted patriotiſm, could have ever prevailed upon him to relinquiſh the moſt refined domeſtic pleaſures, which it was ever in his power to command, and the great delight he took in farming and the improvement of his eſtate.

You well know that General Waſhington is, perhaps, the greateſt landholder in America (the proprietors of Pennſylvania Maryland, and the Northern Neck excepted) for beſides his lady's fortune, and ten thouſand pounds falling to him by the death of her only daughter, he has large tracts of land taken up by himſelf early in life, ſome conſiderable purchaſes made from officers who had lands allotted them for their ſervices; and has, moreover, made great additions to his eſtate at Mount Vernon.

It is impoſſible in this country, as in England, to rate the value of eſtates by their annual rent or income, becauſe they are univerſally tilled by negroes, and in the hands of landholders. There are many eſtates in the middle colonies, which never produced a clear income to their owners of five hundred a year, that may be eaſily ſold for forty thouſand pounds. General Waſhington's, however, will not be over-rated, if ſet down at a good four thouſand pounds Engliſh per annum, and his whole property could not be bought for forty years purchaſe.

When it was determined at length in Congreſs, after every ſtep towards an accommodation had failed, and every petition from America had been rejected, to repel by force the invaſion from Great Britain, the eyes of the whole Continent were immediately turned upon Mr. Waſhington. With one common voice he was called forth to the defence of his country; and it is, perhaps, his peculiar glory, that there was not a ſingle inhabitant of theſe ſtates, except himſelf, who did not approve the choice, and place the firmeſt confidence in his integrity and abilities.

He arrived at Cambridge in New England, in July 1775, and there took the ſupreme command of the armies of America

* See Captain Orme's Letter to Governor Dinwiddie, and alſo the other Accounts of that Day.

rica. He was received at the camp with that heart felt exultation which ſuperior merit can alone inſpire, after having in his progreſs through the ſeveral ſtates received every mark of affection and eſteem, which they conceived were due to the man, whom the whole continent looked up to for ſafety and freedom.

As he always refuſed to accept of any pecuniary appointment for his public ſervices, no ſalary has been annexed by Congreſs to his important command, and he only drew weekly for the expences of his public table and other neceſſary demands. General Waſhington having never been in Europe, could not poſſibly have ſeen much military ſervice when the armies of Britain were ſent to ſubdue them; yet ſtill, for a variety of reaſons, he was by much the moſt proper man on this continent, and probably any where elſe, to be placed at the head of an American army. The very high eſtimation he ſtood in for integrity and honour, his engaging in the cauſe of his country from ſentiment and a conviction of her wrongs, his moderation in politics, his extenſive property, and his approved abilities as a commander, were motives which neceſſarily obliged the choice of America to fall upon him.

That nature has given him extraordinary military talents will hardly be controverted by his moſt bitter enemies; and having been early actuated with a warm paſſion to ſerve his country in the military line, he has greatly improved them by unwearied induſtry, and a cloſe application to the beſt writers upon tactics, and by a more than common method and exactneſs: and, in reality, when it comes to be conſidered that at firſt he only headed a body of men intirely unacquainted with military diſcipline or operations, ſomewhat ungovernable in temper, and who at beſt could only be ſtiled an alert and good militia, acting under very ſhort enliſtments, uncloathed, unaccoutred, and at all times very ill ſupplied with ammunition and artillery; and that with ſuch an army he withſtood the ravages and progreſs of near forty thouſand veteran troops, plentifully provided with every neceſſary article, commanded by the braveſt officers in Europe, and ſupported by a very powerful navy, which effectually prevented all movements by water; when, I ſay, all this comes to be impartially conſidered, I think I may venture to pronounce, that General Waſhington will be regarded by mankind as one of the greateſt military ornaments of the preſent age, and that his name will command the veneration of the lateſt poſterity.

I would not menſion to you the perſon of this diſtinguiſhed man, were I not convinced that it bears great analogy to the qualifications of his mind. General Waſhington is a tall well-made man, rather large boned, and has a tolerably genteel addreſs: his features are manly and bold, his eyes of a blueiſh caſt and very lively; his hair a deep brown, his face rather long and marked with the ſmall pox; his complexion ſunburnt and without much colour, and his countenance ſenſible, compoſed, and thoughtful; there is a remarkable air of dignity about him, with a ſtriking degree of gracefulneſs: he has an excellent underſtanding without much quickneſs; is ſtrictly juſt, vigilant, and generous; an affectionate huſband, a faithful friend, a father to the deſerving ſoldier; gentle in his manners, in temper rather reſerved; a total ſtranger to religious prejudices, which have ſo often excited Chriſtians of one denomination to cut the throats of thoſe of another; in his morals irreproachable; he was never known to exceed the bounds of the moſt rigid temperance: in a word, all his friends and acquaintances univerſally allow, that no man ever united in his own perſon a more perfect alliance of the virtues of a philoſopher with the talents of a general. Candour, ſincerity, affability, and ſimplicity, ſeem to be the ſtriking features of his character, till an occaſion offers of diſp'aying the moſt determined bravery and independence of ſpirit.

Such, my good friend, is the man to whom America intruſted her important cauſe. Hitherto ſhe has had every reaſon to be ſatisfied with her choice; and moſt ungrateful would ſhe be to the great Diſpoſer of human events, were ſhe not to render him unremitting thanks for having provided her with ſuch a citizen at ſuch a criſis.

Moſt nations have been favoured with ſome patri tic deliverer: the Iſraelites had their Moſes; Rome had her Camillus; Greece her Leonidas; Sweden her Guſtavus; and England her Hambdens, her Ruſſels, and her Sydneys; but theſe illuſtrious heroes, though ſucceſsful in preſerving and defending, did not like WASHINGTON, form or eſtabliſh empires, which will, in all probability, be the refuge or aſylum of liberty baniſhed from Europe by luxury and corruption.

I. B.

For the WESTMINSTER MAGAZINE.

An ADDRESS *on the* NEW YEAR.

THERE are certain occaſions, when the moſt wicked man living cannot baniſh ſerious reflection; when he cannot help meditating on the folly of his actions, on the importance of wiſdom, and on the merits of goodneſs in procuring a happy life. The proſpect of death is not a ſerious one to the good only; indeed, perhaps to them it is a happy proſpect; it is not a ſerious proſpect only to the philoſopher, or man of learning, but it is an irreſiſtible call even to the moſt abandoned to bethink themſelves of their ways, and be wiſe in time. Of all other deaths, ſudden death conveys moſt horror; few there are, be they ever ſo regular in their lives, who do not feel on ſuch an occaſion, that all their wordly caution and intereſt are very vain and unprofitable, compared with the better aſſurance which an unſpotted conſcience gives. All gaiety, all grandeur, even the pomp of ſophiſtry, and the proud reaſoning of infidels and of the unprincipled rake are then at an end. On ſuch an occaſion men ſeem what they are.

But death, in any ſhape, is not the only occaſion which excites the general meditations of mankind. This ſeaſon opens a wide field for the moſt ſerious reflection. The commencement of the new year is, to the young a cauſe of merriment, but their ignorance prevents either forethought or retroſpect. They are acquainted with no paſt events which can imbitter the preſent moment, and they foreſee no happineſs ſuperior to that which they now enjoy, and no miſeries ſuperior to the little playful diſappointments which ariſe from their thoughtleſſneſs. It is not ſo with the man of reflection. He cannot enter on the actions of a new year, without taking a review of that which is now at an end. He cannot trace any action without ſeeing how much better it might have been done, and he cannot trace any events of his life without being conſcious, that he himſelf was the cauſe of his failure, and that what happineſs he has reaped, was rather accidental than merited or laboured for. At the ſame time too, he is apt to reflect on the many happy days and hours he formerly ſpent during this ſeaſon of the year, and that never without ſorrow, that he muſt no more ſee ſuch days. He thinks with pain on that age, when his happineſs was conſciouſneſs of innocence, and when he had neither wiſhes nor wants, which in innocence and moderation could not be ſupplied. He contraſts his preſent ſituation with the days of his childhood, and he finds himſelf now ſituated on an eminence in the world. He who formerly looked up to others, is now looked up to himſelf. Dependent only on his own induſtry, he recollects the many painful doubts which the ſucceſs of that induſtry has coſt him; placed at the head of a family, or as the principal of a ſet of loved connections, he feels a thouſand anxieties concerning himſelf, and at the beginniug of a new year, looks back with humiliating ſorrow on the little he has done. The common gaiety of the time prevents his being ſunk in diſtreſs, but neither a review of the paſt, nor the moſt favourable conjectures concerning what may happen hereafter, add to his pleaſures, or contribute to his happineſs.

The ſituations of men in life, whatever thoſe may be, whether military, civil political, or literary, are objects of the firſt magnitude. It is on our conduct in them, that not only our character but our peace and ſatisfaction depend. Yet often do we find, that when reflection comes, we are miſerable on account of thoſe ſituations, and like the diſcontented men (in Horace) wiſh to change ſituations with our neighbours. An impatience to be happy, and an ignorance of the ſource of happineſs, produce the common diſcontents. A contempt for what is ſolid, a neglect of what is good, and a love of the frivolous, are the common errors, and men, in the height of their folly, pretend to be in ſearch of happineſs while their *footſteps go down to death.*

Let all then begin, from the commencement of this year, to think for themſelves with as great independence of mind as they act for themſelves in the independence of trade. There is but one ſtandard of acting, which is juſtice, and there is but one ſtandard of thinking, which is religion. The one teaches us to be juſt to others, the ſecond to be juſt to ourſelves. By the one, our character here is promot-

ed to the higheſt eſtimation of the worthieſt and the beſt of men, and by the other, our happineſs is ſet above the viciſſitudes of time, or the malice of enemies.

Let the ſcoffer enjoy his laugh, and the profligate conſume his time, and complete his life of evil and unprofitableneſs, yet ſtill this truth remains unimpeached, that there is no comfort which religion does not give and allow, and there is no happineſs which vice does not deſtroy and abuſe. However we may have waſted our time, our ſtrength, or our ſubſtance in riotous living, and uſeleſs employments, the new year is an æra from whence we may begin a better life.

In theſe days of political diſſentions, when even the common language of the country ſcarce remains unpolluted by the ſophiſms of corrupted ſtateſmen, when no goodneſs of character can ſtand in competition with the induſtry of ambition and avarice, when a deſire to enjoy the emoluments of office, and a contempt for the diſcharge of the duties of office, militate againſt the proſperity of the nation, it is time for the individual to ſeek his ſtores of peace within himſelf; it is time for him to turn his eyes toward his own ſoul, and ſee whether there be not in it, a fund of enjoyment, far ſuperior to what proſtitution of talents, or the ſplendour of wealth and place can give. Public virtue and integrity is no longer an object in view; we look in vain for thoſe virtues in our days, and diſappointed by flatterers, and deceived by the artful, we begin to loſe confidence in one another. The bonds which connect men in friendſhip, are exchanged for the temporary bindings of intereſt; and as the example of high life is invariably followed by the lower ranks, we have the miſery of that part of the empire which remains ſuperadded to our diſappointment in that which was left. Such views, ſuch proſpects, and ſuch conſiderations are particularly neceſſary at this ſeaſon, when people are very apt to uſher in the new year, with the worſt diſſipations which the old year afforded.

Libertiniſm, whether public or private, may continue uninterrupted for a time. It may, for a time, conſtitute the happineſs of man, and place him as an object of envy in the eyes of the ignorant and unthinking. It may, for a time, ſeem the ultimate end of his nature, and the eſſence of all his gratifications. But that time cannot be of long duration. Health, even when temperance is carried to the extreme, or where prudence guides all the actions, is but a precarious tenure; and the happineſs depending on diſſipation is even more precarious than health itſelf, for it is diſturbed by the petulancies of temper, and the ungovernable nature of fooliſh youth. It is but a ſhort time that the ſtrongeſt can boaſt of his ſtrength, or the moſt pleaſurable man of his pleaſure.

Though the days of our life were as numerous as the hairs on our head, their duration could not ſatisfy a mind capable of comprehending eternity, or inſpired with the hopes of futurity. And profligacy, with all its pleaſures, creates diſeaſe in the moſt horrible ſhapes, and brings on death when there is moſtly a deſire to live. The ſtudy of religion, and as much of the practice as the frailty of our nature will allow, can only confirm our actions, direct to our happineſs, or pluck the ſting from death. Religion adds even to thoſe comforts, which they who are ignorant of it ſuppoſe it deſtroys; for an age of the mirth of drunkards, the ſenſuality of libertines, or the cool and deliberate villainy of infidels, cannot be compared with one hour of conſcious rectitude, far leſs with their felicity, who, at their laſt moments, have witneſſed *in what peace a chriſtian can die.*

For the WESTMINSTER MAGAZINE.

THOUGHTS *on* CHARACTERISTICAL PARTIALITIES.

PARTIALITIES may be arranged according to the characters of the men in whom they are diſcovered. They are unequal when they lead to ſelfiſhneſs, and beget pride and ignorance.

Men of learning have many unequal partialities. Some are ſo ſeparately fond of one particular ſcience, as not only to neglect every other, but even look with contempt on thoſe who purſue others. I know a Naturaliſt, deſervedly eſteemed for his great profeſſional knowledge, who has not for twenty years paſt read one book which did not directly, or indirectly,

indirectly, treat of the objects of Natural Hiſtory; and he laughs at the opinion that a man's life may be well ſpent in ſtudying the hiſtory of nations, or the philoſophy of the mind. This I call an unequal partiality. Another is ſo much pleaſed with the ſtudy of hiſtory, as to hold the Naturaliſt and the Poet in deriſion. Milton and Shakeſpear are read as part of the taſk impoſed on a general ſcholar; while the writings of a Hume, Gibbon, Lyttleton, and other hiſtorians, occupy the whole attention, and give fund to every converſation, Others employ all their time, and often expend their whole fortune, on experiments of Natural Philoſophy; their libraries are ſmall, but their chemical machinery fills the whole houſe, and interrupts the cleanneſs and œconomy of the family.

Others exiſt only in the liberty of reading, and in the hopes of ſucceeding Pope, Thomſon, or a Shenſtone in public eſteem. The Engliſh Poets, the French Poets, and Poets of all countries, are with them the moſt important objects of attention. Their genius is employed and employed until it be exhauſted, in compoſing verſes in every ſhape. Hiſtory is to them tireſome and unintereſting, and philoſophy is dull and unprofitable. Others beſtow their leiſure hours upon fictitious writings, and prefer the works of Novelliſts, however trifling, dull, and pernicious, to all the branches of hiſtory and philoſophy. And others, for it were endleſs to mention more varieties, are ſo warmly attached to the ſtage, as to read nothing but plays, to ſee no amuſements but plays, to write nothing but ſcraps of ſcenes of dramatic criticiſm, and to ſpeak of nothing but performers and performances.

When they, who entertain partialities ſo confining to the judgment, take up the pen, we are ſure to diſcover in their prefaces the true bias of their minds. The Naturaliſt informs the world, that nothing conduces ſo much to morality, nothing whatſoever, as a knowledge of beaſts and birds, inſects, fiſhes, ſhells, petrefactions and vegetables. The celebrated Dr. Hill raiſed in his own mind an uncommon degree of enthuſiaſm, with regard to the minutiæ of natural hiſtory, thinking that a knowledge of natural phenomena was the only ſource and ſupport of morality, which gave occaſion to the wags of his time to ſay, that if ever the Doctor went to Heaven, it muſt be on the back of a beetle.

The Hiſtorian retorts with equal contempt for the Naturaliſt, thinks him an uſeleſs member of ſociety, and an impertinent diſturber of the peace of inſects, and prefers the affairs of kingdoms and ſtates, the riſe and fall of monarchies, the great darings by which kingdoms have grown great, and the rapid luxury by which they have been overturned; in a word, he prefers the knowledge of immortal man to that of the beaſts, which periſh.

The experimental Philoſopher deduces all knowledge that is uſeful, or can be uſeful, from experiments, and by a ſubtlety of argument, very convincing to them who may have a predeliction for the ſcience, attempts to prove the great moral effects of experimental philoſophy. The poet appeals to our feelings, and is certain that virtue in verſe is far more perſuaſive and ſtrengthening to the heart, than when in plain proſe, and wonders what good or knowledge men can reap from diſtorted ſpiders, lying annualiſts, and dead cats in air pumps. The Novelliſt, in plain terms, and without heſitation, affirms, that a novel is beyond all other works eminent in inſtruction; nay, in a late novel, the author has not ſcrupled to compare his hero to the Meſſiah! This is an inſtance of bold impiety, not eaſily to be paralleled, and I hope never will be imitated. The dramatic writer defies religion or philoſophy to produce a mode of mental culture better adapted for every purpoſe of morality, than the theatre. Other writers act in the ſame manner, each preferring his favourite ſtudy, and wondering at the obſtinacy and low ſtate of public taſte.

In a pamphlet, publiſhed in 1756, on the immorality of the times, the author lays down ſeveral ſelf-evident facts, as he calls them, which are conducive to public depravity; and aſſerts, that men, creeping into alleys for certain urgent purpoſes, is a circumſtance which requires the attention of the Ligiſlature more than any object that ever engaged the wiſdom of the nation.

Politicians have their partialities in a higher degree, and they adhere to them more obſtinately than men of learning to theirs. But partiality in a politician is called party, a word familiar to the ear of a Briton, and ſo familiar as to breed contempt. Formerly the diſtinction was Whig and Tory; theſe, now, like the more antient diverſities of religion, are ſplit into many branches, tranſient on the root from

which they riſe. Thus we hear of a Northite, a Shelburnite, a Rockinghamite, a Foxite, &c. I do not mean, however, to enter here upon the queſtion of the propriety or impropriety of party in the government of this nation. The arguments are tedious and queſtionable. In the moſt flouriſhing as well as moſt depreſſed ſtate of old England, party has appeared with nearly the ſame ſtrength. All that comes to be obſerved in this place is, that politicians are unequally partial when they give a ready and blind aſſent to whatever proceeds out of the mouth of their chief. This they have been ſaid to do from mercenary motives. I know not if there be always truth in this aſſertion; but I am ſure they are unequally and abſurdly partial when they exerciſe malignity of tongue; and behave with brutal rudeneſs to thoſe who, from motives as honourable, or more ſo than their own, differ from them in opinion.

Divines have wounded religion in her deareſt intereſts, by many unequal partialities introduced into the church, and which are ſubverſive of that harmony and meekneſs which ought to mark the chriſtian and the man. The gay and looſe part of the world from a view of the many diverſities of religious opinion, which create diverſities of ſect and intereſt, have entertained prejudices againſt religion itſelf. The partialities of religious men, are unequal when they prompt them to eſtabliſh ſuch enmity between ſect and ſect, as for ever to prevent them from coming to a good underſtanding. If ſome of the ſects into which the church of England is divided, were to meet together in a calm manner, and with minds open to conviction, there might enſue ſuch a communication of ſentiment as to produce, if not re-union, at leaſt meekneſs and forbearance one towards another. Let it not be thought, however, that I wiſh to bring together men of opinions totally different, ſuch as papiſts and proteſtants; or that it would give me any pleaſure to ſee proteſtant and preſbyterian clergymen walking behind a crucifix in a proceſſion, or aſſiſting at high maſs.

The partialities of philoſophers and ſtateſmen are of the utmoſt conſequence to mankind, and I have placed them before thoſe which are of an important nature as to the great duties of life.

Philoſophers and politicans are uncommonly tenacious of their partialities, but from different cauſes; the former often ſeclude themſelves from communication with ſociety; they acquire habits of thinking upon one ſubject, until it has become as it were, a part of the unalterable conſtitution of their minds; the latter are actuated by the ſtrongeſt paſſions incident to buſy life, intereſt and ambition, paſſions almoſt irreſiſtable, and in an unprincipled mind, to be reſtrained only by the fear of puniſhment.

As the ſatisfaction and pleaſure of others ought to give a direction to our behaviour, and as no man who knows wherein happineſs conſiſts, can be ignorant, that it is as well promoted by doing good to others, as to ourſelves; it is much the intereſt of every individual, to prevent his partialities from becoming unequal, and from excluding attention to other purſuits, whoſe importance nothing but want of underſtanding, or habitual infatuation, can conceal from his eyes, and baniſh from his thoughts.

But ſome men affect to deſpiſe the opinion of the world; it is an affectation, however, ſo often connected with a weak head and a bad heart, that when a good man is inclined to indulge it, he ought to do it in ſecret. It has one pernicious effect, which cannot fail to deter all good men: it deſtroys the hopes of our doing good by ſuperior abilities, or exemplary character.

When we are regardleſs of the opinion of the world, we become diſguſtful to many to whom we might have been ſerviceable. Our partialities, when very violent, are termed prejudices; a ſevere word, becauſe it implies, that we are ſo forgetful of reaſon and juſtice, as to give judgment before we examine into merits. The character of a prejudiced man is inconſiſtent with that of a wiſe man; and when we find unaccountable literary, political, or national prejudices leſſening the character of a man reputed for wiſdom and learning, we ought to pity the frailty of our natures, and keep ſuch an example before our eyes in youth, while the mind is open to conviction.

C.

For the WESTMINSTER MAGAZINE.

The AMERICAN FARMER.

GOOD and evil are to be found in all ſocieties, and it is in vain to ſeek for any ſpot where thoſe ingredients are not mixed. I therefore reſt ſatisfied, and thank God that my lot is to be an American farmer, inſtead of a Ruſſian boor or an Hungarian peaſant.

It is ſtrange that miſery, when viewed in others, ſhould become to us a ſort of real good; though I am far from rejoicing to hear that there are in the world men ſo thoroughly wretched. They are no doubt as harmleſs, induſtrious, and willing to work as we are. Hard is their fate to be thus condemned to a ſlavery worſe than that of our negroes. Yet, when young, I entertained ſome thoughts of ſelling my farm. I thought it afforded but a dull repetition of the ſame labours and pleaſures. I thought the former tedious and heavy; the latter few and inſipid. But, when I came to conſider myſelf as diveſted of my farm, I then found the world ſo wide, and every place ſo full, that I began to fear leſt there would be no room for me. My farm, my houſe, my barn, preſented to my imagination, objects from which I adduced quite new ideas: they were more forcible than before. Why ſhould not I find myſelf happy, ſaid I, where my father was before? He left me no good books it is true; he gave me no other education than the art of reading and writing; but he left me a good farm and his experience: he left me free from debts, and no kind of difficulties to ſtruggle with. I married, and this perfectly reconciled me to my ſituation. My wife rendered my houſe all at once chearful and pleaſing; it no longer appeared gloomy and ſolitary as before. When I went to work in my fields, I worked with more alacrity and ſprighlineſs. I felt that I did not work for myſelf alone, and this encouraged me much. My wife would often come with her knitting in her hand, and ſit under the ſhady tree, praiſing the ſtraightneſs of my furrows and the docility of my horſes.

This ſwelled my heart and made every thing light and pleaſant, and I regretted that I had not married before. I felt myſelf happy in my new ſituation, and where is that ſtation which can confer a more ſubſtantial ſyſtem of felicity than that of an American farmer, poſſeſſing freedom of action and thoughts, ruled by a mode of government which requires but little from us? I owe nothing but a pepper corn to my country, a ſmall tribute to my king, with loyalty and due reſpect. I know no other landlord than the Lord of all land, to whom I owe the moſt ſincere gratitude. My father left me three hundred and ſeventy-one acres of land, forty-ſeven of which are good timothy meadow, an excellent orchard, a good houſe, and a ſubſtantial barn. It is my duty to think how happy I am that he lived to build and to pay for all theſe improvements. What are the labours which I have to undergo? What are my fatigues when compared to his, who had every thing to do, from the firſt tree he felled to the finiſhing of his houſe? Every year I kill from 1500 to 2000 weight of pork, 1200 of beef, half a dozen of good wethers in harveſt; of fowls my wife has always a great ſtock; what can I wiſh more? My negroes are tolerably faithful and healthy. By a long ſeries of induſtry and honeſt dealings, my father left behind him the name of a good man. I have but to tread his paths to be happy and a good man like him. I know enough of the law to regulate my little concerns with propriety, nor do I dread its power. Theſe are the grand outlines of my ſituation; but as I can feel much more than I am able to expreſs, I hardly know how to proceed.

When my firſt ſon was born, the whole train of my ideas were ſuddenly altered. Never was there a charm that acted ſo quickly and powerfully. I ceaſed to ramble in imagination through the wide world. My excurſions, ſince, have not exceeded the bounds of my farm; and all my principal pleaſures are now centered within its ſcanty limits; but, at the ſame time, there is not an operation belonging to it in which I do not find ſome food for uſeful reflections. Yet how rude muſt the feelings of the farmer be who daily holds the ax or the plough! How much more refined, on the contrary, thoſe of the European, whoſe mind is improved by education, example, books, and by every acquired advantage! Thoſe feelings however, I will delineate as well as I can.

When

When I contemplate my wife, by my fire ſide, while ſhe either ſpins, knits, darns, or ſuckles our child, I cannot deſcribe the various emotions of love, of gratitude, of conſcious pride, which thrill in my heart, and often overflow in involuntary tears. I feel the neceſſity, the ſweet pleaſure, of acting my part, the part of a huſband and father, with an attention and propriety which may entitle me to my good fortune.

It is true, theſe pleaſing images vaniſh with the ſmoke of my pipe, but, though they diſappear from my mind, the impreſſion they have made on my heart is indelible. When I play with the infant, my warm imagination runs forward, and eagerly anticipates his future temper and conſtitution. I would willingly open the book of fate, and know in which page his deſtiny is delineated. Alas! where is the father, who, in thoſe moments of paternal extacy can delineate one half of the thoughts which dilate his heart? I am ſure I cannot. Then again I fear for the health of thoſe who are become ſo dear to me; and in their ſickneſſes, I ſeverely pay for the joys I experienced while they were well. Whenever I go abroad it is always involuntary. I never return home without feeling ſome pleaſing emotion, which I often ſuppreſs as uſeleſs and fooliſh. The inſtant I enter on my land, the bright idea of property, of excluſive right, of independence, exalt my mind. Precious ſoil, I ſay to myſelf, by what ſingular cuſtom of law is it that thou waſt made to conſtitute the riches of the freeholder? What ſhould we American farmers be without the diſtinct poſſeſſion of that ſoil? It feeds, it clothes us! from it we draw even a great exuberancy, our beſt meat, our richeſt drink; the very honey of our bees comes from this priviledged ſpot. No wonder we ſhould thus cheriſh its poſſeſſion; no wonder that ſo many Europeans, who have never been able to ſay that ſuch portion of land was theirs, croſs the Atlantic to realize that happineſs! This formerly rude ſoil has been converted by my father into a pleaſant farm, and, in return, it has eſtabliſhed all our rights. On it is founded our rank, our freedom, our power, as citizens; our importance, as inhabitants of ſuch a diſtrict. Theſe images, I muſt confeſs, I always behold with pleaſure, and extend them as far as my imagination can reach; for this is what may be called the true and the only philoſophy of an American farmer.

For the WESTMINSTER MAGAZINE.

ELEMENTS *of* POLICY *and* GOVERNMENT.

Introductory to the PRESENT STATE *of* EUROPE.

THE earlieſt ſtates fell very ſhort of their preſent perfection. They who firſt united into large civil ſocieties, had no other view than ſecurity againſt foreign and domeſtic violence; which, indeed, was ſufficient for their original ſimplicity and rudeneſs; but the gradual invention of arts and ſciences introducing a more refined manner of living, and at the ſame time more wants, they enlarged their firſt ſimple plan; and not contented with bare ſafety, affected conveniency, elegance, and pleaſure; the combination of which conſtitutes what we call public welfare. Thus it was that ſtates, in proceſs of time, attained to that perfection which they at preſent enjoy, eſpecially in our part of the world; ſo that a ſtate, conſidered according to its preſent nature and conſtitution, conſiſts of a large ſociety of men, united under one government, for the maintenance and advancement of their common ſecurity and welfare.

II. Thus the end of a ſtate is the ſecurity and welfare of all its members; the proſpect of this happy ſituation having been the principal motive for uniting into one body: a natural conſequence of which is, that they muſt live together, and be poſſeſſed of a certain part of the earth. This is called the ſtate's territory, and the body of the inhabitants are the people. The land is the property of the people, if conſtantly inhabited by them; for the roving ſavages of the northern parts of Aſia and America, cannot be ſaid to have any certain property; as they ſtay only for a time, their property neceſſarily ceaſes on their removing from the country.

III. The right of ordaining and tranſacting whatever is neceſſary for the ſafety and

and welfare of the ſtate, is called the ſovereignty. The exerciſe of this ſovereignty is the adminiſtration; and the perſon who exerciſes it is diſtinguiſhed by the title of Sovereign. He has, conſequently, a power of directing the conduct of all the other members of the ſtate, in a manner correſpondent to that end of ſociety; or, which is the ſame thing, of preſcribing laws to them; and they being obliged to pay obedience to ſuch laws, are named ſubjects.

IV. The form of government is the ſtated manner according to which the ſovereignty is to be exerciſed. This is various; either by one ſingle perſon, or by a ſelect number of the better ſort, or, in fine, by the body of the people. A ſtate under the firſt form is a Monarchy; under the ſecond, an Ariſtocracy; under the third, a Democracy. When one of theſe three forms obtains alone, the government is called ſimple; and when two, or all three are united, it is denominated a mixed government. The queſtion which of theſe three ſeveral forms is the beſt, has been conciſely and energetically decided by Mr. Pope.

For forms of government let fools conteſt,
What'er is beſt adminiſter'd is beſt.

V. Thoſe ſtates in which ariſtocracy and democracy obtain, are generally called free ſtates, or republics; the former, very improperly; for, in an ariſtocracy, the nobility are juſt what the monarch is in a monarchy; and as little liberty is left to the other members of the ſtate as in the latter.

The name of a free ſtate properly belongs only to a democracy, the whole body of the people having then a ſhare of the government, and conſequently a public freedom.

VI. The monarchical form is indiſputably the moſt ancient, being derived from that of the father of a family, who was in ſome meaſure ſovereign of his own houſe; and as they had ſuch a government daily before their eyes, it was perfectly natural that, at the firſt inſtitution of ſtates, one perſon ſhould be inveſted with the ſupreme power. But the free ſtates, or republics, are moſtly derived from monarchies; the abuſe of which form of government ſtimulated the oppreſſed people to ſhake off the yoke; and this, as ſufficiently appears from the hiſtory of all ages, gave riſe to moſt republics, both ancient and modern.

VII. Several ſtates have in ſupport of their common ſafety, entered into a perpetual alliance. Theſe are called United States, ſignal inſtances of which we find in ancient and modern hiſtory; as in the Greek and the Achaian Republics; in the Swiſs Cantons, and the States of the United Provinces. The nature of ſuch united ſtates renders certain aſſemblies neceſſary for deliberating on the public concerns, and reſolving on the meaſures ſuitable to critical conjunctures.

VIII. In the general conſideration of a ſtate, we meet with four eſſential objects. 1. The territory or country. 2. The inhabitants or people. 3. The government. 4. The end of government, or ſtate-intereſt. But in the conſideration of any ſingle ſtate, theſe objects have their particular contingencies, which diſtinguiſh it from every other ſovereignty. Theſe contingencies form what we call the ſtate or condition of a country.

IX. The knowledge of the ſtate or condition of countries is, in a general ſenſe, called politics; but when limited to Europe and the preſent time, no more is underſtood by it than an authentic account of the preſent condition of the European ſtates.

X. As the particular contingencies of a country, relatively to its territory, its people, its government, and its intereſt, conſtitute its ſtate or condition; ſo are theſe four capital objects to be treated of, and illuſtrated in the deſcription of each particular country.

XI. The preſent ſtate of a country ariſes from the paſt, and a true knowledge of the former requires a thorough acquaintance with the latter. This we draw from hiſtory, which informs us of the origin of ſtates with their great events and revolutions. Theſe relate either to the territory of the ſtate, as having either enlarged or curtailed it; or to the form of government; or to the reigning family. All theſe varieties and revolutions have their particular conſequences, and thus are objects of politics.

XII. The firſt object to be conſidered in a ſtate is its territory; and in this, 1. Situation. 2. Extent. 3. Natural quality. And 4. Political quality.

XIII. The ſituation of a country either relates to the degree of longitude and latitude between which it is included, or more particularly to the contiguous countries, or ſea, with which it is either wholly, or partly ſurrounded. The ſituation is found in maps, and theſe were known to antiquity; but in modern times

times have received very great improvements.

XIV. The extent of a country conſiſts in its length and breadth, but theſe can ſcarce be preciſely determined; moſt countries being of ſuch an irregular figure as to cauſe a great diſparity between its dimenſions in different parts. To this muſt likewiſe be added, that miles are far from being equal in all countries. In order to come at the moſt exact dimenſions of a ſtate, recourſe muſt be had to a good map, and then bring the country into one or more ſquares, meaſuring it by geographical miles; and thus giving the whole ſuperficial contents in ſquare miles. The boundaries of a ſtate are either placed by nature itſelf, as mountains, rivers, and ſea; or are ſettled between neighbouring ſtates by expreſs, or tacit conventions; the former are called natural, the latter political limits.

XV. In the natural quality of a country are to be conſidered its good and bad natural properties; as its air and weather; whether it be level or hilly, well watered or dry, fruitful or ſterile.

The air and temperature is very different on ſome parts of the earth; and the latter, ſometimes, is partly owing to the climate: for the nearer the equator, the greater generally is the heat; and conſequently, the farther from it, and the nearer to the poles, the more intenſe the cold. The ſituation, however, does not abſolutely determine the heat and cold, it being manifeſt from undoubted experience, that the moſt eaſtern and weſtern countries are much colder than thoſe which lie between thoſe extremities. In mountainous places, likewiſe, the air is colder than in flat countries, but on that account the pureſt; along the ſea coaſt it is foul, and very variable.

Hills are computed by ſome to take up the tenth part of the continent; the higheſt are under the equator, and towards the ſouth pole. Hills, in ſome reſpects, as on account of the woods with which they are covered, the waters iſſuing from them, and the minerals in their bowels, are of an advantage to a country; not to mention the ſalubrity of air.

Lofty and ſteep hills, however, and eſpecially of a conſiderable extent, are great inconveniences. They deprive the country of too much ground, as being fit neither for tillage nor habitation; likewiſe, volcanos are often found among the vaſt chains of mountains; and what terrible neighbours theſe are, the hiſtories of all ages afford deplorable inſtances; for not to mention their eruptions, the adjacent countries are ſubject to earthquakes, by which whole cities have been deſtroyed and ſwallowed up. Thus flat countries, being ſecure from ſuch dangers, have great advantages over the mountainous; and as they are fitter for agriculture, they can maintain more inhabitants.

Lands deſtitute of water muſt neceſſarily lie waſte, as neither men nor cattle can live in them; whereas rivers and waters not only promote fertility, but likewiſe, when navigable, are a great conveniency to inland trade; and for the laſt purpoſe, where there is a want of them, art aſſiſts nature with canals.

A country is fruitful when it brings forth plentifully whatever the ſupport, the wants, and the conveniency of the inhabitants require; and when deficient in theſe, it may be ſaid to be barren. Fertility includes the ſeveral productions of the animal, vegetable, and foſſile kingdoms. The former contains the quadrupeds, the birds, inſects, and fiſhes; but of all theſe, ſuch ſpecies only come within the verge of politics, as are of domeſtic or commercial uſe. This is likewiſe applicable to the productions of the vegetable kingdom, to which belong all trees, ſhrubs, grain, plants, and fruits. The foſſile kingdom contains the greateſt treaſures of the earth; thoſe noble metals gold and ſilver, by which the value of all things is regulated; copper, iron, tin, lead, and the ſemi-metals; likewiſe gems, and other valuable or uſeful ſtones; beſides thoſe uſed by the ſtatuaries and architects. To the foſſile kingdom, likewiſe belong clays, dies, coals, ſalts, and mineral waters.

XVI. Next to the natural is to be conſidered the political ſtate of a country; this compriſes the improvements it has received from the government. All ſtates had not originally their preſent extent, having gradually acquired more lands, partly by inheritance and eſcheats, and partly by conqueſts. This aggrandizement produced the diviſion into provinces or diſtricts, with their cities, towns, and villages, which owe their being to the ſeveral occupations and ways of living of the inhabitants; according to the rules of good policy, cities ſhould be appropriated to trades, manufactures, arts, and handicrafts; towns only to ſuch ſhops and handicrafts as are of abſolute neceſſity, with a little farming; and the villages entirely to agriculture, graſiery, and farming.

XVII. When

XVII. When lands are acquired, whether by arms or otherwiſe, inſtead of their being immediately incorporated with the ſtate, ſuch are more generally accounted dependent provinces, ſubject to its ſovereignty, and treated accordingly. That country, which is the main part of the ſtate, and the ſeat of government, is termed the mother-country; while the acquiſitions are called dependencies. Theſe, conſequently, are not on a footing with the mother-country, but muſt content themſelves with the ſtipulations entered into at their ſubjection, or ſurrender. The diſtinction between the mother-country and the dependencies, ſhews itſelf moſt in free ſtates; for whereas part of the inhabitants, as in an ariſtocracy, or all, as in a democracy, have a ſhare in the government; the people of theſe dependencies are mere ſubjects, and totally excluded from every ſuch privilege; ſuch, for inſtance, were the Corſicans in reſpect to the Republic of Genoa. Dependencies, however, ſo far from being a conſtant advantage to a ſtate, ſometimes bring it into great inconveniences; as when lying at a great diſtance, and convenient for a powerful neighbour, ſo that it is difficult to defend them; ſuch was formerly the caſe of the Spaniſh Netherlands, very remote from Spain and contiguous to France.

XVIII. The ſecond capital object relating to a ſtate is, the people, or inhabitants. Thoſe have either founded the ſtate originally, or, as foreign invaders, have maſtered it by force. The latter event has chiefly been occaſioned by wars and migrations. There are, indeed, few ſtates in the univerſe who can boaſt of the former circumſtance, and prove an uninterrupted ſettlement in the preſent territories; for the more ancient a nation is, or pretends to be, the more uncertain is its origin, and that of the ſtates founded by it, and the deeper it lies involved in fable and obſcurity. It is the ſame with the names of people and ſtates, which have undergone different mutations at diſtances of time. Moſt countries in Europe, Aſia, and Africa, which were ſubject to the Roman empire, on its overthrow came to be called by new names. The names of ſome modern ſtates are derived from foreigners who conquered them. Thus, for inſtance, France received its denomination from the Franks; England from the Angles; Scotland, from the Scots; Hungary from the Huns. Some people, on the other hand, are called by the ancient and modern name of their countries; as the preſent Spaniards from Spain, the Portugueſe from Portugal. Sometimes the capital has given its name to the ſtate, as Naples to the kingdom ſo called; and the Ruſſian empire, for a very long time, bore the name of Muſcovy from its chief city.

XIX. On the people depend the ſtrength and power of a ſtate, and no leſs its weakneſs and impotency; therefore the qualities both of their bodies and minds, their virtues and vices, number, language, different degrees, and parties, are to be conſidered.

XX. To the bodily qualities belong largeneſs and beauty, and the oppoſite defects. There is in general a very great difference in the bodies and faces of men, according to the nature of the country. This is not purely owing to the heat or cold of the ſeveral climates, but to the grains, vegetables, and other aliments, which they produce, and are uſed by the inhabitants for food. A certain writer has remarked, that the human ſpecies towards the north-pole are brown; from thence to the ſixtieth degree, red; from thence to the forty-fifth, fair; from thence to the thirtieth yellow; afterwards greeniſh, then ſwarthy, and laſtly, under the tropics, black; that the northern people are large, fair-complexioned, with lank red hair, blue eyes, ſanguine, and their blood thick; the ſouthern, of a middling ſtature, brown complexion, black and curled hair, black eyes, their blood thin, and in no great quantity. Another learned perſon divides the whole human race into three nations, alike in ſtature, ſhape, and features. The firſt are known by a hideous countenance, ſwarthy ſkin, large jawbones, ſmall flat noſe, ſmall hollow eyes, little or no beard, black hair, and ſolt heads. Among theſe he claſſes the Calmucs, Mungals, Ottiacs, and other people of Siberia; the Samojedes, Greenlanders, Chineſe, Japaneſe, Americans, Indians, and Africans. The ſecond nation have handſome faces; and this claſs he makes to conſiſt of Jews, Turks, Perſians, Armenians, and Georgians. The third nation are the Europeans and Tartars; and theſe he accounts the founders of the north-weſt people of Europe. But the difference of the bodies and faces of people in different countries is ſcarcely greater than that of their ideas of beauty. Thus the Moors place it in the blackneſs of their faces; the Chineſe and Calmucs in a flat viſage; nay, the Omaguas, a

of South America, preſs the foreheads of their new-born children between two boards, in order more effectually to give them that odd figure.

The different ſituation and quality of countries have an influence on the health of the inhabitants. Accordingly different nations have their peculiar diſtempers; ſuch as the leproſy and peſtilence, in the eaſtern and ſouthern countries. The venereal diſtemper is ſaid to have been firſt known in the iſlands of the New World, when diſcovered by Columbus, and to have been brought into Europe by the Spaniards; of this, however, ſome make a queſtion.

XXI. As the climate has an influence on the body, it cannot be denied to affect the mind; whoſe diſpoſitions depend not a little on the nature of the body. The effect of the different climates herein is manifeſt from the correſponding nature both of the country and inhabitants. Experience ſhews a temperate climate to be the beſt adapted to the human underſtanding; and in antient and modern ages, ſuch has been the ſeat of arts and ſciences; whereas the very hot or very cold countries never produced many great geniuſes, or great ſcholars. The like difference between men living in different climates, appears in certain virtues and vices. The northern people, their bodies being ſteeled by the ſharpneſs of the weather, are leſs inclined to a ſoft way of life, and ſenſual gratifications, than the ſouthern, with whom voluptuouſneſs is the predominant vice. They likewiſe can bear labour and hardſhips; thence their fitneſs for war, and their intrepidity in danger, which the luxurious people of the ſouth and eaſt dare not face.

Omnis in Arctois populus quicunque pruinis
Naſcitur, indomitu bellis et Martis amator.
Quidquid ad Eoos tractus mundique teporem
Labitur, emollit gentes clementia cœli.

In cold laborious climes, the wintry north
Brings her undaunted hardy warriors forth;
In body and in mind untaught to yield,
Stubborn of each, and ſteady in the field;
While Aſia's ſofter climate, form'd to pleaſe,
Diſſolves her ſons in indolence and eaſe.

This truth, which was known even to remote antiquity, is perfectly confirmed by hiſtory; the northern nations having generally vanquiſhed the ſouthern; and the greateſt and moſt remarkable conqueſts having been carried on from the north ſouthwards. The northern people have always been fond of liberty, and eſtabliſhed it in all their colonies; whereas the ſouthern have ſubmitted to deſpotic governments, being little better than ſlaves to their princes. The north has always been famous for fidelity and probity; whereas the ſouth lies under the imputation of treachery, craft, and deceit.

[*To be continued.*]

For the WESTMINSTER MAGAZINE.

CONSTITUTIONAL LETTER.

To the PEOPLE *of* ENGLAND.

Countrymen and Friends!

MY ardent wiſh is, that you examine my poſitions with an acute and jealous ſcrutiny. If you find that my appeals are not to your underſtanding, but your paſſions—that I deal not in argument, but declamation—that I inſult you with groſs panegyricks on one party, and impertinent abuſe of another; your contempt, if not your indignation, will be my portion. Bottomed in principle, and fortified by fact, I feel no fear in accompliſhing the end I propoſe; but, from my own want of ſkill. I ſhall ſpeak to you in the ſpirit of the conſtitution, and my language ſhall neither militate againſt law, nor violate decency.

They then who tell you, that the preſent diſtractions of this country are neceſſarily to be conſidered as a party concern between two ſets of ſtateſmen, or that the diſorders

diſorders of the cabinet regard the affairs of the Eaſt-India Company, either wilfully abuſe you, or know not what they ſay. If an act to repair a bridge, or improve a canal, afforded the ſame pretext, exactly the ſame meaſures would have taken place. Were the Eaſt-India bill the moſt deſpotic ever introduced into the Houſe of Commons, and the miniſters who brought it, the very worſt that ever ſat in Parliament, to the real point in queſtion, are matters of very little importance. The true queſtion for you is not, whether this or that man is to be miniſter, whether a whole, or only a part of the charter of the Eaſt-India Company ſhould be taken away —To the people of England, the true queſtion is—Shall the conſtitution, which has flouriſhed ſo long the admiration of mankind, be tranſmitted to our poſterity ſafe and ſacred as we have received it from our anceſtors, or ſhall it ſink at once, and in it all that is dear to freemen, into the gulph of ſecret influence? The Britiſh Conſtitution againſt ſecret influence is the real queſtion.

I do not mean, however, that the matter is incapable of a very enlarged diſcuſſion upon conſiderations perſonal to the late miniſtry; certainly not, and at a future opportunity we ſhall go minutely into the buſineſs upon that ground. But, to enter upon it now in that view, were a cheat upon the nation. It were to degrade that which is the moſt precious concern of every man in the country, into the affair of only half a dozen. It were defrauding the ſubject of its intrinſic dignity, and narrowing the greateſt of public cauſes into a paltry perſonal conteſt.

The buſineſs of the Middleſex election ſoon ceaſed to be the concern of an individual. His purity of character was not, I believe, Mr. Wilkes's only recommendation to your patronage; nor did his virtues, I preſume, in a very extraordinary degree incite you to his vindication. Whatever advantages of a different ſort of fame the late miniſtry have over Mr. Wilkes, for this time I would have them out of our contemplation. The preſent, like the former grievance, ſhould be viewed in a public light; and it merits ſo much the more attention, as it is a thouſand times of greater magnitude. The affair of the Middleſex election was between the elector and repreſentative. The evil which now diſtracts us is between the conſtitution (which comprehends elector, repreſentative, law, liberty, &c.) and the court. In that caſe the danger was enduring one injury which might operate as a future example, and deſtroy the conſtitution by degrees. The fear in this caſe is, that the conſtitution may be annihilated at once. No new invaſion of our rights was begotten by the precedent of the Middleſex election. They who atchieved it trembled at the ſucceſs, and were vanquiſhed in their own victory. As a ſimilar outrage muſt be open, the whole nation would oppoſe it; and another attempt of the ſame kind would cruſh any government inſtantly. You perſevered in the former affair, and ſucceeded, though ſlowly.—But this attack admits no pauſe. The conſtitution is ſtabbed in the very nobleſt part, and men ſtand aghaſt at the manner of it. The wound is deep indeed, but the inſtrument that gored us is the greater calamity. We feel our misfortune, but the dark and myſtic channel through which it came, aggravates our danger in a tenfold degree. If the attack were open and direct, the courage of the people of England would have ſecured us from the infamy of a tame ſurrender of the conſtitution; but from midnight aſſaſſination no foreſight could guard, no ſpirit could defend us. Were the conſtitution deſtined to periſh in the face of day, its fall would be awful, and future ages, while they recorded, would revere our ſtruggles.

The ſuperior wiſdom of our civil form is diſcovered in nothing more evidently, than in the independance of the legiſlature. This is the moſt important principle of all, for without it all other principles are uſeleſs. The properties of the three eſtates are clearly defined, and the ſubſiſtance of the whole depends upon the juſt exerciſe of theſe properties. Agreeable to the genius of our conſtitution, the leading weight is lodged in that branch which ſprings immediately from the people, for whoſe good all governments were deſtined. But the ariſtocratic body have their maſs of rights as acknowledged and ſacred as the democratic. Aſſent or diſſent in making laws, and the power of executing the ſyſtem, are veſted in the crown, under conditions and upon a tenure well known and needleſs to explain. In ſo far as either of theſe eſtates delivers up its legal functions to the other, ſo far the conſtitution is violated. But there is a choice of evils, for the grievance is augmented by the quality of the abdication. A ſacrifice of the rights of the Lords to the

Commons, or of the Commons in their turn to the Lords, is a dangerous infringement upon the principles which conſtitute the three eſtates; but a ſurrender of their powers by either of the two enacting branches to the crown, is a ſubverſion of the conſtitution *in toto*. No civil doctrine is ſo generally admitted as this——that when the legiſlative becomes ſubſervient to the executive branch, the liberties of the people are utterly loſt. Read the greateſt writers upon government, and you will find this axiom concurred in by all. A variety of ſentiments prevail upon other points, but upon this ſubject there is an univerſal coincidence of opinion. Nor does its truth reſt upon the cold ground of theory, for the experience of ages confirms it.

Obſerve for a moment the nature of theſe ſeveral eſtates, and you will ſee at once that the danger of influence by one branch upon both or either of the other two, centers almoſt entirely in the crown. One of the eſtates conſiſts of 558 perſons, 211 compoſe the other, but the third is an individual. Of the former two, their numbers make a ſucceſsful interference impoſſible. The facility of detection is a bar to it, and their mutual incompetence to make an adequate requital for this treacherous ſacrafice of the conſtitution, would render it at the beſt an hopeleſs adventure. But when we conſider the interference of the individual eſtate, and that eſtate to be the ſeat of authority, the ſource of rewards, the fountain of honors, the danger is indeed of a different ſize. We are convinced by one moment's reflection, how very eaſy is this interference, and as to its ſucceſs, day-light is not broader than its certainty in a recent inſtance.

I will not inſult you by dwelling on the miſcarriage of the East-India bill.—Whether Lord Temple uſed thoſe words or theſe words, is to us a matter of indifference. That an interference unconſtitutional bevond precedent or parallel has been the cauſe of defeating this meaſure, is a fact which no man doubts, and it were therefore an impertinent waſte of your time, for me to engage it in proving that which proves itſelf upon the very face of the event. Hereafter I may ſay ſomething upon this ſubject, when the fooſery of Lord Temple's appointment, and the farce of his reſignation occur in the courſe of my plan. For the preſent I diſmiſs it.

ARISTIDES.

Jan. 10, 1784.

For the WESTMINSTER MAGAZINE.

NARRATIVE of the AERIAL VOYAGE of Mr. CHARLES, *Dec.* 1, 1783.

(Tranſlated from the French.)

"PREVIOUS to our aſcenſion," ſays Mr. Charles, "we had ſent up a globe of 5 f. 8 inc. to diſcover the courſe of the wind, and mark out our intended route. The compliment of cutting the ſtring was paid to Mr. Montgolfier, and it inſtantly roſe. Meanwhile we prepared to follow it with impatience; but the perplexing circumſtances we were in prevented our putting into execution every minute particular that we had intended the night before. The globe and the chariot were in exact equilibrium on the ground. At three quarters after one, we threw out 19 pounds of ballaſt, and roſe in the midſt of a profound ſilence, occaſioned by the emotion and aſtoniſhment of both parties. Our firſt pleaſing reflections on our eſcape from the perſecution and calumny which had attacked us, were heightened by the majeſtic ſcene which preſented itſelf to our view; on every ſide a moſt ſerene ſky, without a cloud, and a moſt charming diſtant proſpect. As we aſcended by an accelerated progreſſive motion, we waved our banner in token of joy, and, in order the better to inſure our ſafety, I was particularly attentive to the barometer. M. Robert examined the cargo with which our friends had ballaſted our chariot, as for a long voyage, of champaign, &c. blankets, and furs.—Having enough, and to ſpare, he began with throwing out one of the blankets, which ſpread itſelf in the air, and fell near the dome of the Aſſumption.—The barometer then ſunk 66 inches, and we had ceaſed to aſcend, or, more properly

perly ſpeaking, were arrived at the height of about 300 toiſes. This was the height to which I had undertaken to ſtop, and from this moment, to that of our firſt getting out of ſight of the obſervers at the different ſtations, our horizontal courſe was between 26 inches and 26 inches 8 lines of the mercury, which agrees with the obſervations made at Paris. We took care to throw out our ballaſt in proportion as we deſcended by the inſenſible loſs of inflammable air, and we raiſed ourſelves ſenſibly to the ſame height. Had circumſtances permitted us to regulate this ballaſt with more exactneſs, our courſe would have been almoſt abſolutely horizontal and voluntary.

Having reached the height of Mouſſeaux, which we left a little to the left, we remained for a moment ſtationary. Our chariot turned about, and we then ſiled off, as the wind directed. We ſoon after paſſed the Seine, between St. Ouen and Aſnieres, and leaving Colombe on the left, paſſed almoſt over Gennevilliers. We had croſſed the river a ſecond time; leaving Argenteuil on the left, we paſt at Sanois, Franconville, Eaubonne. St. Leu-Taverny, Villiers, croſt L'Iſle Adam, and afterwards Neſle, where we deſcended. Such were nearly the places over which we muſt have paſſed almoſt perpendicularly. This paſſage makes about 9 Paris leagues, which we ran over in two hours, with ſcarcely any ſenſible agitation in the air. During the whole of this delightful journey we felt not the leaſt uneaſineſs about our own fate or that of the machine. The globe ſuffered no other alteration than the ſucceſſive modifications of dilatation and compreſſion, of which we availed ourſelves, to riſe or deſcend at pleaſure, in any quantity. The thermometer was, for above an hour, between 10 and 12 degrees above 0, owing to the inſide of our chariot having been warmed by the rays of the ſun. Its heat ſoon communicated itſelf to our globe, and contributed, by the dilatation of the inflammable air within, to keep us at the ſame height, without being obliged to lighten our ballaſt; but we ſuffered a greater loſs: the inflammable air dilated by the ſun's heat, eſcaped by the appendage to the globe, which we held in our hands, and looſened, as circumſtances required, to let out the air too much dilated. By this eaſy method we avoided the expanſions and exploſions which perſons unacquainted with theſe matters apprehended. The inflammable air could not break its priſon, ſince it had always a vent, and the atmoſpheric air could not get into the globe, ſince its preſſure made the appendage ſerve as a valve to oppoſe its entrance.

After 16 minutes progreſs we heard the gun, which was the ſignal of our diſappearing from the obſervers at Paris. Not being obliged to confine our courſe to an horizontal direction, as we had till then done, we gave ourſelves up to the contemplation of the varied ſcenes in the open country beneath us. We ſhouted Vive le Roi, and heard our ſhouts re-echoed. We heard, very diſtinctly, voices ſaying, 'Are not you afraid, my 'friends? Are not you ſick? What 'a clever thing it is! God preſerve you! 'Farewell, my friends!'—We continued waving our banners, and we ſaw that theſe ſignals redoubled the joy and ſecurity of thoſe below. We ſeveral times came down low enough to be heard: people aſked us whence we came, and what time we ſet out, and we aſcended bidding them farewell. As circumſtances required, we threw out, ſucceſſively, great coats, muffs, clothes. As we ſailed over L'Iſle Adam, we flouriſhed our banners, and aſked after the Prince of Conti; but had the mortification to be told by a ſpeaking trumpet, that he was at Paris. At length, re-aſcending, we reached the plains of Neſle about half after three, when, as I intended a ſecond expedition, and wiſhed to avail myſelf of the advantage of ſituation, as well as of the day-light, I propoſed to Mr. Robert to deſcend. Seeing a troop of country people running before us over the fields, we deſcended towards a ſpacious meadow, incloſed with ſome trees and buſhes. Our chariot advanced majeſtically along an inclined plane. As it approached the trees, fearing it might be entangled among them, I threw out two pounds of ballaſt, and it ſprung upwards over them. We ran over above 20 toiſes within one or two feet of the land, and looked like travellers in a ſledge. The country people purſued us as children do a butterfly, without being able to overtake us.

At length we came to the ground. As ſoon as the curate and ſyndics could be brought to the ſpot, I drew up a verbal proceſs, which they immediately ſigned. Preſently galloped up the Duke de Chartres,

tres, the Duke de Fitz James, Mr. Farrer, an Engliſh gentleman, and a number of horſemen, who had followed us from Paris. Fortunately we alighted at a hunting ſeat of the latter, who immediately mounted his horſe, and riding up to us, exclaimed "Mr. Charles I am firſt." The Prince embraced us both in our chariot, and ſigned the proceſs. So did the Duke de Fitz-James. Mr. Farrer ſigned it three times. His ſignature was omitted in the Journal, for he was ſo tranſported with joy, that he could not write legibly. Of above 200 horſemen who followed us from Paris, only theſe could overtake us; the reſt had knocked up their horſes, or given out. After relating a few particulars to the Duke de Charties, I told him I was going off again, when would he have me return? He replied, in half an hour. Mr. Robert quitted the chariot, as we had agreed. Thirty peaſants held down the machine. I aſked for ſome earth to ballaſt it, having not above four or five pounds left. A ſpade was not at hand, nor were there any ſtones in the meadow.

The ſun was near ſetting. I made a haſty calculation of the time requiſite for the alteration of weight, and giving a ſignal to the peaſants to quit their hold, I ſprung up like a bird. In 20 minutes I was 1500 toiſes high, out of ſight of all terreſtrial objects. I had taken the neceſſary precautions againſt the exploſion of the globe, and prepared to make the obſervations which I had promiſed myſelf. In order to obſerve the barometer and thermometer placed at the ends of the chariot, without altering the centre of gravity, I knelt down in the middle, ſtretching forward my body and one leg, holding my watch and paper in my left, and my pen and the ſtring of the valve in my right hand, waiting for the event. The globe, which, at my ſetting out, was rather flaccid, ſwelled inſenſibly. The air eſcaped in great quantities at the valve.

I drew the valve from time to time, to give it two vents; and I continued to aſcend, ſtill loſing air, which iſſued out hiſſing, and became viſible, like a warm vapour in a cold atmoſphere. The reaſon of this phœnomenon is obvious. On earth the thermometer was 7 degrees above the freezing point; after 10 minutes aſcent it was 5 degrees below. The inflammable air had not had time to recover the equilibrium of its temperature. Its elaſtic equilibrium being quicker than that of the heat, there muſt eſcape a greater quantity than that which the external dilatation of the air could determine by its leaſt preſſure. For myſelf, though expoſed to the open air, I paſſed, in 10 minutes, from the warmth of ſpring to the cold of winter, a ſharp dry cold, but not too much to be borne. I declare, that in the firſt moment I felt nothing diſagreeable in the ſudden change. When the barometer ceaſed to riſe, I marked exactly 18 inches 10 lines, the mercury ſuffering no ſenſible oſcillation. From this oſcillation I deduct a height of 1524 toiſes, or thereabouts, till I can be more exact in my calculation. In a few minutes more my fingers were benumbed with the cold, ſo that I could not hold my pen. I was now ſtationary, and moved only in an horizontal direction. I roſe up in the middle of the chariot, to contemplate the ſcene around me. At my ſetting out the ſun was ſet on the valleys; he ſoon roſe for me alone, who was the only luminous body in the horizon, and all the reſt of nature in ſhade. The ſun himſelf preſently diſappeared, and I had the pleaſure of ſeeing him ſet twice in the ſame day. I beheld, for a few ſeconds, the circumambient air and the vapours riſing from the vallies and rivers. The clouds ſeemed to riſe from the earth, and collect one upon another, ſtill preſerving their uſual form, only their colour was grey and monotonous from the want of light in the atmoſphere. The moon alone enlightened them, and ſhewed me that I was tacking about twice, and I obſerved certain currents that brought me back again. I had ſeveral ſenſible deviations, and obſerved, with ſurpriſe, the effects of the wind, and ſaw the ſtreamers of my banners point upwards. This phœnomenon was not the effect of the aſcent or deſcent, for I then moved horizontally.

At that inſtant I conceived, perhaps a little too haſtily, the idea of being able to ſteer one's own courſe. In the midſt of my tranſports I felt a violent pain in my right ear and jaw, which I aſcribed to the dilatation of the air in the cellular conſtruction of thoſe organs, as much as to that of the external air. I was in a waiſtcoat, and bareheaded. I immediately put on a woollen cap, yet the pain did not go off but as I gradually deſcended.

ed. For 7 or 8 minutes I had ceaſed to aſcend; the condenſation of the internal inflammable air rather made me deſcend. I now recollected my promiſe to return in half an hour, and, pulling the upper valve, I came down. The globe was now ſo much emptied, that it appeared only an half globe. I perceived a fine ploughed field near the wood of Tour du Lay, and haſtened my deſcent. When I was between 20 and 30 toiſes from the earth, I threw out haſtily 2 or 3 pounds of ballaſt, and became, for a moment, ſtationary, till I deſcended gently on the field, above a league from the place whence I ſet out. The frequent deviations and turnings about make me imagine this voyage was about three leagues, and I was gone about 35 minutes. Such is the certainty of the combinations of our aeroſtatic machine, that I can at pleaſure complete 130 ſpecific lightneſs, the preſervation of which, equally voluntary, might have kept me in the air at leaſt for 24 hours longer. When the two Dukes ſaw me at a diſtance coming down, they and the reſt left Mr. Robert to meet me, and haſtened to Paris; and the Prince himſelf moſt kindly undertook to give the public an account of us, and to quiet their apprehenſions."

CHARLES.

For the WESTMINSTER MAGAZINE.

HISTORICAL ANECDOTE OF A REMARKABLE DUEL.

THE fame of an Engliſh dog has been deſervedly tranſmitted to poſterity by a monument in baſſo relievo, which ſtill remains on the chimney-piece of the grand hall at the caſtle of Montargis, in France. The ſculpture repreſents a dog fighting with a champion, and was occaſioned by the following circumſtance:

Aubri de Mondidier, a gentleman of family and fortune, travelling alone thro' the foreſt of Bondi, was murdered, and buried under a tree. His dog, an Engliſh blood-hound, would not quit his maſter's grave for ſeveral days, till at length, compelled by hunger, he went to the houſe of an intimate friend of the unfortunate Aubri's, at Paris, and by his melancholy howling, ſeemed deſirous of expreſſing the loſs they had both ſuſtained. He repeated his cries, ran to the door, then looked back to ſee if any one followed him, returned to his maſter's friend, pulled him by the ſleeve, and with dumb eloquence entreated him to go with him.

The ſingularity of all the actions of the dog; his coming there without his maſter, whoſe faithful companion he always had been; the ſudden diſappearance of his maſter; and, perhaps, that divine diſpenſation of juſtice and events, which will not permit the guilty to remain long undetected; made the company reſolve to follow the dog, who conducted them to the tree, where he renewed his howl, ſcratching the earth with his feet, to ſignify that that was the ſpot they ſhould ſearch. Accordingly, on digging, the body of the unfortunate Aubri was found.

Some time after the dog accidentally met the aſſaſſin, who is ſtiled, by all hiſtorians that relate this fact, the Chevalier Macaire; when inſtantly ſeizing him by the throat, it was with great difficulty he was made to quit his prey.

Whenever he ſaw him after, the dog purſued and attacked him with equal fury. Such obſtinate virulence in the animal, confined only to Macaire, appeared extraordinary to thoſe perſons who recollected the dog's fondneſs for his maſter, and at the ſame time ſeveral inſtances wherein Macaire had diſplayed his envy and hatred to Aubri de Mondidier.

Additional circumſtances encreaſed ſuſpicion, which at length reached the Royal ear. The King (Lewis VIII.) ſent for the dog. He appeared extremely gentle till perceiving Macaire, in the midſt of twenty noblemen, he run directly towards him, growled, and flew at him as uſual.

In thoſe times, when no poſitive proof of a crime could be procured, an order was iſſued for a combat between the accuſer and accuſed. Theſe were denominated the judgment of God, from a perſuaſion that Heaven would ſooner work a miracle

miracle than ſuffer innocence to periſh with infamy.

The king, ſtruck with ſuch a collection of circumſtantial evidence againſt Macaire, determined to refer the deciſion to the chance of war, or, in other words, he gave orders for a combat between the Chevalier and the dog. The liſts were appointed in the iſle of Notre-Dame, then an uninclоſed, uninhabited place: Macaire's weapon was a great cudgel.

The dog had an empty caſk allowed for his retreat, to recover breath. The combatants being ready, the dog no ſooner found himſelf at liberty, than he ran round his adverſary, avoiding his blows, menacing him on every ſide, till his ſtrength was exhauſted; then ſpringing forward, he griped him by the throat, threw him on the ground, and forced him to confeſs his crime before the king and the whole court. In conſequence of which the Chevalier, after a few days, was convicted upon his own acknowledgement, and beheaded on a ſcaffold in the Iſle of Notre Dame.

The above curious recital is tranſlated from the *Memoires ſur les Duels*, and is confirmed by many judicious, critical writers, particularly Julius Scaliger, and Mountfaucon, neither of them relators of fabulous ſtories.

G.

For the WESTMINSTER MAGAZINE.

EXTRAORDINARY ADVENTURES *of a* FRENCH OFFICER.

The following curious Account may be depended upon as authentic. It is taken from the Journal of *Colonel Capper* (written at *Mocha*) a Gentleman of Veracity, now in the Eaſt India Service.

JANUARY 24th, 1782. In the morning Capt. Twyſs came and told us he ſhould ſail for Baſſora the next day. He had ſix Engliſh gentlemen paſſengers with him that were going over the deſert, and alſo Monſieur Borel de Bourg, the French officer, who had been plundered and wounded by the Arabs on the deſert. Monſieur Borel wiſhing to hear the lateſt news from Europe, and perhaps, alſo being deſirous of converſing with a perſon who had lately travelled the ſame route as himſelf, came and ſpent the evening with me at the broker's houſe. I told him that I was no ſtranger to what had befallen him on the deſert, and eaſily prevailed on him to give me an account of his adventures.

The particulars of the buſineſs upon which he was ſent, he of courſe concealed, but in general terms he informed me, that ſoon after the engagement between the two fleets near Breſt, in July, 1778, Monſieur de Sartine, his friend and patron, ordered him to carry diſpatches over land to India.

I think he ſaid he left Marſeilles on the third of Auguſt; but that owing to the ſtupidity of the Captain of his veſſel, and to contrary winds, he did not arrive at Latichea before the end of the month; from thence he immediately proceeded to Aleppo. The French Conſul could not collect more than twenty-five guards to attend him acroſs the deſert; with which on the fourteenth of September, he began his journey. He met with no ſerious moleſtation, until he was within fifteen days of Baſſora, when early one morning he perceived himſelf followed by a party of about thirty Arabs mounted on camels, who ſoon overtook him. As they approached, he, by his interpreter, deſired they would pleaſe to advance or halt, or move to the right or left of him, for he choſe to travel by himſelf; they anſwered that they ſhould not interfere with him, and went forwards at a briſk rate. Mr. Borel's people then ſuſpected them of ſome hoſtile deſign, and told him to be upon his guard. In the evening, between four and five o'clock, he obſerved them halted and drawn up as if to oppoſe him, and in a few minutes three other parties, conſiſting alſo of about thirty each appeared in ſight, in oppoſite directions, ſeemingly inclined to ſurround him; from theſe appearances very naturally concluding their intentions to be hoſtile, and conſequently his ſituation deſperate, he thought only of ſelling his life

life as dearly as poſſible. He was armed with a double barrelled fuzee, a pair of piſtols and a ſabre; as he kept marching on, he firſt fell in with the party in front, who fired at him, which he returned as ſoon as he came within muſket ſhot of them and killed the Sheick; when he had diſcharged his fire arms, before he could load them again, ſeveral of the Arabs broke in from different ſides, and cut him down. Stunned with the violence of the blow, he knew nothing that paſſed afterwards until about an hour before daybreak the next morning, when he found himſelf entirely naked on the ground, a quantity of blood near him, and part of the fleſh of the ſide of his head hanging upon his cheek. In a few minutes he recollected what had paſſed, but as he could feel no fracture or contuſion in the ſkull, he began to hope his wounds were not mortal; this, however, was only a tranſient gleam of hope, for it immediately occurred to him, that without clothes or even food, he was likely to ſuffer a much more painful death. The firſt objects that ſtruck him when he began to look about him, were thoſe who had been killed on both ſides in the action; but at the diſtance of a few hundred yards, he ſoon afterwards perceived a great number of Arabs ſeated round a large fire: theſe he naturally ſuppoſed were his enemies, he nevertheleſs determined to go to them, in hopes, either to prevail on them to ſave his life, or elſe to provoke them to put an immediate end to his miſeries. Whilſt he was thinking in what manner without the aſſiſtance of language he ſhould be able to excite their compaſſion, and to ſoften their reſentment againſt him for the death of their companions, which theſe people he had heard ſeldom forgive; it had occurred to him, that they paid great reſpect to age; and alſo that they ſeldom deſtroy thoſe who ſupplicate mercy; from whence he concluded that if he could throw himſelf under the protection of the oldeſt perſon amongſt them he might probably be ſaved. In order to approach them unperceived, he crept towards them upon his hands and knees, and when arrived within a few paces of their circle, having ſingled out one who had the moſt venerable appearance, he ruſhed forwards, and ſpringing over the head of one of the circle, he threw himſelf into the arms of him whom he ſelected for a protector. The whole party were at firſt extremely aſtoniſhed, not having the leaſt notion of his being alive; but when their ſurprize ſubſided a debate aroſe whether or not they ſhould allow him to live. One of them who had probably loſt a friend or relation, drew his ſword in a great rage, and was going to put him to death, but his protector ſtood up with great zeal in his defence, and would not ſuffer him to be injured; in conſequence of which, his adverſary immediately mounted his camel, and with a few followers went away. When this conteſt was over the Sheick, for ſo he happened to be, perceiving Monſieur Borel entirely without clothes, preſented him with his abba or outer cloak, invited him to approach the fire, and gave him coffee and a pipe, which an Arab when he is not on the march has always prepared. The people finding Monſieur Borel did not underſtand Arabic enquired for his interpreter, who was found aſleep and ſlightly wounded.

The firſt demand the Arabs made was for his money and jewels, which they obſerved Europeans have always in great abundance, but which are concealed in private drawers, that none excepting themſelves can diſcover. He aſſured them theſe opinions were erroneous with reſpect to him, for that he was not a rich merchant, but only a young ſoldier of fortune, employed to carry orders from his government in Europe, to their ſettlement in India; but that if they would convey him to Graine, a place near Baſſora on the Sea coaſt; on their arrival there, and on the receipt of his papers he would engage to pay them two hundred chequins, about one hundred pounds ſterling. After a few minutes conſultation with each other they acceded to his propoſals, returned him his oldeſt Arabian dreſs, and during the reſt of his journey treated him with tolerable kindneſs and attention.

After Mr. Borel's arrival at Graine he eaſily prevailed on an Armenian to advance him the money to fulfil his engagements with the Arabs; and alſo to ſend the French reſident at Baſſora an account of what had befallen him on the deſert, deſiring to be ſupplied with money and other neceſſaries to enable him to proceed to Pondicherry. His letter very fortunately for us fell into the hands of the Engliſh reſident at Baſſora, who having heard of our rupture with France inſtantly determined to arreſt him, being convinced he muſt be charged with public diſpatches of conſequence. Every generous mind will lament the neceſſity there was of adding to the diſtreſſes of this ſpirited and unfortunate youth; but the lives of thou-

ſands, and perhaps the ſafety of our ſettlements in India, depended upon his being intercepted, but to prevent his being treated with any rigour, or ſuffering any indignity, Mr. Abraham the ſecond in council of the factory was employed to ſeize him.

The town of Graine is about ſeventy miles from Baſſora, and is governed by an Arab Sheick, who is very much attached to us, but Mr. Abraham knew it would be very difficult to prevail on him to violate the rights of hoſpitality to a ſtranger, and without the Sheick's connivance, the execution of the project would have been abſolutely impracticable; the better to conceal his deſign Mr. Abraham at night went down to Graine in a country boat, accompanied by the Captain of one of our ſhips then lying at Baſſora, and immediately proceeded to the Sheick's houſe, to whom he communicated his buſineſs. The Arab at firſt violently oppoſed the meaſure; but being mollified by preſents, and alſo aſſured that Mr. Borel ſhould not receive any perſonal injury, he at laſt tacitly conſented. When Mr. Abraham knocked at the door Mr. Borel was retired to reſt, but he inſtantly got up to admit him, thinking he was a perſon ſent from the French Reſident with an anſwer to his letter; as ſoon as he diſcovered his miſtake he attempted to defend himſelf, but he was inſtantly overpowered and conveyed to the ſea ſide, where he was put on board the ſhip that had been ſent from Baſſora, and was juſt then come to an anchor off the place. He had two packets, one for Pondicherry, and another for Mauritius, which were found, but Monſieur Borel obſerved to me that they miſſed the key of the cypher in which the diſpatches were written, by neglecting to ſearch the lining of his clothes. It was perhaps a fortunate circumſtance for Monſieur Borel that he was taken priſoner by us, for his wound through unſkilful management, and the want of proper remedies was grown extremely bad, nor is it improbable if he had attempted to proceed in a country boat, the only conveyance he could have got at Graine, that his wound would have occaſioned his death long before the boat would have arrived at any French ſettlement in India. I made uſe of theſe arguments to conſole him for his misfortunes, but the zeal for his country, the natural enthuſiaſm of his diſpoſition, and the hopes which had been given him of promotion, had he executed his commiſſion, made him deaf to every thing I could ſay to afford him conſolation; diſappointed, but not diſcouraged by his former ſufferings, he was then on his way to Baſſora to proceed over the great deſert a ſecond time; which I was afterwards informed he paſſed with every aſſiſtance he could receive from the gentlemen of our factory.

For the WESTMINSTER MAGAZINE.

JOURNAL of the PROCEEDINGS of the FOURTH SESSIONS of the FIFTEENTH PARLIAMENT of GREAT-BRITAIN.

HOUSE OF LORDS.

Wedneſday, December 20.

READ a firſt time the Eaſt-India payment of debts bill.

The order of the day for the ſecond reading of the Eaſt-India Bill being moved for—

Lord Gower aroſe, and objected to the bill; this his lordſhip ſaid he was induced to do from a thorough conviction, that the principle of the bill militated with the eſtabliſhed principles of the conſtitution. That it was not founded in neceſſity, for that the Eaſt India Company, ſo far from being in a debilitated ſituation, were in a flouriſhing ſtate. His lordſhip went over all thoſe objections which had been ſtated againſt paſſing the bill, on the former days, urging particularly the ill conſequences which would attend paſſing the bill, from the very great acquiſition of influence which it would throw into the hands of the Miniſter, to whom it would give an arbitrary controul over the territorial poſſeſſions of India.

Lord Carliſle defended the bill; connected as he might be with the preſent adminiſtration, he could not but declare himſelf

himſelf the open advocate of its principle, as well as the neceſſity of paſſing it.

His Lordſhip entered into a very long inveſtigation of the Company's accounts and finances, going over the ſame grounds argued on in the Commons, deducing this concluſion, that the ſtate of the Company had been exaggerated and miſrepreſented by the counſel at the bar. The neceſſity of paſſing the bill was political and abſolute. Something muſt be done, and immediately. The interference of Parliament was indiſpenſible; it was eſſential to the ſalvation of the Company's poſſeſſions in India. He deſcribed in pathetic language various depredations, murders, oppreſſions and wars, which had taken place in India, to the diſhonour of humanity, aad the diſgrace of the Britiſh character, entered into for the purpoſe of rapine. Nabobs had been ſtripped of their dominions, and reduced with their families, from opulence to indigence. He produced a letter written by one of thoſe unhappy princes, which rouſed the feelings and indignation of the Houſe.—Here he read a letter from a Nabob which deſcribed the ſufferings of himſelf and family in terms of the moſt poignant diſtreſs.

He then entered into a diſcuſſion of the treaty with the Mahrattas in 1762; from the whole of which he hoped parliament would conſider the preſent bill as an object of wiſdom and humanity. It was not his intention to bring criminal charges againſt Mr. Haſtings, but he muſt obſerve, that the late war carried on in India originated in his deſigns —The Governor had boaſted of it as his own war; and every man knew the dangerous predicament in which it had placed the Company. Private property and chartered right he reſpected; the preſent bill injured neither. The public and the Company were but one; had but one intereſt; they had both the ſame at ſtake; the property of both was embarked in one veſſel. Was it not then wiſe to give the direction of this bark to one pilot, and what pilot was ſo proper as the Legiſlature. For theſe reaſons his lordſhip moved, that "The Bill be now committed."

Lord Coventry declared, that the principle of the bill had his utmoſt abhorrence. It was an open invaſion of chartered rights; it was a precedent to unhinge every charter in the country; it would excite fear in every community; ſpread alarm over the whole country. Neceſſity had been urged as its principle, and neceſſity, which had always been conſidered as the plea of tyrants, was held forth as the plea of freedom, but the propoſition was confounded, heterogeneous, and unnatural. The Revolution was not the effect of hard neceſſity, it was in conſequence of the monarch's having broke his coronation oath. His lordſhip examined ſeveral other points, and concluded with declaring, he ſhould oppoſe the commitment of the bill.

The Duke of Manchester ſaid, he was ſo ſatisfied of its neceſſity, that he was reſolved to give it his moſt hearty ſupport; he believed the Company in their ſtatement had ſet forth many articles that never would be forth coming; he would not ſay that due from the Court of France for French priſoners was of a deſperate kind, but he feared the receipt was not ſo very certain, for when he had preſſed for it, they had made a claim of a large ſum for damages done by the India Company, by filling up the ditch at Chandenagore; our ſituation in India, he was clear, made it very requiſite for ſome ſuch regulation as was propoſed by the bill, and unleſs that, or ſomething of equal propriety, took place, the Company would be found to be in the utmoſt danger.

Lord Rawdon ſaid, he would not conſider it in the many points of view in which it had been ſo often held up, with reſpect to the bankruptcy of the Company, the neceſſity or preſſing occaſion for paſſing it, but merely confine himſelf to the ſingle point of its policy; he would not contend that there had not been great rapacity committed by the ſervants of the Company in India, and that ſome regulations were not very much wanted; but he would contend, this bill would not be productive of theſe requiſite regulations; it would rather be productive of an influence in this country which no Miniſter ought to be entruſted with. The patronage of India was to be veſted in the hands of ſeven gentlemen, who it was natural to ſuppoſe were the friends of the Miniſter, and therefore the patronage was ultimately in him; if ſo, it was an influence too great for any Miniſter to be truſted with; and if he ſhould go out of office, any other Adminiſtration would be but a ſhadow againſt him. That great boaſt of Engliſh liberty, the guardians of the people, the Houſe of Commons, he found, would no longer be an independent body, but would contain a corrupt, and influenced majority. This he thought a ſufficient reaſon for their lordſhips to aſſume

their dignity, and reject a bill that had ſuch an apprehenſive proſpect for its tendency. His objection to it aroſe not from party motives, but from the principle of the bill; and that a bill, fraught with ſuch influence, ſhould meet with its advocates, was ſo him very ſurprizing; the noble Lord at the head of the Treaſury, of whom he had the higheſt opinion, nor was his veneration for the character of another noble Lord, who filled a high office in adminiſtration leſs; that they ſhould give ſanction to a meaſure which was palpably the meaſure of a miniſter, and for what purpoſe? If their lordſhips ſaw it in the ſame point of view he did, they would, like him, execrate it. He truſted for their own honour, for the purity of the conſtitution, and rights and privileges of the people at large, the Houſe would join with him in giving the commitment of the bill a negative.

Lord Sandwich paid many compliments to the laſt noble Lord, for the candour in which he had ſo ably deſcanted on the bill; but at the ſame time obſerved, he was from principle in many points obliged to differ from him; he did not perceive the ill conſequences which the noble Lord apprehended, and he was thoroughly ſatisfied of the neceſſity for doing ſomething ſpeedily for the ſalvation of the Company. The noble Lord had admitted there were ſcenes of rapacity committed in India, which called aloud for a check: the Directors had been found by experience inadequate to the taſk, their orders were diſregarded, and their commands held for nothing. Thoſe who objected to this bill had argued a great deal on the ſtate of their property; he would not ſay they were bankrupts, but they had done that, which if any individual merchant had committed, he would have been looked upon as a bankrupt. Bills had become due, and they had not wherewithal to pay them. They had called their creditors together, and aſked for time; with reſpect to taking their property, and veſting it in other hands, it was no more than would happen in private life; their affairs was in that ſituation to make them apply for aſſiſtance, and they had produced to the perſons agreeable to lend them aſſiſtance, a ſtatement of their accounts; on the examination of which, their friends ſtill are willing to give that aſſiſtance, but obſerve your property is greatly mortgaged, your circumſtances are greatly miſmanaged; we will extricate you if poſſible, yet leſt we ſhould be involved in ruin with you, we will appoint perſons that can be truſted to have the care of the property; this is the plain caſe, the public are thoſe friends, and, doubtleſs, ought to have ſome ſecurity for their truſt. His Lordſhip dwelt for a conſiderable time on the enormities committed abroad, defended the bill in a moſt able manner, and concluded by recommending it as worthy the approbation of the Houſe.

The Duke of Richmond objected to it as an infringement on the conſtitution, by eſtabliſhing a new branch of executive power. He reprobated the idea of depriving them of their charter, nor would he admit there exiſted any neceſſity on the face of the accounts for ſuch a proceeding; for counſel had proved at the bar that it did not exiſt; but then, ſays a noble Lord, that is only one ſide of the queſtion, you have not heard the other; to that noble Lord, he would reply, that what evidence had been given was on oath, and on the other part there was only a few papers on their Lordſhips table, which he would not ſay was a partial ſelection; but miniſters themſelves had ſaid they were ſufficient to juſtify them: ſuch a declaration, he ſaid, needed no comment. His Grace adverted to what fell from the Duke of Manchester; he was ſorry to have heard that the noble Lord's doubts as to the recovery of the money for the French priſoners, as conſidering his preſent ſituation, advantage might be taken of it by the French court, on a demand being made; with reſpect to his being ſilenced by a demand for filling up the ditch, he did not know what his inſtructions might be, but he thought it would have been as well not to have been mentioned in that manner.

The Duke of Manchester ſaid, whenever his Grace thought fit to move for the papers by which he had acted, he ſhould be ready for their being brought forward: he had no ſecrets, nor did he mean to have any.

Lord Walſingham conſidered the bill as pregnant with meaſures that threatened the ſubverſion of rights and privileges, without giving a plauſible reaſon for ſo doing; the Company were certainly in diſtreſs, but how had they become ſo? —He would ſay, not by miſmanagement, but by unavoidable expences; by our being at war, the additional freight and demurrage amounted to more than would now extricate them from their difficulties,

beſides

beſides what it coſt them to make head againſt the common enemy, which they had done in ſuch a manner as to reflect additional luſtre to the Britiſh arms; and what was to be their recompence for this meritorious ſervice done to their country? To loſe their charter, have their property ſeized, becauſe for their liberality and ſpirit, their circumſtances were embarraſſed, which would not have happened had their ſhips arrived in proper time; laſt year there were only ten, this eleven, and they expected ſeven and thirty next; many of which had been delayed on account of the hazard of war, which would fully anſwer the purpoſe of their exigence —A variety of arguments had been adduced to throw a crimination on the gentlemen in India, ſerving them indeed as the bill did the company, without any ſpecific charge; much of that was levelled at Mr. Haſtings, by whoſe activity, zeal, and integrity, in defiance of the many obſtacles that had been conſtantly thrown in his way, our poſſeſſions in India were preſerved—thoſe territories which we were debating how they ſhould be governed, but for his intrepidity, would not now be ours to govern. His Lordſhip took a large field in defence of Mr. Haſtings, and lamented to hear the character of a man ſo arraigned, who had not an opportunity to appear at the bar to defend himſelf. The Bill, he did not conſider as calculated to remedy thoſe evils it complained of, if they did exiſt; and therefore he ſhould give it his negative.

Lord Derby followed, and ſupported the bill upon the neceſſity there was for checking the public delinquency of the ſervants of the Company in India.

Lord Camden ſaid, he had not intended to have interfered with politics, but when he ſaw a bill of ſuch an important nature, and which militated in ſuch direct terms againſt what he had ever conceived to be the principles of this conſtitution, he thought himſelf called upon to uſe ſuch arguments as an inſignificant individual as himſelf could produce againſt ſuch innovations; charters were of too ſolemn a nature to be thrown aſide at pleaſure, and nothing but the actual commitment of an act of forfeiture, ought to deprive any body of men of that right; no ſuch act was here proved, and yet the India Company was not only to be deprived of that, but their property alſo; for it appeared to him that if a man was denied the privilege of uſing his property, he was in fact deprived of it; a noble Lord had endeavoured to draw a line between private property and this, which he ſaid was connected with the public, but that was of ſo delicate a texture that he was not able to make the diſtinction. It was ſaid that neceſſity, and that by the ſupporters of the bill, that neceſſity alone could juſtify this meaſure; now was this neceſſity made clear to their Lordſhips? he thought not: a charge of miſmanagement was alledged, and by way of proving this, they had flown to India, and brought a recital of delinquency of ſervants who had diſobeyed the Directors and for which the Directors were to be ſtripped of their juſt and legal rights. The ſervants, who had been guilty, were not to be puniſhed; they were to eſcape, and their maſters were to ſuffer, who had been ſo diſobeyed; and what was the remedy propoſed?—Why put aſide theſe twenty-four members, and appoint ſeven, five of whom knew nothing about the matter, and thoſe, we are to preſume, will be paid more attention to than the late Directors. If they are not culpable, but their ſervants only, why not inveſt them with the ſame power you propoſe to thoſe ſeven over their ſervants, and there can be little doubt of their managing as well?—His Lordſhip entered very largely into an inveſtigation of the bill, and adduced many arguments in favour of his objections to it on the point of reform; but he conſidered it, he ſaid, ſolely, as brought in to obtain influence; and in ſupport of this idea, he read one of the clauſes of the bill, which inveſted the ſole appointments to every department in the Eaſt India Company in the hands of the new Directors, and gave them power to remove all who may be now employed.—He dwelt for ſome time on this, and obſerved, that as he had, jointly with the late Marquis of Rockingham, endeavoured to ſuppreſs influence, he could not now ſupport a meaſure which gave the Miniſter ten times as much as they had been able to take from them, therefore he ſhould, moſt certainly, oppoſe the bill.

Earl Fitzwilliam and Lord Gage ſaid a few words in favour of the bill, as did Earl Radnor and Lord King againſt it; after which the

Biſhop of Saliſbury roſe, and obſerved, that he diſliked many parts of the bill, one in particular, that which put the power of patronage in the hands of the new Directors, and as the reſt might be amended in the committee, if any noble Lord in Adminiſtration would aſſure him they

they would not oppoſe a clauſe in its ſtead, to veſt that power in the King, he would ſupport its being committed; if not, it ſhould have his negative in the preſent ſtage.

The queſtion being called for the Houſe divided, when there appeared,

For the commitment	57	
Proxies	19	
		76
Againſt it	75	
Proxies	20	
		95
The bill therefore rejected by		19

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

Wedneſday, December 17.

PASSED the American trade bill.

In a committee went through the Iriſh poſtage bill.

Alſo the land tax bill with amendments.

PARLIAMENTARY PRIVILEGES ASSERTED.

The moment the Speaker took the chair, Mr. Baker roſe, and obſerved, that as he had matters of very great importance to ſubmit to the conſideration of the Houſe, he begged the Speaker would iſſue his orders for the immediate attendance of the members.

This being agreed to, the Serjeant at Arms went to the Speaker's chamber, carrying the Mace, and all the adjacent rooms of the Houſe, with the Speaker's orders for their inſtant attendance in their places on their duty. The Houſe was conſequently ſoon very full.

Mr. Baker then apologized for the part which he found it his duty to act, and the forward ſtand he was obliged to take in ſubmitting to their attention an object of conſideration the moſt important and intereſting that ever was propoſed to Parliament. And at the ſame time that he lamented with the Speaker his late family affliction, as it muſt have been perſonally diſtreſſing to his feelings and humanity, he could not help being pleaſed with the opportunity which it had afforded himſelf, by the receſs it occaſioned, of digeſting this important and preſſing buſineſs, in order to bring it forward in that form to which he had reduced it.

He then ſtated the progreſs of the bill in the other Houſe, and to what delays and adjournments it had been ſubjected. He was not prepared, nor was this the time to preſent any ſpecific charge againſt any individual or ſet of individuals.—Whatever the wiſdom of Parliament might think proper to do afterwards, the duty of the Houſe, in his opinion, was only to inſtitute ſuch an inquiry as might tend to inveſtigate the facts neceſſary to ſubſtantiate the delinquency to which he alluded.

Every Hon. Gentleman, he doubted not, would readily anticipate that certain rumours were in his eye, by which many of thoſe who ſat in the other Houſe were influenced to vote in a manner which, but for the prevalence of ſuch rumours, they certainly would not have voted. Theſe rumours were notorious and univerſal. They affected the perſonal reputation of the Sovereign. They had been, in ſome meaſure, avowed in the other Houſe. They conſiſted with every individual's knowledge, and could not be conteſted.

The argument, therefore, on which he addreſſed the Houſe, and founded his motion, was, that theſe rumours were dangerous to the conſtitution of the State, inaſmuch as they were calculated to bias the deliberations of Parliament, and that impartiality and independence which were at once the ſupport and the glory of the Britiſh Legiſlature. Their immediate object was to render the Sovereign his own Miniſter, and give a dangerous and unprecedented negative to the prerogative of the Crown. They diveſted the executive power of all reſponſibility, and held forth the royal opinion as the rule by which thoſe, who were poſſeſſed of the privilege of deliberating and deciding on all meaſures that came before them according to their conſciences, were directed to vote. They, on theſe grounds, conſtituted an evil of the firſt magnitude, and called for the immediate and decided interference of Parliament. The motion which he propoſed to the Houſe was, therefore, a reſolution, or declaration to this effect,

that

that any reports of his Majeſty's opinion concerning matters pending in Parliament were dangerous to the freedom of Parliamentary independence, and ultimately affected the conſtitution, and that whoever adviſed his Majeſty to any ſuch interference was guilty of a high crime and miſdemeanor.

Before he ſat down he would beg leave to refer the Houſe to a caſe in point, which they would find on their own journals. This was in the year 1640, when the King, in a ſpeech from the Throne, blamed ſome individuals for what they had ſaid in debate, and inſiſted on adding a clauſe to a bill then under diſcuſſion. This mode of conduct produced much confuſion. The Commons came to ſeveral reſolutions concerning it, and at laſt agreed to an addreſs and remonſtrance to the Throne, againſt what they conſidered as a moſt violent and daring infringement of their rights and privileges. They likewiſe intreated the other Houſe to join them in theſe ſpirited proceedings.

This, the Honourable Gentleman candidly allowed, might not ſtrike gentlemen as in every point ſimilar to the caſe in queſtion. But it went to the eſtabliſhment of doctrines which applied to the reſolution he had ſtated: and it pointed out, in his opinion, the mode of conducting the buſineſs, which the Houſe from ſuch a ſtrong precedent, would undoubtedly adopt.

Lord Maitland ſaid, he had many apologies to make for offering himſelf to the attention of the Houſe; but it was his duty not to ſhrink from any appearance or exertion which the intereſts of the conſtitution might demand at his hand. The queſtion now before the Houſe was not that of public or private property, or plunder. It was not the merits or demerits of an uſurper. It was not the management or miſmanagement of the greateſt commercial Company in the world. No, none of theſe matters were, in his opinion, half ſo important, or came home to his mind with any thing like the preſſure which he felt when he conſidered that this night might probably determine whether this country was henceforth to be governed by a public and reſponſible adminiſtration, or a ſecret cabal, whom no one knew or could find, or could charge with any violation of right, or much leſs could anſwer for the groſſeſt miſmanagement, which none could or dared to avow. Under ſuch a circumſtance where ſhall we find, ſaid his Lordſhip, that reſponſibility, that redreſs for grievances which is ſo amply provided for in the conſtitution? Is this country, after exhibiting one of the moſt glorious political ſyſtems that ever adorned any ſociety on earth, in one raſh moment to ſurrender a privilege which ſhe owes to the wiſdom, the exertion, the blood, the fortunes, and the lives of our anceſtors?—No. By the reſolution now propoſed, a plan is pointed out, by which the Houſe may yet aſſert its own honour, and erect a glorious defence for thoſe privileges, invaded and undermined by thoſe deteſtable rumours on which it is founded. Many Hon. Gentlemen were of abilities more adequate to the importance and intereſting nature of the ſubject, in his Lordſhip's opinion, than him; and to their diſcuſſion, without farther treſpaſſing on the time and patience of the Houſe, he would leave it, with heartily ſeconding the motion.

Lord Nugent was never more aſtoniſhed in his life than with the reſolution or motion made by an Hon. Gentleman and ſeconded by a noble Lord. It went, in his Lordſhip's opinion, to an utter annihilation of all Sovereignty in the country. What! Were not Peers, by their rank and ſituation, the hereditary Counſellors of the Crown? Would the Houſe of Commons dare to derogate from that high and diſcriminating dignity which the conſtitution, for the wiſeſt and the beſt purpoſes, hath appended to their ſtation in ſociety? His Lordſhip would go further, and aſſert not only that every Peer had a right to adviſe with his Sovereign individually, but that every Member of the Houſe of Commons, nay, every ſubject in the kingdom, under certain modifications, had a title to addreſs his Majeſty. The reſolution before the Houſe was therefore calculated not only to convey a cenſure on the other branch of the legiſlature, to circumſcribe the Peers in the enjoyment of their independence, but to ſubvert the liberties of Engliſhmen, who were individually allowed by the conſtitution to petition the Throne on whatever appeared to them of importance enough to juſtify ſuch a meaſure.

But not only does this motion go thus far, but it goes thus far without any foundation whatever. What are your allegations, and where are your proofs? I vow to God, exclaimed his Lordſhip as uſual, ſuch a motion as this will ſtimulate the

the other Houſe to reſent the conduct of this. If any individual is intended to be cenſured by this meaſure, ſpeak out and name him, bring him before you. What! would you ſuppreſs that good old Engliſh ſpirit, which will not be ſilent in the moment of danger? Is it the intention of this mode of proceeding to check thoſe exertions, which every individual is called upon to put forth in the criſis of public calamity, when innovations, dreadful and threatening to every birthright we enjoy, are brought forward under the ſtrong hand of authority? Do ye mean to keep the few virtues, which yet would ſtem the torrent of national ruin, in awe and at a diſtance from the only ears that may liſten to them with ſucceſs? I vow to God, Sir, were any relation, dear to me or mine, to be found on ſuch a criſis as this, capable of advancing ſuch bold truths to the royal father of his people; were a perſon under ſuch a deſcription to be brought before you, and receive condign puniſhment, I ſhould think it in common with all his friends a triumph, which would be his glory to the lateſt poſterity.

Mr. W. Pitt, who had roſe at the ſame time with Lord Nugent, now made an apology for this overſight, and hoped the noble Lord would attribute his then getting up to no other motive than that common one which actuated them both, a due attachment to the conſtitutional independence of Parliament, and the unalienable right of Peers either individually or collectively to adviſe his Majeſty, whenever they thought the ſituation of public affairs made ſuch a ſtep an eſſential part of their duty.

The very ſingular and ſolemn mode of introducing this moſt extraordinary reſolution, the formality of ſummoning the immediate attendance of the Members, and, above all, the perſonal character of the honourable gentleman who made, and the noble Lord who ſeconded the motion, were circumſtances which ſtrongly impreſſed his mind with its neceſſity and importance; otherwiſe, when the matter was moulded into its proper ſhape, and diveſted of every ſuperfluous acceſſary, it appeared to him the moſt unneceſſary, the moſt frivolous and untimed that ever inſulted the attention of the national ſenate.

He aſked whether Gentlemen had adverted to its foundation and object? Did it contain any ſpecific charge? No. Was it directed to any deciſive iſſue? No. Was it founded on any poſitive facts, either proved or ſtated? No. What then was the Houſe to make of ſuch a propoſition? Could they adopt a meaſure which came in a ſhape thus unqueſtionable, without maturely weighing the conſequences?

Upon what is the mighty grievance complained of ſuppoſed to depend? Not on any miſdemeanor ſubſtantiated to the ſatisfaction of the Houſe by any ſort of evidence whatever, but on the vague ſurmiſes or lye of the day. The monſter, public report, which is daily and hourly fabricating every ſpecies of the groſſeſt abſurdities and improbabilities, was thus made to intrude on the national buſineſs, and arreſt the attention of the Houſe of Commons to follow her through all her ſhapes and extravagancies. Could any thing be more perfectly ridiculous, or a greater ſarcaſm on that ſerious and diſpaſſionate dignity of mind, which ought to attend and diſcriminate all their parliamentary proceedings?

Surely no ſuch conſequence was ever before imparted to mere rumour and hearſay: for was it really the duty of Parliament to take up rumours wherever they were to be found, the Houſe might at leaſt find enough of employment. Happily for Miniſters, their rumours were all ſanctified by the authority of office. This was the ſtamp which was to give them currency. But might not thoſe of every ſize, complexion, and ſhape, be every where ſeen, on every occaſion, ſtalking openly, and menacing the freedom and birthright of Engliſhmen, under every form, and by every means.

Influence has been aſcribed to rumours of a certain deſcription, which whether true or falſe he would not ſay, for he did not know but there was ſuch an influence on the other ſide, which, according to rumour, was alſo uſed, and therefore equally criminal. Let Miniſters anſwer for thoſe ſcribblers who are employed at their inſtance, and even dare avow the uſe of their authority for publiſhing things unfounded. Where was the man who dared to avow ſuch rumours as had been in conſtant circulation ever ſince the introduction of the Indian buſineſs? Who could eſtimate their operation on the minds of the people, the ſtate of public credit, and the dignity of government, in the eyes of foreigners? Why were not reſolutions founded on ſuch palpable and obvious miſchiefs as theſe? Theſe all, more or leſs, originated in rumours, which however were ſuffered to paſs with impunity, and to expire unnoticed and unſuppreſſed. But rumours, big he would ſay with

with no ſuch conſequences, were however to be marked with the indignation of Parliament. He truſted the dignity of the Houſe, the common ſenſe which had always diſtinguiſhed its proceedings, and the honour which Gentlemen owed to their own profeſſions, would not, on this occaſion, ſuffer any thing ſo frivilous and contemptible to ſtur the annals of a Britiſh Senate.

The Honourable Gentleman had talked much about ſecret influence, and aſked how Miniſters were to act when thus circumſtanced? In his opinion the ſervants of the Crown were worſe than uſeleſs whenever they were without reſponſibility. For a ſituation thus dangerous and unconſtitutional they were indeed ſtrictly anſwerable. Their duty in a ſituation thus diſhonourable and inefficient, was therefore obvious and indiſpenſible. The moment they could not anſwer for their own meaſures let them retire. They were no longer fit to occupy ſtations which they did not adequately fill.

Lord Mahon and Lord North roſe both at once, but the characteriſtic perſeverance of the former was not to be matched or diſconcerted by the decency of the latter. His Lordſhip, however, promiſed brevity. He attacked Mr. Secretary Fox with an utter deſertion of all principle. He reprobated the Eaſt India bill as the worſt and moſt obnoxious that ever challenged the attention of Parliament, or rouſed the indignation of Engliſhmen. By a ſtrange mode of hypothetical reaſoning, his whole ſpeech was a perſonal attack on the conduct of the party who adhered to Mr. Fox, whom he reprobated as abandoning the public for private intereſt. He referred particularly and pointedly to the conduct of a noble Duke in the other Houſe, whoſe words he took down, and which were, that he had authority to ſay that no man had authority to make mention of the Royal opinion in the ſenſe in which it had been rumoured. This he averred that noble Duke had no right to aſſert; and he ſtated it as an improper influence on one ſide, as that which had been inſinuated on the other. It was at midnight he ſaid this happened, and midnight only was a fit ſeaſon for ſuch a conduct, as it was an evident intention to bias the minds of thoſe who were entitled and bound by their conſciences to exerciſe on every queſtion which came before them.

Lord North avowed, that at the time to which the noble Lord alluded, he was undoubtedly faſt aſleep. But his Lordſhip's earneſtneſs in the buſineſs, wherever exerciſed, had been ſo great, that, perhaps, the cauſe of the public had not been a great ſufferer if this too had been his ſituation. He blames a noble Duke for doing what appeared to him his immediate duty, and the duty of every one who filled ſo reſponſible an office. A rumour had been ſtated, as reflecting very much on the character of the Sovereign, and tending not a little to embarraſs Government. How was he to counteract that rumour? Was he to let it paſs unnoticed, and poſſeſs undiſturbed all its effect on the minds of thoſe, for whoſe benefit and docility it was calculated? Or had he any other way of defeating its intention than by denying its reality?

His Lordſhip then applied himſelf to the ſeveral arguments urged by Mr. Pitt, which he went through with infinite energy and wit. He conteſted the propriety and neceſſity of the motion, on conſtitutional principles. It was competent for the Houſe to inſtitute an enquiry into whatever affected the independence or freedom of debate, and to take what reſolutions in conſequence they might think proper. The reſponſibility of Miniſtry was the only ſecurity which Engliſhmen had againſt the abuſe of the executive power. This deſtroyed, their fears were juſtly rouſed, and who could ſay how ſtrongly theſe might operate, or where they might end?

But it has been ſaid by the Hon. Gentleman, that the conduct of Miniſters under ſuch a predicament even as this is obvious; whenever they find themſelves deſtined to act under undue influence, they ought to leave their ſituation: and who, ſays he, would act ſo mean, ſo baſe, ſo deſpicable a part, as, after ſuch an intimation as this, to continue in office? Such a mode of reaſoning his Lordſhip admired, as peculiarly proper in the very critical ſituation of the Hon. Gentleman. It was only that one, in one Houſe, ſhould publiſh ſuch a rumour as had been ſo frequently mentioned, and another in the other Houſe puſh Miniſters home. The game, thus managed, was ſure, and the play required no very uncommon dexterity. He would preſume, however, to adviſe the Hon. Gentleman to act with a little more patience and decency. Miniſtry, he truſted, would act as they ſhould do, but he would not now ſay how. Only he was at liberty to aſſure the honourable candidate for their

places, that they would not retain their ſituation any longer than they could act in it with reſponſibility and effect. This, he truſted, was the determination of all who acted with him.

His Lordſhip had heard much in his time of ſecret influence. He never ſaw any thing like it, otherwiſe he ſhould undoubtedly have relinquiſhed his ſituation. But this rumour, which had merited ſuch a marked reprobation, had all the appearance of it. A bill had been brought into Parliament, and diſcuſſed with ſo much ſerious and repeated argumentation, as he, who had ſat full thirty years in the Houſe, never had witneſſed before. No evidence was inſiſted on by the Counſel to diſprove the ſpirit, or expoſe the tendency of the bill, but the whole buſineſs went on ſmoothly and without moleſtation, till the Commons preſented it, under all theſe circumſtances, to the other Houſe. Here it appeared under the ſanction of one of the fulleſt and moſt independent majorities that ever accompanied any meaſure whatever. But there no regard is paid to what happened to every ſtage of the buſineſs. The Counſel came forward loaded with new evidence, which they inſiſt on delivering in full. And leſt all this had not been enough, rumours are induſtriouſly propagated in order to diſcredit the meaſure, and deſtroy it by that very influence which, if lawful at all, ought only to be exerted when there is a reſponſibility.

After putting theſe things in a variety of ſtrong lights, his Lordſhip contended for the propriety and neceſſity of the motion. This he did the more eſpecially as he had been charged on ſome former occaſion with indifference to the conſtitution. Had he been ſilent when ſuch a groſs violation of it had met with countenance from ſo many of its moſt zealous friends, he ſhould have thought himſelf culpable indeed. For what was the influence of the Crown, againſt which on former occaſions all theſe gentlemen had divided againſt him, and for which he had then deemed it his duty to contend, in compariſon of a principle, which, once eſtabliſhed, would bury in one grave all the privileges of Parliament, the rights of the people, and the deſtruction of our glorious and happy conſtitution. He ſhould therefore give the reſolution now propoſed his moſt ſincere and hearty ſupport.

Mr. Grenville was much aſtoniſhed at the motion. He reprobated a meaſure which had no proof to ſupport it. He thought it violent and unprecedented. He deſired the accuſer to ſtand forth. If a noble relation of his was obliquely aimed at by ſuch an oblique procedure, he could anſwer for him that he would not flinch from any ſcrutiny. But he proteſted againſt all inſinuation and abuſe, and deſired the buſineſs might be conducted on principles, however bold and ſpirited, open, upright, and unequivocal.

Mr. Fox, in one of the moſt ſplendid and energetic ſpeeches that ever arreſted the attention of Engliſhmen anxious and panting for their liberties, went into the merits of the queſtion without ceremony or preamble. He recollected an adage of a great man, who but a few years ago had ſtood in a very reſponſible ſituation in this country; a gentleman who poſſeſſed many valuable qualities, but who deſpiſed and execrated the idea of a ſecret influence: his words were ſtrong, but marked the vigour and ardour of a manly underſtanding. I will never, ſaid he, be more at the head of a ſet of Janiſſaries, who on the leaſt notice from a certain quarter may ſtrangle when they pleaſe. Such were the ſentiments of that great man; and would to God, ſaid Mr. Fox, that they had been inherited by all who bear the name. Such was the nature of the preſent debate, that names would unavoidably be mentioned. He then took a letter out of his pocket, and read it. The rumour, ſaid he, to which ſo many alluſions had been made, was this, that his Majeſty had allowed Earl Temple to ſay, that whoever voted for the bill before Parliament was not his friend but his enemy; and if theſe words were not ſtrong enough, the noble Earl might uſe what words he pleaſed. Would any gentleman then put this rumour on a level with thoſe of a common newſpaper? Would any gentleman ſay that ſuch a rumour was not calculated to produce an immediate effect? He would not ſay that it ought; for thoſe in high and elevated rank ought to prove themſelves poſſeſſed of high and elevated ſentiments. Yet it might have happened that ſeveral Lords who had left their proxies with Peers who had ſupported the bill, had taken them from them, and given them to others who were known enemies to the bill. This change might have taken place in very near twenty inſtances, though the Noble Lords ſo withdrawing their proxies had not had any opportunity to change their ſentiments or opinions of the bill, from any

arguments

arguments that had been uſed againſt it in the Upper Houſe, as not one of them had been preſent there to hear the debates. Where was the man who could ſay all this might not have been the caſe? But it was certainly very extraordinary, and were he diſpoſed to treat the matter ſeriouſly, their conduct would deſerve his higheſt and moſt marked contempt. It would have been not only a degradation of their ſtation as Peers of the realm, but virtually renouncing the character of gentlemen.

But leaving the Lords of the B—— C———— to the indulgence of their own feelings, he wiſhed gentlemen to recollect what ſituation Miniſters were reduced to by this ſort of management. Whenever they had the ſpirit to hazard all that was dear to them in propoſing ſomething adequate to the preſent exigence of the public, inſtead of enjoying the triumph of having acted honeſtly and well, all their labour, all their induſtry, all the expectations, ſo natural from every honourable exertion, were thus whiſpered away by rumours, which whether founded or not, were capable of producing the greateſt miſchief before it was poſſible to diſprove them.

Even theſe rumours, for all the ſtrictures they have produced in this Houſe, have not yet been diſavowed. No, when the queſtion was put homely and fairly to a noble Peer in the other Houſe, what ſort of an anſwer did it produce? Was he ready and eager to reſcue the honour of his Sovereign from ſuch a foul reproach? No; but with ſuch an inſidious temporiſing mode of phraſeology, as tended to preſerve the effect, without daring manfully to come forward and abide by the conſequences of the guilt. Such was the anſwer, and what are we to infer, ſaid he, from this kind of management, but that the plot was formed to operate on certain minds, as it is preſumed to have done, and that ſuch a ſhallow device could only apply to thoſe, who, without any principle at all, were endowed with congenial underſtandings?

The Honourable Gentleman had twitted them about their ſituation, which had been rendered ſo very diſagreeable by an interference, which had only not been foreſeen from an opinion, that no man could have been baſe enough to have done it. But now their eyes were opened to ſcenes, of which ocular demonſtration only could have convinced him. And when this fact was authenticated to them, the Honourable Gentleman might depend upon it they ſhould take their meaſures accordingly, mean while it was not their buſineſs to know any thing of the matter.

He would apprize gentlemen, however, that the ſituation of Miniſters was a critical one. They ſtood pledged to the public, and a very honourable majority of the Houſe, not to relinquiſh the affairs of the kingdom, while they were in ſo much confuſion. He, for his own part, had come in on public ground. The people of England had made him what he was. It was at their inſtance he had been called to a place in the public ſervice; and he would, perhaps, not treat them well, to be haſty in relinquiſhing a poſt to which they had raiſed him. He and his colleagues were bound in honour to do ſomething for thirty millions of innocent people, whoſe expectations had been flattered by their exertions; who had long ſtruggled under every oppreſſion, and grappled with their fate in vain; and who, at this moment, groaned under the ſcourge of a cruel and deſperate uſurper, whom he was bound in conſcience and honour to deteſt and execrate.

The Right Honourable Secretary went over an amazing number of particulars, all replete with reaſoning and point, thro' which however it is impoſſible to follow him at this late hour. Mr. Pitt and he both roſe to explain, in which explanation they very ſtrongly contradicted each other.

Mr. Jenkinſon felt himſelf alluded to perſonally by ſome things thrown out in the courſe of Mr. Fox's ſpeech, which however he denied. He declared that he had never done any thing unbecoming his character as a Privy Counſellor. He begged alſo that gentlemen would recollect that when he avowed his being preſent with the King in March laſt, it was when no Miniſtry exiſted. On theſe grounds he reſted his own perſonal vindication. The motion, he thought, extremely improper, and big with the worſt conſequences. He ſhould therefore negative it, and vote for the order of the day.

Lord Mulgrave was very much ſurpriſed that the Right Hon. Secretary ſhould have appeared ſo warm and pointed againſt influence, when every one ſaw that influence alone was the ſole end of his adminiſtration. He conceived him to be the moſt dangerous character that had for a long time appeared in this country.

Mr. Martin had a few of his old puns and rubs at the coalition; but the Houſe was too ſerious to laugh, and he ſat down.

Sir Herb. Mackworth reprobated the motion as calculated to hold out a threat to the other Houſe; and though no man hated ſecret influence, or all that ſort of cabal more than he did, he ſhould for the reaſon now aſſigned, vote againſt the motion.

Mr. T. Pitt took up the argument as a truiſm, and therefore that it involved a great deal of ridicule to enter into any diſcuſſion. He had condemned the bill as a monſter, and was happy to find that it had met in the other Houſe with the fate it deſerved. The preſent motion he conſidered as the laſt pang of a deſperate party, and therefore that he ſhould give it his hearty negative.

Mr. Erſkine entered warmly into the nature of the queſtion. He reprobated the rumour, as intended to influence thoſe in the other Houſe who had never before deſerted the Miniſter of the day. It was nonſenſe to deny the influence of ſuch a rumour. It always had, and muſt from the nature of the thing have great and ſubſtantial influence. He ſaid, there was not a man of honor in the Houſe who would ſtand up and ſay, that ſuch a rumour had not an effect. At theſe words there was a violent cry of 'Take down the words,' and Mr. Erſkine gave them a fair opportunity, but which however they declined, and Mr. Erſkine reſumed his argument.

Mr. P. Arden replied to Mr. Erſkine. He was not diſpleaſed with Mr. Secretary Fox's eulogium on the Royal Family. He could not help obſerving, however, that his attachment to the perſon of Majeſty was all from veneration for his anceſtors and the love of his poſterity. He ſaid a few more common place things on the ſame ſide of the queſtion.

Mr. Grenville ſaid, that having taken down the words as delivered by Mr. Fox, as being the words made uſe of by a noble perſon, his near relation, and which had been made ſo much the ſubject of debate, he had ſhewn them to his noble relation, and he was fully authoriſed to ſay, that the noble perſon had never made uſe of theſe words.

Mr. Secretary Fox ſaid, the Honourable gentleman, if he had authority to prove no more than this, had authority to prove nothing. Theſe were not the preciſe words—then what were the preciſe words? Would the Honourable Gentleman, or any other perſon, ſtanding up to anſwer for the noble Earl, ſay, that he had not made uſe of ſome words to the ſame effect as thoſe which he had mentioned, viz. words calculated to influence the minds of men by the uſe of the royal name? If the Honourable Gentleman was not authoriſed to ſay this, he in fact gave teſtimony to the truth of the rumour, inſtead of giving any contradiction to it.

The Houſe divided on the queſtion,

For the Order	——	153
Againſt it	——	80
	Majority	73

Mr. Baker's queſtion was put and carried without a diviſion.

For the WESTMINSTER MAGAZINE.

OBSERVATIONS *on the* CHARACTER *of* HAMLET.

THE ſtrongeſt feature in the mind of Hamlet, as exhibited in the tragedy, is an exquiſite ſenſe of moral conduct. He diſplays, at the ſame time, great ſenſibility of temper; and is, therefore, moſt "tremblingly alive" to every incident or event that befalls him. His affections are ardent, and his attachments laſting. He alſo diſplays a ſtrong ſenſe of character, and therefore, a high regard for the opinions of others. His good ſenſe, and excellent diſpoſitions, in the early part of his life, and in the proſperous ſtate of his fortune, rendered him amiable and beloved. No misfortune had hitherto befallen him; and though he is repreſented to be ſuſceptible of lively feelings, we have no evidence of his having ever ſhewn any ſymptoms of a moroſe or melancholy diſpoſition. On the contrary, the melancholy which throws ſo much gloom upon him in the courſe of the play, appears to his former friends and acquaintance altogether unuſual and unaccountable.

—— Something you have heard
Of Hamlet's transformation: ſo I call it;

Since

Since nor th' exterior, nor the inward man,
Reſembles that it was.

In the conduct, however, which he diſplays, in the progreſs of the tragedy, he appears irreſolute and indeciſive: he accordingly engages in enterprizes in which he fails; he diſcovers reluctance to perform actions, which, we think, needed no heſitation; he proceeds to violent outrage, where the occaſion does not ſeem to juſtify violence; he appears jocular where his ſituation is moſt ſerious and alarming: he uſes ſubterfuges not conſiſtent with an ingenuous mind; and expreſſes ſentiments not only immoral, but inhuman.

This charge is heavy; yet every reader, and every audience, have hitherto taken part with Hamlet. They have not only pitied, but eſteemed him; and the voice of the people, in poetry as well as politics, deſerves ſome attention. Let us enquire, therefore, whether thoſe particulars which have given ſuch offence, may not be conſidered as the infirmities of a mind conſtituted like that of Hamlet, and placed in ſuch trying circumſtances, rather than indications of folly, or proofs of inherent guilt. If ſo, he will ſtill continue the proper object of our compaſſion, of our regret and eſteem. The award of the public will receive confirmation.

Conſider, then, how a young perſon of good ſenſe, of ſtrong moral feelings, poſſeſſing an exquiſite ſenſe of character, great ſenſibility, together with much ardour and conſtancy of affection, would be apt to conduct himſelf, in a ſituation ſo peculiar as that of Hamlet. He looſes a reſpectable father; nay, he has ſome reaſon to ſuſpect, that his father had been treacherouſly murdered; that his uncle was the perpetrator of the cruel deed; and that his mother, whom he tenderly loved, was an accomplice in the guilt; he ſees her ſuddenly married to the ſuſpected murderer; he is himſelf excluded from his birth-right; he is placed in a conſpicuous ſtation; the world expects of him that he will reſent or avenge his wrongs; while in the mean time he is juſtly apprehenſive of his being ſurrounded with ſpies and informers. In theſe circumſtances, and of ſuch a character, if the poet had repreſented him as acting with ſteady vigour and unexceptionable propriety, he would have repreſented not Hamlet, but a creature ſo fanciful, as to have no prototype in human nature. We are not, therefore, to expect, that his conduct is to proceed according to the moſt infallible rules of diſcretion or of propriety. We muſt look for frailties and imperfections; but for the frailties and imperfections of Hamlet.

I. The injuries he has ſuſtained, the guilt of Claudius, and the perverſion of Gertrude, excite his reſentment and indignation. Regard for the opinions of others, who expect ſuch reſentment in the Prince of Denmark, promotes the paſſion. He therefore meditates, and reſolves on vengeance. But the moment he forms his reſolution, the ſame virtuous ſenſibility, and the ſame regard to character, that roufed his indignation, ſuggeſt objections. He entertains a doubt concerning the ground of his ſuſpicions, and the evidence upon which he proceeds.

——— The ſpirit that I've ſeen
May be a devil; and the devil hath power
T' aſſume a pleaſing ſhape; yea, and perhaps,
Out of my weakneſs and my melancholy,
(As he is very potent with ſuch ſpirits)
Abuſes me to damn me. I'll have grounds
More relative than this.

In this manner he becomes irreſolute and indeciſive. Additionally, therefore, to the ſorrow and melancholy which he neceſſarily feels for the ſituation of his family, and which his peculiar frame of mind renders unuſually poignant, the haraſſment of ſuch an inward ſtruggle aggravates his affliction. His ſenſe of duty, a regard to character, and feelings of juſt reſentment, prompt him to revenge; the uncertainty of his ſuſpicions, the fallacious nature of the evidence on which he proceeds, and the dread of perpetrating injuſtice, embaraſs and arreſt his purpoſe.

The time is out of joint—O curſed ſpight,
That ever I was born to ſet it right.

This irreſolution, which indeed blaſts his deſigns, but does not leſſen our regard for his character, nor our compaſſion for his misfortunes, and the miſery with which it afflicts him, are pathetically deſcribed and expreſſed, in the famous ſoliloquy conſequent to the repreſentation of the players.

What's Hecuba to him, or he to Hecuba,

That

That he ſhould weep for her? What would he do,
Had he the motive and the cue for paſſion
That I have? &c.—Yet I, &c.

II. In that particular mood, when he ſees his own wrongs and the guilt of Claudius in a ſtriking light, his reſentment is inflamed, his evidence ſeems convincing; and he acts with a violence and precipitation very diſſimilar to, though not inconſiſtent with, his native temper. In theſe circumſtances, or at a time when he tells us he

——— Could drink hot blood!
And do ſuch bitter buſineſs, as the day
Would quake to look on!

In ſuch a ſituation and ſtate of mind, he ſlew Polonius: he miſtook him for the king; and ſo acted with a violence and precipitation of which he afterwards expreſſes his repentence. In a ſimilar ſituation, when he had no leiſure nor inclination to weigh and examine appearances, he wrote the death warrant of Roſencrantz and Guildenſtern.

Being thus benetted round with villanies,
Ere I could make a prologue to my brains,
They had begun the play: I ſat me down,
Devis'd a new commiſſion, &c.
An earneſt conjuration from the king,
As England was his faithful tributary,
That on the view and knowing of theſe contents,
He ſhould the bearers put to ſudden death.

Roſencrantz and Guildenſtern had been employed as ſpies upon Hamlet; under the diſguiſe of friendſhip for him, they had accepted of this infamous office; they were in ſome meaſure acceſſary to his intended aſſaſſination; "they made love to this employment;" and therefore, as "the defeat grew from their own inſinuation," there was no occaſion why it "ſhould ſit near to Hamlet's conſcience." If leiſure had been given him to reflect, perhaps he would not have ſacrificed them; but having done the deed, he does not charge himſelf with deliberate guilt. He does not contend that his conduct was entirely blameleſs; he only tells us,

They are not near my conſcience.

III. Thus agitated by external circumſtances, torn by contending emotions, liable to the weakneſſes nearly allied to extreme ſenſibility, and exhauſted by the conteſts of violent paſſions; is it wonderful that he ſhould exhibit dejection of mind, and expreſs diſreliſh for every human enjoyment? This extreme is no leſs conſiſtent with his character than his temporary violence. "I have of late," he tells Roſencrantz and Guildenſtern, "loſt all my mirth; forgone all cuſtom of exerciſes; and indeed it goes ſo heavily with my diſpoſition, that this goodly frame, the earth, ſeems to me a ſterile promontory; this moſt excellent canopy, the air, look you, this brave o'er-hanging firmament; this majeſtical roof fretted with golden fire; why, it appears no other thing to me than a foul and peſtilential congregation of vapours," &c. In like manner, the ſame ſtate of internal conteſt leads him to a conduct directly oppoſite to that of violence or precipitancy; and when we expect that he will give full vent to his reſentment, he heſitates and recedes. This is particularly illuſtrated in the very difficult ſcene where Hamlet, ſeeing Claudius kneeling and employed in devotion, expreſſes the following ſoliloquy:

Now might I do it pat, now he is praying;
And now I'll do it: and ſo he goes to heaven;
And ſo am I reveng'd? That would be ſcann'd.
A villain kills my father, and for that,
I, his ſole ſon, do this ſame villain ſend
To heaven.
Why, this is hire and ſalary, not revenge:
He took my father groſsly, full of bread,
With all his crimes broad blown as fluſh as May;
And, how his audit ſtands, who knows, ſave heaven?
But, in our circumſtance and courſe of thought,
'Tis heavy with him: and am I then reveng'd,
To take him in the purging of his ſoul,
When he is fit and ſeaſon'd for his paſſage?

You aſk me, why he did not kill the Uſurper? And I anſwer, becauſe he was at that inſtant irreſolute. This irreſolution aroſe from the inherent principles of

of his conſtitution, and is to be accounted natural: it aroſe from virtuous, or at leaſt from amiable, ſenſibility, and therefore cannot be blamed. His ſenſe of juſtice, or his feelings of tenderneſs, in a moment when his violent emotions were not excited, overcame his reſentment. But you will urge the inconſiſtency of this account, with the inhuman ſentiments he expreſſes:

Up, ſword, and know thou a more horrid pent:
When he is drunk, aſleep, or in his rage, &c.
Then trip him up, &c.

In reply to this difficulty, and it is not inconſiderable, I will venture to affirm, that theſe are not his real ſentiments. There is nothing in the whole character of Hamlet that juſtifies ſuch ſavage enormity. We are therefore bound, in juſtice and candour, to look for ſome hypotheſis that ſhall reconcile what he now delivers, with his uſual maxims and general deportment. I would aſk, then, whether on many occaſions, we do not alledge thoſe conſiderations as the motives of our conduct, which really are not our motives? Nay, is not this ſometimes done almoſt without our knowledge? Is it not done when we have no intention to deceive others; but when, by the influences of ſome preſent paſſion, we deceive ourſelves? The fact is confirmed by experience, if we commune with our own hearts: and by obſervation, if we look around. When the profligate is accuſed of enormities, he will have them paſs for manly ſpirit, or love of ſociety; and impoſes this opinion not upon others, but on himſelf. When the miſer indulges his love of wealth, he ſays, and believes, that he follows the maxims of a laudable œconomy. So, alſo, while the cenſorious and invidious ſlanderer gratifies his malignity, he boaſts, and believes, that he obeys the dictates of juſtice. Conſult Biſhop Butler, your favourite, and the favourite of every real enquirer into the principles of human conduct, and you will be ſatisfied concerning the truth of the doctrine.—Apply it, then, to the caſe of Hamlet: ſenſe of ſuppoſed duty, and a regard to character, prompt him to ſlay his uncle; and he is with-held at that particular moment, by the aſcendant of a gentle diſpoſition; by the ſcruples, and perhaps weakneſs, of extreme ſenſibility. But how can he anſwer to the world, and to his ſenſe of duty, for miſſing this opportunity? The real motive cannot be urged. Inſtead of excuſing, it would expoſe him, he thinks, to cenſure; perhaps to contempt. He caſts about for a motive; and one better ſuited to the opinions of the multitude, and better calculated to lull reſentment, is immediately ſuggeſted. He indulges, and ſhelters himſelf under the ſubterfuge. He alledges, as direct cauſes of his delay, motives that could never influence his conduct; and thus exhibits a moſt exquiſite picture of amiable ſelf-deceit. The lines and colours are indeed very fine; and not very obvious to curſory obſervation. The beauties of Shakeſpeare, like genuine beauty of every kind, are often veiled; they are not forward nor obtruſive. They do not demand, though they claim attention.

W. R.

For the WESTMINSTER MAGAZINE.

ATHENIAN LETTERS.*

THE two following Letters, which ſeem to have ſome Alluſion to the eſtabliſhed Mode of Education in this Country, contain pretty nearly all that has been or can be ſaid about our Univerſities.

LETTER IV.

SMERDIS *to* CLEANDER.

THE more I conſider human nature, the more I find it unable to bear the agitations of love, grief, or indigaation in ſilence, or under the cover of tranquillity and chearfulneſs. In ſuch circumſtance the affections will force their way; we muſt vent our groans to the rocks, and pour out our complaints to the ſenſeleſs and inanimate part of the creation, if we are afraid to entruſt them with the rational and thoſe of our own ſpecies. Men of narrow minds, who have wanted generoſity

* See Page 692 of the Supplement.

generoſity enough to gain a friend, or of fickle minds, who have wanted ſedateneſs enough to fix one, muſt frequently have recourſe to ſoliloquies in retirement, when toſſed to and fro by the hurricane of paſſion. But for my own part, I thank the gracious Oromaſdes, that he has given me a warmth of temper, as well as ſtrength of underſtanding, ſufficient to make me zealous in cultivating a ſtrict correſpondence with the wiſe and faithful Cleander, in whoſe boſom I may depoſite every undiſguiſed thought and diſquieting apprehenſion. Let me open myſelf to thee without reſerve on the ſtate of the Bactrian ſchools and the indolence of our order. It will not ſurprize thee that I blame their faults; for thou art too well acquainted with my integrity to imagine me capable of approving thoſe corruptions which the ſanguine would pronounce it my duty to palliate, and the cautious would think it my intereſt to maintain.

Our mighty prophet Zoroaſter received numberleſs favours from the great Darius, in whoſe memorable reign he appeared. The erudition and ſanctity of the order, which he reformed, occaſioned the bountiful encouragements and large revenues, which were beſtowed on us by the monarchs who ſucceeded him. They thought our attention to rectify the religious notions, and improve the reaſons of our followers, qualified us to inſtruct the youth of the empire in philoſophical ſpeculations: they thought the recluſeneſs of our condition and the purity of our lives enabled us to curb their appetites, and refine their practice. In our hands therefore the heirs of noble families and the hopes of the kingdom were placed.

By this means they conceived, that, notwithſtanding the alterations in our government and manners, the loſs of the ancient ſchools would be repaired, ſimplicity preſerved in thoſe who are ſurrounded with ſuperfluities, and continence amidſt every incitement to tranſgreſs. I need not enlarge on theſe miſtakes, which are obvious, and, however abſurd in themſelves, are too ſerious in their conſequences to be ridiculed.

Alas! the ignorance of the world, which we are generally brought up in, and which has prepoſterouſly raiſed our reputation, both as obſervers and teachers of morality, introduces more faults amongſt us than it ſaves us from; and inſtead of ſubduing or extinguiſhing the paſſions, it only cuts out another channel for them. Though our deſire of reputation be checked, and our vanity conſtrained to act in a narrow ſphere, we give a looſe to pride, and look down on the uſeful part of ſociety with an inſolent ſcorn. Though we have few opportunities of ſhewing our obſtinacy in action, yet we are ſtrangely tenacious of opinions; and though we are clear of thoſe vices which ariſe from promiſcuous converſation, we fall into the low habits that attend the want of it. Believe me, my Epheſian friend, there is no error which carries leſs the appearance of truth, at the ſame time that there is none more deſtructive of magnanimity, than this, that "not to have met with temptation, is to have acquired virtue." But if it was the intention of Providence, that virtue ſhould be the effect of good ſenſe and experience united, it is then incumbent upon us, who are to educate a nation, to have known the world, and ſtruggled with its inſinuating allurements. What though we be guilty of miſtakes at firſt ſetting out, neither ourſelves nor our neighbours ſhould deſpair of us; we purſue our journey, take care to be informed better of the right track; and after having followed it, our advice to the young adventurers in life will be received with more reverence, when it proceeds from a ſobriety not natural and phlegmatic, but painfully and dangerouſly acquired. Such men would be far advanced in the way to perfection; for though to learn wiſdom from the ſufferings of others be the higheſt point of it, yet it requires no ſmall ſhare of underſtanding to take warning, and to give it, in conſequence of our own. Such men might be ſaid in truth to have the government of their paſſions, might be eſteemed maſters in the art of education; and having tried what the world is, would be fit inſtructors for thoſe who are to live in it. It were to be wiſhed, therefore, that while ſome of us are employed in contemplating and explaining the divine volume of Zerduſht, others ſhould be employed in the public ſervice, and travelling abroad, and enriching themſelves with the fruits of their enquiries into men and things; and that all of us, at a certain age, in recompence for the ſupport we had received from the colleges of Balch, ſhould be recalled, and obliged to ſpend the reſt of our days in forming the youth of Perſia. We might then hope to ſee the inſtitution of this place much amended. Inſtead of teaching chicanery, evaſion, and poſitiveneſs in our ſchools, the ſound principles of policy and juſtice would be ſet forth; inſtead of a ſcrupulous

tach-

attachment to forms enforced by the terror of an unmanly diſcipline, we ſhould behold a general regard to good-breeding, candour, and philoſophy ariſing from an inward regulation of temper and a well-turned mind. No man would enjoy the penſion deſigned for the diligent, who was not ſome how or other intereſted in the great work; and it might be found poſſible, however it may ſeem otherwiſe at preſent, for the oldeſt and moſt venerable of our order to converſe with their diſciples, and not betray themſelves into the extreme of an unmeaning dignity, or a low familiarity. Thus conducted and improved in the opening of life, the youth would no longer laugh at our ſage counſels with the giddineſs of children, nor diſdain to obey our laws with the ſtubbornneſs of men; and the Magi themſelves would think they ill deſerved the emoluments they receive, or ill anſwered the end of their founder, if they were regular in no good thing but their oraiſons to the riſing or declining Mithras.

C.

LETTER V.

SMERDIS *to* CLEANDER.

I complained of a relaxation of diſcipline amongſt the Magi; and though not without reaſon, yet it would be injurious to impute it wholly to them: perhaps a general corruption may be too ſtrong for their beſt efforts to reſtrain. The children of the great are committed to their care much later than formerly; they bring with them a high opinion of their rank, a confidence in their paternal fortunes, and eagerneſs for pleaſures, which they have had an early taſte of. They aſſociate only one with another, and ſeek partners in voluptuouſneſs rather than the advantages of wiſe converſation, which would be attended with reſtraint: for excellent inſtruction is ſtill to be had amongſt the Magi by thoſe who want not induſtry, and an ingenuous diſpoſition: witneſs the young Orſames, who owns himſelf indebted to our ſchools for thoſe qualities which adorn him, and promiſe ſuch fruits to his country. But obſerve, Cleander, the prudent ſteps taken by the ſatraps and the wealthy, who have entertained unfavourable opinions of a Perſian education; they ſend their children abroad, and take no farther concern about their conduct than that it may not be ſeen by them. The young Perſian is ſet out with a ſplendid retinue; has his recommendations from Suſa, and wherever he goes is received as a ſatrap; he is honoured in our provinces, and gazed at in foreign ſtates; his mind is elevated above his rank, be it what it will, and his improvements ſeldom qualify him for any. He probably impairs his fortunes, and upon his return has a mind much raiſed above the thoughts of œconomy; or if he ſubmits to it, it is in a wrong place. The expences of equipage and voluptuouſneſs are become neceſſary and indiſpenſable; he therefore grows parſimonious to thoſe who have juſt claims upon him; he oppreſſes his dependants, and ſparingly rewards the countryman, the guardian of his wealth. Nor is this to be wondered at; the young traveller ſets out with a mind not yet confirmed in any principles, and at an age ſtrongly biaſſed to pleaſure. He therefore moſt naturally falls in with the corruptions of every country both in principles and practice; for as he is diſpoſed to gratify his affections, he readily admits ſuch ſentiments as favour them. It is generally thought the buſineſs of a traveller, to ſelect for the benefit of his country what appears to him to make up the moſt perfect polity; and, from his experience of men, to become himſelf an exemplary, wiſe, and good citizen. But our young traveller takes a pleaſure in reciting the imperfections he has obſerved in government, manners, and religion; he dwells much on the ſuperſtitions of Egypt, the bigotry of the people, and the craft of the prieſts; and intimates, that he has much improved his ſagacity in regard to the worſhip of his own country. He is juſt ſuch an obſerver in morals; for if he has made the tour of Greece, he aſſures you, that the rule of right and wrong, the ground of all juſtice, ſo much inſiſted on by our anceſtors, is not ſo indelibly imprinted by nature as has been imagined; that an ancient and flouriſhing ſtate had ſubſiſted without the cultivation of it; though probably he takes this upon hearſay, for our youth ſeldom come nearer to Sparta than a neighboring * iſle much better ſuited to the delicacy of their lives. What can be the reaſon of this, but that they think their practice juſtified by theſe great authorities? Why elſe do we hear little more of Athens than its ſports and gaiety? of Sardis, than gaming? and of Babylon, than its obſcene hoſpitality? I aſſure

* Cythera, the iſland of Venus.

I aſſure thee, Cleander, I have known ſome of our youth, after a toilſome paſſage acroſs Arabia and the ſea in Upper Egypt, upon hearing the feſtival rites at Cyprus were coming on, take a light veſſel, and with all the expedition of oars and ſails ſwim down the Nile, and content themſelves with ſo tranſitory a view of the great cities and monuments of that ancient kingdom. When they reached the ports of Cyprus, which extends its arms into the ſea, and incloſes vaſt fleets in its boſom, they ſpent little reflection on it ſtupendous moles and its conveniencies for lading. They heard that the temple of the Grecian goddeſs was open; that a choir of an hundred youths and as many beautiful virgins had already began the ſolemn ode; they perfumed themſelves with rich oils, and crowned with garlands haſtened to mix in the idolatrous rites, habited like ſhepherds of Arcadia; for all appear in diſguiſe on this occaſion, that they may not be under the reſtraint of ſhame, which ill becomes the votaries of ſo impure a deity.

Tender minds, Cleander, are ready for all impreſſions; therefore it is not proper they ſhould be withdrawn from wiſe and virtuous patterns, till they have gained an intimate acquaintance with virtue, and are able to combat the temptations of vice and folly. The ſoul is long in its infancy; the body comes much earlier to maturity: young men therefore (as the wives of the Magi are confined to the moſt beauteous objects of ſight, and hear nothing but harmony, that no ill impreſſion may deface their offſpring, which is to be dedicated to the holy ſervice of the temple) ſhould be accuſtomed to no ideas that polſute the ſoul, the purity of which is an offering moſt delightful to Oromaſdes.

It is at too great a hazard they go in queſt of what is worthy their imitation in Egypt or Greece; for that much may be found by a prudent enquirer, I will not deny: wiſdom is not confined to one climate, it ſhoots out in ſome ſhape every where; at Athens it is wiſe policy, tender regard for the community, and every art, that is properly humane; at Lacademon it is public liberty, maintained by auſtere diſcipline, and an ignorance of every enervating pleaſure; in Egypt it is piety to the gods, and a veneration for all things ſacred. It once appeared under all theſe denominations in Perſia: alas! that we can now only find it in our hiſtories!

Perhaps, after all, Cleander, thou wilt ſay, what need all this precaution in favour of virtue! and why ſhould our youth be prejudiced in her behalf, who is repreſented ſo amiable as to ſtrike her beholders with admiration, and force our eſteem? It is becauſe virtue, though more amiable, is not ſo obvious; ſhe uſeth little art to recommend herſelf; like a chaſte virgin, ſhe muſt be ſought after and ſued for; vice, like a proſtitute, always preſents herſelf, is officious, importunate, and enſnaring. Oriames is acquainted with this: he traverſes the diſtant regions of the earth, not to gratify the idle curioſity of ſight, or adorn the palace of his Perſian anceſtors with the arts of Greece, but to complete the furniture of his mind, to fit it for the abode of Oromaſdes, who deigns to dwell with the good; in awe of whoſe preſence the wicked Ahriman will fly from us, as the ſhades of night diſperſe, at the approach of Mithras, to diſtant countries and the deep caverns of the earth.

H.

For the WESTMINSTER MAGAZINE.

Original Letter relating to the Death of the Duke of Buckingham, *written by Lord* Arran *(afterwards Duke of* Hamilton,) *to* Sprat, *Biſhop of* Rocheſter, *formerly Chaplain to the Duke.*

(Tranſcribed from authentic Memorials of the Villiers *Family.)*

Kerby-moor Syde, April 17, 1687.

My Lord,

MERE chance having thrown me into thoſe parts by accident, as I was at York, in my journey towards Scotland I heard of the Duke of Buckingham's illneſs here, which made me take a reſolution of waiting upon his Grace, to ſee what condition he was in. I arrived here

here on Friday in the afternoon, where I found him in a very low condition: He had been long ill of an ague, which had made him weak; but his underſtanding was as good as ever, and his noble parts were ſo entire, that though I ſaw death in his looks, at firſt ſight, he would by no means think of it. He told me he was on horſeback but two days before, and that he found himſelf ſo well at heart, that he was ſure he could be in no danger of his life. He told me he had a mighty deſcent fallen upon his privities, with an inflammation and great ſwelling, but he thought by applying warm medicines the ſwelling would fall, and then he would be at eaſe; but it proved otherwiſe, for a mortification came on thoſe parts, which run up upon his belly, and ſo mounted, which was the occaſion of his death. So ſoon as I arrived, I ſent to York for one Dr. Waler, for I found him here in a moſt miſerable condition; he deſired me to ſtay with him, which I very willingly obeyed. I confeſs it made my heart bleed to ſee the Duke of Buckingham in ſo pitiful a place and in ſo bad a condition; and, what made it worſe, he was not at all ſenſible of it, for he thought in a day or two he ſhould be well; and when we minded him of his condition, he ſaid it was not ſo as we apprehended. The doctors told me his caſe was deſperate, and though he enjoyed the free exerciſe of his ſenſes, that in a day or two at moſt it would kill him; but they durſt not tell him of it; ſo they put a hard part on me to pronounce death to him, which I ſaw approaching ſo faſt, that I thought it was high time for him to think of another world, for it was impoſſible for him to continue long in this. So I ſent for a very worthy gentleman, Mr. Gibſon, a neighbour of his Grace's, who lives but a mile from this place, to be an aſſiſtant to me in this work; ſo we jointly together repreſented his condition to him, which I ſaw was at firſt very uneaſy; but I think we ſhould not have diſcharged the duty of honeſt men, or I of a faithful kinſman, if we ſhould have ſuffered him to go out of this world without deſiring him to prepare for death, and to look into his conſcience.

After having plainly told him his condition, I aſked him who I ſhould ſend for to be aſſiſtant to him during the ſmall time he had to live? he would make me no anſwer, which made me conjecture, and having formerly heard that he had been inclining to be a Roman Catholic, I aſked him if I ſhould ſend for a prieſt; for I thought that any act that could be like a Chriſtian, was what his condition now wanted moſt; but he poſitively told me that he was not of that perſuaſion, and ſo would not hear any more of that ſubject, for he was of the church of England; but hitherto he would not hear of a parſon, though he had declared his averſion for my offering him to ſend for a prieſt, But, after ſome time, beginning to feel his diſtemper mount, he deſired me to ſend for the parſon of this pariſh, who ſaid prayers for him, which he joined in very freely, but ſtill did not think he ſhould die; though this was yeſterday, at ſeven in the morning, and he died about eleven at night.

Mr. Gibſon aſked him if he had made a will, or if he would declare who was to be his heir. But to the firſt he anſwered that he had made none; and, to the laſt, whoever was named, he always anſwered, No. Firſt, my Lady Ducheſs was named, and then I think almoſt every body who had any relation to him, but his anſwer was always, No. And to ſee if he would change any way the anſwer or manner of it, they aſked him if my Lord Purbeck was? but to that he ſaid, by no means. I did fully repreſent my Lady Ducheſs's condition to him, and told him it was abſolutely fit, during the time he had the exerciſe of his reaſon, to do ſomething to ſettle his affairs, but nothing that could be ſaid to him could make him come to any point.

I then ſaid, that ſince he would do nothing in his worldly affairs, I deſired he might die like a Chriſtian; and ſince he called himſelf of the church of England, the parſon was ready here to adminiſter the ſacrament to him, which he ſaid he would take. So accordingly I gave orders for it; and two other honeſt gentlemen received it with him, Mr. Gibſon and Colonel Liſton, an old ſervant of his Grace's. At firſt he called out three or four times; for he thought the ceremony looked as if death was near, which, for the ſtrength of his noble parts (they not being yet affected) he could not eaſily believe: for all this time he was not willing to take death to him. But, in a few moments after, he became calm and received the ſacrament with all the decency imaginable, and in an hour after he loſt his ſpeech and continued ſo till eleven at night, when he died.

The confuſion he has left his affairs in will make his heir, whoever he be, very uneaſy. To tell you truly, I believe there is no other will in being but what they ſay is in the truſtees hands; for all the ſervants ſay, they knew there was a parchment ſealed, which my Lord ſaid he would alter, which they looked upon to be his will: whether he has cancelled it, I cannot find; ſome ſay one Mr. Burrell has it, but nobody here can give any diſtinct account of it. But my Lord himſelf ſaid poſitively, in the preſence of ſeveral, that he had no will in being, ſo what to make of this, I cannot tell you. We ſuppoſed that it might be Sir William Villars that he intended for his heir, but he ſaid ſeveral times before us all, No: ſo that I cannot imagine, if he has any will, to whom he has given it, I myſelf being as nearly related to him as any by the full blood. Mr. Brian Fairfax and Mr. Gibſon have been witneſſes of my proceedings ſince my being here; I hope they will give an account of it. I thought in honour I could not leave him in this condition, being ſo nearly related to him; eſpecially his Grace being in ſuch a retired corner, where there was nobody but myſelf, till I ſent for this Mr. Gibſon. My Lord Fairfax of Gullin came yeſterday in the afternoon, but he was ſpeechleſs when he came.

I have ordered the corpſe to be embalmed and carried to Helmſley caſtle, and there to remain till my Lady Ducheſs her pleaſure ſhall be known. There muſt be ſpeedy care taken: for there is nothing here but confuſion, not to be expreſſed. Though his ſtewards have received vaſt ſums, there is not ſo much as one farthing, as they tell me, for defraying the leaſt expence. But I have ordered his inteſtines to be buried at Helmſley, where his body is to remain till farther orders.

Being the neareſt kinſman upon the place, I have taken the liberty to give his Majeſty an account of his death, and ſent his George and blue ribbon to be diſpoſed as his Majeſty ſhall think fit. I have addreſſed it under cover to my Lord Preſident, to whom I beg you would carry the bearer the minute he arrives.

I have given orders that nothing ſhould be embezzled, and for that reaſon, as ſoon as my Lord died, I called to ſee his ſtrong box, but before Mr. Brian Fairfax and Mr. Gibſon: I found nothing of moment in it but ſome looſe letters of no concern, but ſuch as they are I have ordered them to be locked up and delivered to my Lady Ducheſs, as alſo the ſmall plate and linen he had, I have committed to the care of Lord Fairfax.

So now that I have given your Lordſhip this particular account of every thing, I have nothing more to do but to aſſure your Lordſhip that I am,

My Lord,
Your Lordſhip's moſt aſſured
Friend and humble ſervant,
ARRAN.

In the Prerogative Office it appears, that George Duke of Buckingham died without will, and that the Ducheſs his widow adminiſtered.

*** Our Readers may depend on the authenticity of the above relation, which illuſtrates in a ſtriking manner ſome of the moſt beautiful lines in Pope's Epiſtles:——

"In the worſt Inn's worſt Room, &c."

For the WESTMINSTER MAGAZINE.

MONTHLY AND CRITICAL REVIEW

FOR JANUARY, 1784.

A Brief and Impartial Review of the State of Great Britain, at the Commencement of the Seſſion, 1783, &c. 8vo.

THIS writer inveſtigates the ſtate of the Eaſt India Company, the Independence of America, and the political affairs of Ireland, with judgement and candour.

A Plain Letter to the Common People of England and Wales, &c. 12mo.

This honeſt expoſtulation is intended as an antidote to the rage of emigration to America. The author aſſerts, that maſters of ſhips continue to decoy whole cargoes of men acroſs the Atlantic, who find themſelves obliged to indenture for a certain

certain number of years, for the amount of their paſſage. That theſe innocent tranſports are dragged away by the planters into wild and woody regions, far diſtant from all former connections, where they are treated in every reſpect like negroes, and wear out a mournful life without the hope of ever returning to their native country.

Nor is it to ſuch poor and unfortunate people as theſe alone, that America proves an unproſperous country. To the planter himſelf it yields few of the comforts, ſays this writer, but is productive of numerous ſcourges of human life. The ſudden tranſitions from violent heat to violent cold, the damps in the morning and evening, with all their train of fevers, agues, dyſenteries, rheumatiſms, &c. &c. are exhibited in ſtrong and affecting colours. In that unhappy country, we are told that vegetables, animals, and even the human race, greatly degenerate from the ſtate in which they were when imported thither from Europe.

An Argument to prove, that it is the indiſpenſible Duty of the Creditors of the Public, to inſiſt that Government do forthwith bring forward the State of the Nation, &c. By John Earl of Stair. 8vo.

This noble author is a warm advocate for Governor Haſtings, whom he emphatically calls the powerful CHATHAM of the Eaſt!—From the premiſes he lays down, he draws the following gloomy concluſion; viz. "That the ſtate is a bankrupt; and that thoſe who have truſted their all to the public faith, are in very imminent danger of becoming (I die, ſays his Lordſhip, pronouncing it) *beggars!*"

Subſtance of the Speech of the Right Hon. Charles James Fox, upon a Motion for the Commitment of the Bill for veſting the Affairs of the Eaſt-India Company in the Hands of certain Commiſſioners, &c. 8vo.

This piece of oratory appears to be taken by the hand of a maſter, and is well worth the peruſal of all perſons intereſted in the affairs of the Eaſt-India Company.

Serious Conſiderations on the political Conduct of Lord North, &c. By N. Buckington, Eſq. 8vo.

An ironical defence of the noble Lord's adminiſtration, written with ſpirit and humour.

Two Letters on Parliamentary Repreſentation: By Jeremiah Batley, Eſq. 8vo.

Theſe letters contain a judicious enquiry into the ſubject mentioned in the title page, and merit the ſerious conſideration of the public, as it is probable ſome alteration will very ſoon be made in the national repreſentation.

The Village: a Poem. In two Books. By the Rev. George Crabbe. 4to.

This piece is far above mediocrity; the characters of the Ancient Peaſant and the Pariſh Apothecary are well diſcriminated. The following is Mr. Crabbe's deſcription of a Village Workhouſe:

"Theirs is yon houſe that holds the pariſh poor,
Whoſe walls of mud ſcarce bear the broken door:
There, where the putrid vapours flagging play,
And the dull wheel hums doleful through the day;
There children dwell, who know no parents' care;
Parents, who know no childrens love, dwell there:
Heart-broken matrons on their joyleſs bed,
Forſaken wives, and mothers never wed;
Dejected widows, with unheeded tears,
And crippled age with more than childhood fears;
The lame, the blind, and (far the happieſt they!)
The moping idiot, and the madman gay."

Poems on Subjects *ariſing* in England and the Weſt-Indies. By a Native of the Weſt-Indies. 4to.

This honeſt Creole is a very different writer from the Author of the Village, and has certainly been guilty of a miſnomer in his title page, by calling his crudities, "Poems." Gentle reader, take a ſpecimen of his abilities in deſcribing a drought:

—The rats, the mice, that haunt our drooping canes,
The worms and very reptiles of the plains.
No drops of water in our ponds remain;
And the long camel ſtoops his neck in vain.
No burſting *clouds* o'er ſultry azure *ſails*,
To fill our houſhold jars and ready pails;
Again——
Is there no ciſtern in the ſkies above?
Flow there no drops from mercy and from love?
From yonder ſheep! oh! hark the mournful bleat!
And hark! theſe goats the thirſty cries repeat.
Oh! give us water, all the day, they cry;
Oh! give us water quickly, or we die.

For

For the WESTMINSTER MAGAZINE.

THE COURT OF APOLLO.

BEING A

SELECTION OF ORIGINAL AND FUGITIVE POETRY.

For the Weſtminſter Magazine.

RHAPSODY.

O Firſt and boldeſt of the tuneful throng
That drew from nature's ſource the powers of ſong!
If from the orb of ſome propitious ſtar
Serenely gliding at the cloſe of day,
Thy ſpirit love to tread this hallow'd ground
Which ſaw thy birth and hail'd thy virgin lay,
Let not unmark'd a youthful ſuppliant kneel,
Immortal SHAKESPEAR! He with infant zeal
Thy flights rever'd, and worſhip'd from afar,
His moral guide to life's uncertain bound,
The child of fancy by the virtues crown'd.
Unrival'd yet on earth! however GREECE
Exalt her fathers of poetic lore;
Whatever ROME's high boaſt, when new to peace
Her arts conceal'd that freedom was no more;
Far leſs by thoſe their heirs of later days,
With all the ſelf-plum'd tribe of modern GAUL,
Whoſe powder'd critics join at faſhions call
To mock with feeble light thy noon-tide rays.
Nor THINE with ſervile efforts to retrace
What arts of elder times had made their own,
Selected features of ideal grace
In breathing paint, or Promethean ſtone,
Or verſe that time reſpects, and worlds admire.
Self-rich in nature's elemental ſtore,
Perennial fountain! unexhauſted mine!
THINE, like a GOD, with abſolute controul
To ſway the movements of the various ſoul,
O'erleap the walls of empyrean fire,
And ſketch with mortal hand the vaſt deſign.

T. W.

For the Weſtminſter Magazine.

VERSES TO A FRIEND.

FILL high the glaſs, nor loſe in vain debate
(Alike to us whatever party ſway)
The few, the fleeting hours aſſign'd by fate
To love and wine with ſocial freedom gay:
Let FOX or PITT ſtill rule their little day;
Not our's, thank heaven! to mend a crazy ſtate,
Doom'd like ourſelves to periſh ſoon or late,
But when, dear CHARLES, let older ſtateſmen ſay.
Thee ſprightly CLOE's artleſs ſmiles provoke
Whole from the ſpur, unconſcious of the yoke,
And ſkittiſh ſtill to every touch but thine—
Me three long months in ſilken bonds inſnare
The ſtarry treſſes of EMILIA's hair,
And ſnowy limbs of ſymmetry divine.

For the Weſtminſter Magazine.

SONNET

Written during a long Voyage at Sea.

THREE moons are paſs'd, and quickly to decline
The fourth ſuſpends her middle lamp in heaven,
Since ſtay'd by calms, by countering tempeſts driven,
I ceaſe to view the female form divine;
For this, my chief delight, I moſt repine,
Tho' many a dying groan my heart have riven,
And many a corſe devoted to the brine
The dread alarm to fellow-victims given
Him too that bending o'er the veſſel's ſide,
With penſive eye ſurveys the ripling tide,
If mark'd as once fond paſſion's future prey
May diſtant love lament his early doom!
The cot my winding-ſheet, the wave my tomb,
The paſſing gale my monumental lay!

For the Weſtminſter Magazine.

IMPROMPTU.

On the ſucceſs of the New Pantomime, called Friar Bacon, compoſed by O'KEEFE, *now performing at Covent-Garden.*

HOWE'ER the learned may agree
That there's no truth in—*alchymy*,
I no ſuch doctrine hold:
Since of O'KEEFE, 'tis fairly ſaid,
That Friar Bacon's *brazen* head,
He nightly turns to *gold!*

Jan. 8. PARACELSUS.

For

For the Weſtminſter Magazine.

PADDY WHACK!

A real Ineident addreſſed to the Dukes of C——s and D——.

PADDY WHACK was commanded by two witty Peers,
To tell them the reaſon, why aſſes had ears?—
An't pleaſe ye, quoth *Pat*, I'm not given to letters—
Nor dare I pretend to know more than my betters:—
Howe'er, from this time, I ſhall ne'er ſee your Graces,
As I hope to be ſav'd—without thinking on *aſſes!*

Wood's Coffee-Houſe, KILLIGREW, *junior.*
Jan. 4, 1784.

For the Weſtminſter Magazine.

Friar BACON's HEAD.

Time was!

THE glorious ſun, bright God of day, retires,
Mild ev'ning weeps in dew his abſent fires;
While guileleſs ſongſters conſtant vigils hold,
E'er night's dark mantle doth the ſcene enfold.

Departed time my trembling muſe would ſing,
When Britain's riſing fame made vallies ring;
Chearful the ſhepherd taught his babes the theme,
And infants glory'd in a Briton's name.

When liberty firſt dawn'd on Albion's ſhore,
Fair nurſe of ſcience and of ſacred lore;
The noble flame with ſacred ardor blaz'd,
And Britons to the rank of heroes rais'd.

They ſcorn'd the yoke of arbitrary ſway,
As ſons would honor—not as ſlaves obey;
The rights of men their gen'rous boſoms fir'd,
And native freedom, warlike deeds inſpir'd.

Then riſing from the couch of roſy health,
Th'induſtrious peaſant chearful toil'd for wealth;
His honeſt labours met a ſweet reward,
Peace was his gueſt, and innocence his guard.

All blithe he ſang o'er the luxuriant mead,
Where flocks at large might, without danger, feed;
His leathern bottle, and his pipe reliev'd
The little cares, which he in abſence griev'd.

When ev'ning ſhades enwrap'd the world in grey,
Pleas'd o'er the lawn he homeward bent his way;
There, hail'd by all that ſweetens life, he found
Domeſtic bliſs, and ſoft content abound.

Then too, the farmer whiſtled o'er his ground,
And ſprightly ſongs the village gambols crown'd;
Feſtivity in every cot was ſeen,
Their joys were pure, and their repoſe ſerene.

Then bowls convivial grac'd the friendly board,
Pomona's luſcious gifts their cloſets ſtor'd;
While o'er the glaſs good ſenſe and humour join'd
To mend the heart, and to relieve the mind.

Then fair Religion on firm baſis ſtood,
Her friends were ſteady, and their tenets good;
Each proſpect then this happy iſland prov'd,
Fav'rite of men---and of her God belov'd.

Woolwich. ELIZA.

For the Weſtminſter Magazine.

On ſeeing the Rival Actreſſes in the Character of Lady RANDOLPH.

WHAT different kinds of applauſe critics ſhew,
When the *Siddons* and *Crawford* appears!
On the former they loud acclamations beſtow;
But to *Crawford* give nothing---but *tears!*

January 2, 1784. F.

For the Weſtminſter Magazine.

EPISTLE *to his Excellency* GEORGE WASHINGTON, *Eſq; &c. &c. &c.*

—— Honeſt praiſe
Oft nobly ſways
Ingenuous youth:
But from the coward and the lying mouth
Praiſe is reproach. Eternal God alone
For mortals fixes that ſublime award.
He, from the faithful records of his throne,
Bids the hiſtorian and the bard
Diſpoſe of honour and of ſcorn:
Diſcern the patriot from the ſlave;
And write the good, the wiſe, the brave,
For leſſons to the multitude unborn.

AKENSIDE's *Ode.*

WHILE many a ſervile Muſe her ſuccour lends,
To flatter tyrants, or a tyrant's friends,
While thouſands ſlaughter'd at Ambition's ſhrine
Are made a plea to court the tuneful Nine;
Whilſt laureats lift their heroes to the ſky,
Foretel their conqueſts twice a year, and lie,
Damn half-ſtarv'd rebels to eternal ſhame,
Or paint them trembling at Britannia's name;
Permit an humble bard, Great Chief, to raiſe
One truth-erected trophy to thy praiſe:
No flatt'ring colours ſhall theſe numbers ſeek,
To tinge with bluſhes Virtue's modeſt cheek:
Call forth to view no great or generous deed,
But foes muſt own, and Waſhington may read.

Say, where along yon venerable wood,
My native ſtream ſwells thy Potomack's flood,
Shall my untutor'd Muſe begin the ſong,
Which future bards in rapture ſhall prolong:
Or there my little bark preſume to ſail,
Fann'd by fair Liberty's inſpiring gale?

Fair

Fair Liberty, of man the nobleſt claim,
Great ſource of bliſs, kind nurſe of arts and fame;
She, wrong'd and exil'd from yon eaſtern climes,
Perhaps may deign to liſten to theſe rhymes;
And in theſe regions pleas'd to find relief,
May bear them ſmiling to her fav'rite chief:
Illuſtrious Chief! whom with one common voice
An injur'd people choſe, and Heav'n approv'd the choice.

Forth from the boſom of thy calm retreat,
At once the hero's and the ſage's ſeat,
Where bounteous Nature ſpreads her choiceſt gifts
Of woods and lawns along thy native cliffs,
Where, with the Graces, Wiſdom choſe to roam,
Where ſweet Simplicity had fix'd her home,
Where wedded Love diſplay'd his mildeſt ray,
To gild each riſing and each ſetting day,
And with a ſmile could ſmooth the brow of Care,
Save when thy country's cries alarm'd thy ear,
Great Freedom call'd Thee to the glorious ſtrife:
The tranquil ſcenes of ſweet domeſtic life
Delight no more: to arms! to arms! ſhe cries;
To arms! to arms! each ſiſter ſtate replies.
Be Thou great guardian of thy country's cauſe,
She ſaid, and hoſts of heroes ſhout applauſe.

Thus, when of old, from his paternal farm
Rome bad her rigid Cincinnatus arm,
The illuſtrious peaſant ruſhes to the field;
Soon are the haughty Volſii taught to yield:
His country ſav'd, the ſolemn triumph o'er,
He tills his native acres as before.

Hail, happy man! crown'd with immortal bays,
Before whoſe glory ſhrink the dwindled rays
Of royal pageantry! thy gen'rous heart
To Freedom's ſons ſhall ſtill its warmth impart,
Teach them their native dignity to ſcan,
And ſcorn the wretch who ſpurns his fellow-man:
And when in eaſtern climes, 'midſt lawleſs ſway,
Thy fame ſhall ſink, and Freedom's wreaths decay,
Theſe infant ſtates ſhall catch the god like flame,
And tyrants ſtill ſhall ſhudder at thy name;
Then nobly dare Columbia to be free,
And what the Roman was, thy Waſhington ſhall be.

For the Weſtminſter Magazine.

V E R S E S

Sent to a Young GENTLEMAN *going Abroad.*

By G. E. Howard, *Eſq.*

THOU ſay'ſt, my friend, thou mean'ſt to take a wife,
With thee in foreign climes to paſs thy life;
If then a pleaſing form, enchanting grace,
With charms of mind which time cannot efface;
If ſprightly wit with ſolid judgment join'd,
Good nature, temper ſweet, and ſenſe refin'd,
Give ſocial happineſs and ceaſeleſs joy,
(Which will with years encreaſe and never cloy)
With eye impartial, ſweet *Letitia* view;
Take her, be wiſe, if ſhe'll accept of you:
When toils of buſineſs with the day ſhall ceaſe,
How will her lively charming converſe pleaſe!
How ſoothe life's certain cares, and eaſy make
The bed when pain or ſickneſs keeps awake!
And when love's fires ſhall tow'rds their period tend,
The much-lov'd miſtreſs ſhall be faithful friend.

For the Weſtminſter Magazine.

S O N N E T.

WRITTEN AT BATH.

THE winding grace of Avon's faery tide,
Her cliffs abrupt, and meads of lively green,
Her villas glittering from the mountain-ſide,
And tufted bowers, and garden ſlopes between;
Nor theſe, nor yon gay domes, with rapture eyed,
When health and pleaſure crown'd the careleſs ſcene,
Can gild this boſom's dark and dreary void,
While ſickneſs dims Amanda's alter'd mien:
Yet ſtes hope, or from that halcyon brow,
Where ſhines the ſoul ſuperior and ſerene,
The ſcatter'd ſhades of pain and languor fly;
Elſe o'er thoſe eyes the veil of fancy throw,
The form of anguiſh for a whilt to ſkreen,
And cheat the friend with viſionary joy.

For the Weſtminſter Magazine.

S O N N E T.

Written at a ſmall Country-Houſe in Cornwall.

Cauſa fuit pater his!——

HOR.

IN theſe neglected walls a father's day
Serenely cloſs'd, unconſcious of a ſtain,
Whom all unknown to fame's unequal ſtrain
Reflection's ſweeter voice did well repay.
Nor thou, his lov'd retreat, of fate complain,
Whoſe praiſe may laſt while prouder ſcenes decay,
Where native floods the painted arch diſdain,
And pagod-ſpires their ſhivering pomp diſplay.
Nor, had the plunder'd Eaſt her ſpoils reſign'd,
And mimic Ganges through thy paſtures roll'd,
Might haply peace have ſooth'd the maſter's mind,
Or late reflection lent his death a ſmile;
Nor could his weeping ſon the coſtly pile,
With equal joy, or gratitude behold.

For

For the WESTMINSTER MAGAZINE.

EAST-INDIA INTELLIGENCE.

From the LONDON GAZETTE, *Jan.* 10.

Whitehall, January 10, 1784.

Extract of a Diſpatch to his Majeſty's Principal Secretary of State for the home Department, from his Excellency Major General James Stuart, Commander in Chief of his Majeſty's and the Eaſt-India Company's Forces on the Coaſt of Coromandel, dated Camp, one Mile ſouth of Cuddalore, June 27, 1783, received Yeſterday by Capt. Thomas, of the 23d light Dragoons, who arrived in his Majeſty's ſhip Medea.

I DO myſelf the honour of acquainting you, by this ſeparate letter, of the very ſignal victory obtained over the French and Tippoo Sahib's Auxiliaries, by the troops of his Majeſty, and of the Honourable Eaſt-India Company, under my command, on June 13th, being the 4th day after our operations began South of Cuddalore. The particulars will be found in the form of a letter, incloſed to your Lordſhip, nearly the ſame as I had the honour to addreſs to this Government.

Every account which I have received, induces me to believe that the enemy, in killed and wounded upon this occaſion, ſuffered in Europeans to the extent of 42 officers, and 600 men.

I do myſelf the honour to tranſmit to your Lordſhip the general orders to the army, and the ſeparate inſtructions to the officers commanding the four diviſions of the army in the action of that day.

There is alſo another letter incloſed, containing the particulars of the total repulſe of the enemy, in their attack upon our parallel, the morning of the 25th of June—an action which gives additional luſtre to the ſteadineſs and bravery of this army. The particulars are alſo nearly the ſame with what was my duty to acquaint this government of. The name of the officer who commanded the Sortee, and now our priſoner, is Monſ. Des Damas, Chevalier de Malte, Colonel of the regiment of Aquitaine. There are, beſides, two Captains, and one or two ſubaltern officers, priſoners. The total Europeans of the enemy, killed, wounded, or priſoners, are reported to exceed 400.

I encloſe to your Lordſhip a return of the killed and wounded on our part, which, I am happy to find on this occaſion, are in no great number. In this Sortee of the enemy, it happened that a ſmall party in the dark got over one particular place of the trenches, where two chance ſhots killed one Jemidar, and badly wounded another, both of whom carried the colours of the 24th Bengal regiment, which fell from their hands, and in the ſcramble, ſome French ſoldiers ſtole off unperceived with the two ſtand of colours. But your Lordſhip will ſee, both from the return of our inconſiderable loſs, and from the narrative annexed, that the honour of the regiment was in no ſhape affected by this little dark exploit, which, as I am informed, the enemy make ſuch a parade of.

Your Lordſhip will know, from the ſeparate diſpatches, that the army under my command were in the impoſſibility of proceeding towards Cuddalore with effect, until May the 28th, when the rice, and other neceſſary articles were landed, and received from the ſhip at Conjemeer; and that on our coming to the high ground, near Pondicherry, we received certain information that Monſ. Suffrein had found the means to ſend ſupplies of ſtores and proviſions under an eſcort ſuperior in force, as I believe, to the eſcort which our main convoy expected from Madras, and upon which every thing turned. Some of the French ſhips were, indeed, (from our camps) ſeen at anchor. I nevertheleſs continued the march, in the way I fixed in my own mind for months before, and getting round that ſide of Cuddalore where the enemy expected us, I fixed this as our ultimate encampment, in the afternoon of the 7th of June.

To ſpeak of the enemy's ſtrength in Europeans only, the French, my Lord, at little more than a muſquet ſhot from us now in Cuddalore, are upwards of 2500* regulars of the old eſtabliſhments, beſides what M Suffrein, who is now here with 19 ſail at anchor, has in his power to land at an hour's notice; and, previous to the late ſally, he had landed upwards of 1500 land troops or marines.

I take the liberty, my Lord, to tranſmit to your Lordſhip what I judged as a mark of private gratitude, as well as public duty, to give out in general orders to this brave army, in full confidence that your Lordſhip will do them the honour to communicate to his Majeſty, whatever you think proper, and particularly what regards the detachment of his Majeſty's 15th and 16th regiments of his Electoral ſubjects, and to Colonel Wangenheim, who commanded them.

Upon the whole, I requeſt your Lordſhip to lay before his Majeſty my moſt humble recommendation of this brave army, to his Majeſty's moſt gracious favour, as highly deſerving of it. And as a mark of that favour, that his Ma-

* July, 1783. It has been ſince found from the returns, that the French regulars, and Dutch Europeans, excluſive of the marines, exceeded 4000.

jeſty will be graciouſly pleaſed to approve of the promotions which, as commanding his Majeſty's troops, I have taken the liberty to make, in regular ſucceſſion, by ſeniority, to vacancies during the preſent very ſevere ſervice, for ſuch it has been, in every ſenſe of the word.

The Hon. Lieutenant-Colonel Cathcart, as your Lordſhip will perceive, has had very great merit at the head of the corps of grenadiers, both on the 13th and 25th. He will have the honour to deliver this letter; and there is none more capable to ſupply any information, which, in the hurry, I may have omitted. I beg leave to recommend him to his Majeſty as an officer attached to his profeſſion, and of very good abilities.

[N. B. The original diſpatch, of which the above is a duplicate, brought by the Medea, was intruſted to Lieutenant-Colonel Cathcart, who is now on his paſſage from India, in the Pondicherry.]

Extract of the letter firſt referred to in the preceding diſpatch, containing the particulars of the action on the 13th June, 1783.

I moſt ſincerely congratulate your Lordſhip on the ſucceſsful efforts of this brave army, in carrying at one ſtroke the whole of the outpoſts and redoubts of the enemy, with * eighteen pieces of artillery mounted on them. Their loſs in Europeans, killed and wounded, according to the priſoners report, being † twenty-ſix officers, and ſix hundred men. We have alſo loſt many excellent officers and brave men.

On the preceding day (the 12th) I called as a Council of War, the two officers next in command to me, Major Gen. Bruce and Col. Stuart. I acquainted them of the ſtate of our affairs in general; the letters I had received from the Admiral, repreſenting the ſickly condition of his men, and the ſtate of the water, which might oblige him to return to Madras; alſo the approach of the French fleet; but above all, the indefatigable induſtry viſible in the vaſt works they are making on the high grounds and lines, in communication with the poſt, commonly called Brickmyre's, thus ſtretching along the neck by which we muſt approach the place; and I requeſted General Bruce and Colonel Stuart freely to ſpeak their minds. I had called the chief engineer, and commanding officers of the Bengal and Coaſt artillery as deliberative, deſiring to know, in their different departments, if they were in readineſs, ſo far as regarded materials for cloſing the redoubts after we ſhould get poſſeſſion, and to form a firſt parallel, and as to guns, with a ſufficient ſupply of ſtores for the enterprize. They agreed that every thing was in readineſs, and we were unanimouſly of opinion, that there was not an hour to be loſt in driving the French from all their outpoſts into Cuddalore, or under the guns.

I immediately preſented the plan I meant to follow in effecting our purpoſe, a copy of which I have the honour of incloſing. It was in general moſt exactly followed. Lieut. Col. Kelly, in the preciſe moment agreed on, got poſſeſſion of the poſts of the enemy on the Bandipollum Hills, with their guns, and Lieutenant Col. Cathcart, at the head of the grenadiers, ſupported by Col. Stuart, commanding the advanced picquets on the left, conſiſting of the remains of the 73d regiment under Capt. Lamont, and two battalions of Sepoys, made a movement to turn the enemy's right flank.

In advancing, they ſuſtained ſuch a heavy fire, and the ground ſo difficult, that with great judgment, Col. Stuart covered his people until he could better reconnoitre, and ſome further diſpoſition could be taken to approach the enemy from different quarters nearly about the ſame time. He ſent me a report of his ſituation, and I gave orders in conſequence to the reſerve, under Col. Gordon, to make a movement in advance to their left, and to Major General Bruce, to march from the right, in the direction of the redoubt, if the ground could admit of it.

The General had very properly poſted Lieutenant Colonel Edmondſon upon the Sandhills, near the Sea, to ſupport the four braſs eighteens, and prevent our being flanked on that ſide.

Upon further information, that the redoubt which principally annoyed the grenadiers, was to be got at in the rear, orders were given for the grenadiers, the reſerve and the right under General Bruce, to cloſe upon the enemy with their muſquetry, leaving their guns under cover. I deſired the commanding officer of artillery to fire three guns as a ſignal, and to continue a heavy fire for five minutes on the enemy's redoubt on the front, oppoſite to Colonel Stuart, and the grenadiers, whilſt the reſerve under Colonel Gordon was moving on; upon our fire ceaſing the attack on all ſides to begin.

The Reſerve, which conſiſted chiefly of the remains of his Majeſty's 101ſt, and of the detachment from the 15th and 16th Hanoverians, with five companies of Captain Muirhead's battalion of Sepoys, advanced in the beſt order imaginable, under the heavieſt fire of muſquetry, round and grape, from the enemy, that I ever beheld. The greater part had got within the enemy's entrenchments;—many of our officers fell there.

The detachment of his Majeſty's Hanoverians, under Lieutenant-Colonel Wangenheim, and Major Varrennius, behaved moſt remarkably well. The Major fell in the attempt. The company of grenadiers and light infantry of his Majeſty's 101ſt, and the officers of that corps, and the officers and Sepoys of the 20th Carnatic battalion, ſhewed the greateſt ſpirit and ſteadineſs; and if the other men of the 101ſt had

* Upon examining the returns, the number taken was ſixteen.

† It was afterwards found they had forty-two officers killed and wounded.

had ſeconded the efforts of their officers and their grenadiers and light infantry, there is not a doubt but that the buſineſs would have been over at once; but they did not; and our people on that attack, were for a certain time driven back, and purſued to a conſiderable diſtance by the enemy.—However, at that preciſe time, when the French were in the purſuit, our grenadiers under Lieutenant-Colonel Cathcart and Major Moore, with Colonel Stuart and Captain Lamont, with the precious remains of the 73d, entered the redoubt on the ſide where it was not entirely cloſed, and not only took poſſeſſion of it, but puſhed forward to a poſt called Brickmyre's, conſiderably in advance, and were for ſome time in poſſeſſion of it, with the guns, but obliged to quit, upon freſh troops pouring in upon them.

Our people kept hold of the firſt redoubt, as commanding or enfilading every thing in front or to the right of it, and therefore a good point to go from in our approaches; it was ordered to be cloſed by the chief engineer as ſoon as poſſible. The havock done by our guns from the heights now appeared plain; and having thus ſecured, by Lieutenant-Colonel Kelly and his brigade, the commanding points of the Bandipollum Hills, giving an opening to the large Tank that lies between them, and ſeeing from thence, in reverſe, the whole bound hedge of Cuddalore; and having ſecured a poſt to approach from of ſuch importance as before mentioned, I thought it ſufficient for the day, conſidering the numbers of our brave men that had fallen.

The ſpirit of our people, even after ſo ſevere an action, was ſo undaunted, that I was urged to proceed further, and to drive the whole of the enemy into the fort the ſame evening, although we muſt have had both heavy guns and muſquetry to encounter with; but I declined it, both for the above reaſon, and becauſe, from my knowledge of the French, I was ſure, that after a night's reflection of what had paſſed, they would not try a ſecond day out of the fort. It happened ſo, for they abandoned in the courſe of the night all their remaining out-poſts, and drew off their guns, excepting three, which we brought into the redoubt. The incloſed return will ſhew your Lordſhip the guns we have taken from the enemy; two of them are upon the hill, and two in the redoubt, ready to open againſt their former maſter.

I ſhall in a ſeparate letter, ſo ſoon as I know it with preciſion, acquaint your Lordſhip of the loſs on our ſide. It is with infinite regret that I mention the loſs of Captain Douglas, Deputy-Adjutant-General, as an officer, and as a member of ſociety; and the ſame of Lieutenant Peter Campbell, my firſt Aid-de-camp. Major Varrennius fell haranguing his men, advancing to the redoubt. The Hon. Captain Lindſey, commanding the grenadiers of the 73d, was wounded and taken priſoner, refuſing to ſuffer his own people to remain behind with him*. In a word, nothing I believe in hiſtory ever exceeded the heroiſm and coolneſs of this army in general, viſible to every one, for it laſted from four in the morning to two in the afternoon.

The Admiral, with the whole fleet, is now at anchor near our rice ſhips, and by our laſt accounts, Monſ. Suffrein was ſeen by him to the Southward, with fifteen ſhips of the line, and two frigates.

I have written to Major General Burgoyne to give orders (with the previous information to government) that 200 Hanoverians, with all the recovered men, and recruits belonging to his Majeſty's troops, now at or near the Preſidency, be ſent with the utmoſt diſpatch to us by ſea; and I have recommended to order the ſame, regarding the recruits and recovered men of the Company's Europeans.

The army lay upon their arms for twenty hours, after the buſineſs of the 13th was over, and until I had the means to bring our camp further in advance, now that we had ſilenced the guns planted on the enemy's out-poſts. Our right is now within a mile of Cuddalore; but as I had the honour in a former letter to repreſent to the Select Committee, and having nearly a brigade to cover our rear and landing place, and ſo large a circuit of poſts to occupy in front, added to our loſs in action, and ſickneſs incident to fatigue, I repeat that unleſs the force under Colonel Fullarton does come nearer to co-operate and to take off ſome part of the heavy duty that now falls to our ſhare, this army will, in a very ſhort time, be melted to nothing, through ſickneſs, and other accidents.

Camp, S. of Cuddalore, June 15, 1783.

Letter to the Select Committee at Madras, containing the particulars of the repulſe of the French, on the 25th of June, 1783.

It is with great additional ſatisfaction that I give you the account of the repulſe the enemy met with in a ſortie they made early this morning. We have taken their commanding officer, Chevalier de Damas, Col. (Maitre de Camp) of the regiment of Aquitaine; likewiſe a Captain and a Lieutenant. There is a Major, a Captain, and two ſubalterns, killed. The priſoners are about 150. I don't know how many of the enemy have been killed, or carried off wounded; but this I know, it was a complete *route*. Our loſs is Major Cotgrove, Lieutenant Grueber, of the Bengal detachment, and Lieut. Outcherloney, miſſing; Capt. Williamſon wounded, and about twenty rank and file wounded.

Upon the return of the French fleet, and our's not appearing, I was ſure that they would take every occaſion to annoy us: we were prepared for it, as they have found to their experience. From what I can collect of the priſoners, the troops engaged were of their beſt ſort, the regiment of Aquataine, and other

* Captain Lindſay died of his wounds at Cuddalore.

old corps, beſides volunteers from all the other corps, and two battalions of Sepoys. Their principal impreſſion ſeems to have been directed to the right of our parallel; but they had no idea of our having compleated a redoubt there, which, with the two guns, galled them very ſeverely. Our people behaved wonderfully well, and the Sepoys mixed their's with the French bayonets: nothing could exceed their ſteadineſs. Col. Gordon commanded in the trenches with Lieut. Col. Cathcart and Major Cotgrove; only one half of the grenadiers were with the out-laying pickets, but Major Moore, with the other half, was inſtantly on the ground from their advanced camp, and they proved an excellent ſupport to the parallel on the right.

From the character of Monſ. Suffrein, and the infinite ſuperiority of the preſent means on the part of the French now that we are left to ourſelves, I expect a daily viſit of this ſort from them, and ſhall be prepared to give them a ſimilar reception; but I cannot too often repeat, that the ſeverity of the preſent duty both on officers and men is become almoſt inſupportable.

As to my uneaſineſs of mind, conſidering many things which I need not detail to you, and that it is now nine days ſince our fleet and proviſion ſhips left us, and having no certainty of Colonel Fullarton's movements towards me, in conſequence of my order of the 16th inſtant; I ſay that, on the whole of theſe conſiderations, my mind is upon the rack without a moment's reſt.

The ſteady undaunted valour of this army is my preſent reſource in the midſt of ſurrounding difficulties, if the Admiral does not ſoon appear.

The high idea I entertain of the merit of the army has led me to expreſs my ſentiments at ſome length in this day's general orders, both of their conduct on the 13th, and in the action of this day I ſhall have the honour of tranſmitting to your Lordſhip, &c. a copy, together with every paper of any conſequence, which you have not hitherto been furniſhed with, owing to the uncertainty of conveyance ſince we loſt ſight of the Admiral.

I pray your Lordſhip, &c. to forward the means of conveyance by ſea to us for the detachment of 200 Hanoverians, with the recruits and recovered men of his Majeſty's and the Company's troops, together with money, rice, and horſe grain, our only dependence for all theſe things being upon you.

Camp before Cuddalore, June 25, 1783.

Return of Ordnance taken from the enemy in the Poſts near Cuddalore, June 13, 1783.

On the Bandypollam Hill.

Braſs guns ſerviceable mounted, and may be uſed on the Poſts, 2 four and half pounders.

In the intrenchments from Bandypollam Hill and Brickmyres Poſt, iron guns ſerviceable, the carriages damaged, and cannot be uſed, 1 nine pounder, 1 four pounder.

Braſs guns ſerviceable mounted, and may be uſed, 1 four and half pounder, 2 two and half ditto.

In Brickmyres Poſt.

Iron guns ſerviceable mounted, and may be uſed againſt the fort, 2 eighteen pounders, 1 nine ditto. 1 five ditto.

Braſs guns ſerviceable mounted, and may be uſed, 1 nine pounder.

Ditto cannot be uſed, 1 twelve pounder.

Between Brickmyres Poſt and Cuddalore.

Braſs guns ſerviceable mounted, and may be uſed, 3 three pounders.

Ammunition tumbrils, 8.

Carts for ſhot, 4.

(Signed) *W. Elliot*, Lieut. Col. Commanding the Artillery.

June 14.

Return of the killed, wounded, and miſſing, in the attack of the French advanced poſts, lines, and redoubts, before Cuddalore, on the 13th of June, 1783, of the army under his Excellency Major General James Stuart, Commander in Chief of his Majeſty's and the Company's troops.

His Majeſty's troops.

1ſt battalion, 73d regiment. Killed, Capt. Alex. Mackenzie, 1 ſerjeant, and 10 rank and file. Wounded and priſoners, the Hon. Capt. James Lindſay, Lieut. Simon Mackenzie, jun. and Lieut. James Trail. Wounded, Capt. John Hamilton, Lieuts. Charles Gorry, David Rannier, John Sinclair, James Duncan, and George Sutherland, 5 ſerjeants, 2 drummers, and 75 rank and file. Miſſing, ſix rank and file.

78th regiment. Killed, Captain George Mackenzie and 9 rank and file. Wounded, Lieutenants Patrick Grant and Malcolm Macpherſon, 2 ſerjeants, and 28 rank and file. Miſſing, 1 ſerjeant, and 1 rank and file.

101ſt regiment. Killed, Lieutenants W. R. Elſden, J. Moore, J. Branthwayte, and C. Roſs, 2 ſerjeants, 2 drummers, and 38 rank and file. Wounded and priſoners, Capt. S G. Cole, and Lieut. John M'Gillowray. Wounded, Capt. P. Beatty, Lieutenants A. Ingram, John Napier, and Mungo Noble, 5 ſerjeants, 2 drummers, and 48 rank and file.

Detachments of the 15th and 16th regiments of Hanoverians in one regiment. Killed, Major Varrennius, Capt. Brunſwick, Lieut. Riuſſmand, and Enſign Muller, 2 ſerjeants, and 60 rank and file. Wounded, Captains Drocgi, Schamhorſs, Weſternhagen, and Zelle, Lieutenants Brandt, Notto, V. Hennubar, Enſigns Gerber, Jambart, Bert, Werniche, and Adjutant Chevalier, 1 ſerjeant, 2 drummers, and 141 rank and file.

J. GRATTAN, Adj. Gen.

Bengal Troops.

Wounded, Colonel Tho. D. Pearſe.

Artillery. Killed, 2 bombadiers, 1 matroſs, and

and 8 laſcars. Wounded, Lieut. E. Brown, and Lieut. Fireworker Egſhaw, 1 ſerjeant, 1 bombardier, 1 gunner, 2 matroſſes, 2 ſyrangs, 1 tindal, 1 coſſob, 1 golandaure, and 20 laſcars.

12th regiment of Sepoys. Killed, 1 ſerjeant, 1 ſubedar, 1 jemidar, and 1 rank and file. Wounded, 1 drummer, and 22 rank and file.

13th regiment of Sepoys. Killed, 1 ſubedar, 1 jemidar, and 3 rank and file. Wounded, Lieut. Plumer, Enſign Franklin, 1 ſubedar, 1 drummer, and 34 rank and file.

25th regiment of Sepoys. Killed, Capt. Durie, 1 ſerjeant, 2 ſubedars, and 6 rank and file. Wounded, Lieut. R. Colebrooke, 1 ſerjeant, 1 jemidar, and 31 rank and file.

Coaſt Troops.

Killed, Capt. Walter Douglas, Deputy-Adjutant General, and Lieut. Peter Campbell, Aid de Camp.

European troop. Killed, 1 horſe.

2d regiment of cavalry. Killed, 2 horſes. Wounded, 1 horſe, 2 rank and file.

Artillery. Killed, 8 laſcars. Wounded, 3 corporals, 4 gunners, 5 matroſſes, 2 ſyrangs and 21 laſcars.

European infantry. Killed, 8 rank and file. Wounded, Lieut. John Munro, Quartermaſter, Enſign James Rogers, 3 ſerjeants, 1 drummer, and 25 rank and file.

Tritchinopoly detachment. Killed, 2 rank and file. Wounded, 1 ſubedar, 1 jemidar, and 24 rank and file.

5th battalion of Sepoys. Killed 6 rank and file. Wounded, 1 drummer, and 5 rank and file.

8th battalion of Sepoys. Wounded, 8 rank and file.

16th battalion of Sepoys. Killed, 6 rank and file. Wounded, Enſign G. Haddon, 1 ſerjeant, 2 jemidars, 2 packallies, and 36 rank and file.

18th battalion of Sepoys. Killed 4 rank and file. Wounded, 1 ſubedar, 2 jemidars, 3 packallies, and 47 rank and file. Miſſing, 2 rank and file.

20th battalion of Sepoys. Killed, Enſign S. Powell, and 6 rank and file. Wounded, 1 jemidar, 2 drummers, and 12 rank and file.

21ſt battalion of Sepoys. Wounded 2 rank and file.

Total of killed, wounded, and miſſing, 962.

N. B. Of the European grenadiers, King's and Company, conſiſting of 5 Captains, 17 ſubalterns, and 336 non-commiſſioned rank and file, under the command of the Hon. Lieut. Col. Cathcart, and included above in their reſpective regiments.

	Officers.	Non-commiſſioned rank and file.
Killed -	4	36
Wounded -	8	100
Miſſing -	0	6
Total -	12	142

June 25.

Return of the killed, wounded, and miſſing, in the repulſe of the enemy, in their attack on the retrenchments, on the morning of the 25th of June, 1783. Camp, South of Cuddalore, June 25, 1783.

His Majeſty's Troops.

1ſt battalion, 73d regiment. 1 rank and file wounded.

Detachments of the 15th and 16th Hanoverians, in one regiment. 1 rank and file killed.

Bengal Troops.

24th regiment Sepoys. Lieutenant Granber, 1 jemidar, 1 drummer, 8 rank and file, killed. Captain Williamſon, 1 ſubadar, 3 jemidars, 18 rank and file, wounded. Lieutenant Ochterloney, wounded and priſoner.

Coaſt Troops.

Major Cotgrove, commanding the 4th brigade, killed.

Artillery. 1 rank and file killed; 1 rank and file wounded.

5th battalion Sepoys. 10 rank and file wounded.

GENERAL ABSTRACT.

	Officers.	Non commiſſioned rank and file.
His Majeſty's troops, killed—		1
Ditto wounded - -	—	2
Company's troops, Europeans, killed	2	1
Ditto wounded	2	1
Natives killed	1	9
Ditto wounded	4	30
Total -	9	44

J. Richardſon, D. Adj. Gen.

[The ſame Gazette contained General Stuart's General Orders of Thanks to the Army for their gallant Behaviour in the aforeſaid Actions.]

From the LONDON GAZETTE, *Jan.* 13.

Admiralty-Office, Jan. 12, 1784.

Extract of a duplicate of a letter from Vice-Admiral Sir Edward Hughes, Knight of the Bath, and Commander in Chief of his Majeſty's ſhips and veſſels in the Eaſt-Indies, to Mr. Stephens, received on Friday laſt, by Captain Eraſmus Gower, of his Majeſty's ſhip Medea; the original of which is on board the Pondicherry armed tranſport, not yet arrived.

Superb, in Madras Road, July 25, 1783.

My laſt addreſs to you, for their Lordſhips information, was dated the 19th of March, of this year, from Bombay. By it I ſignified my intention to proceed to ſea with the ſhips of his Majeſty's ſquadron under my command, and I ſailed accordingly the day following.

On the 8th of April, off the Baſſas, I was joined by Captain Troubridge, in his Majeſty's

jeſty's ſhip Active, who had been cruizing for a month off the Friar's Hood by my orders, and had ſeen nothing of the enemy's ſquadron during that time.

In the night of the 10th, a grab ſhip of the enemy's, that had been taken from the Engliſh, fell into the ſquadron and was captured. By the officers, priſoners, taken in this ſhip, I learned the whole of the enemy's ſquadron, under the command of Monſ. Suffrein, was in Trincamale harbour, except two of their beſt ſailing line of battle ſhips, and two frigates, which were cruizing off Madras to block up that port, and intercept all ſupplies bound to it; I therefore immediately ſteered with the ſquadron for that place, and anchored in the road on the 13th of April, but ſaw nothing of the French cruizers; however, as they had been in ſight of the place only the day before, I directed the ſhips named in the margin*, under the orders of Captain Mitchell, of the Sultan, to proceed to ſea, and uſe all poſſible diligence to intercept them; and, on the day following, Capt. Graves, of his Majeſty's ſhip Sceptre, whoſe ſignal had been made to chaſe a ſtrange ſail, on the 11th joined me with the Naiade, a French frigate of 30 guns, and 160 men, which he had come up with in the night and captured.

On the 16th of April, Captain Burney, of his Majeſty's ſhip Briſtol, with his convoy from England, arrived in this road, eſcorted by the ſhips under the orders of Captain Mitchell, of the Sultan, who had ſeen no thing of the enemy's cruizers, but fell in with the Briſtol and her convoy at ſea.

On the 19th of April, the Company's ſhip Duke of Athol made the ſignal of diſtreſs, and the boats of the ſquadron being ordered by ſignal to her aſſiſtance, ſhe unfortunately blew up, by which unhappy accident the ſquadron loſt † ſix commiſſioned and four warrant officers, and 197 of our beſt ſeamen.

From the day of the ſquadron's arrival in this Road, all poſſible diligence had been uſed to compleat the ſhips water, in doing which great delays and frequent diſappointments aroſe from the want of a ſufficient number of ſhore boats, and the high ſurf on the beach. However, I put to ſea on the 2d of May with his Majeſty's ſhips to ſeek the enemy's ſquadron, and, if poſſible, intercept their expected reinforcements, although the water of many of the ſhips was by no means compleat, having left in the Road his Majeſty's three ſtoreſhips Pondicherry, Harriot, and Minerva, to lade military ſtores and proviſions for the ſervice of the army then about to march for the attack of Cuddalore, where the Marquis de Buſſy with the greater part of the French land forces, was poſted; and to cover and protect theſe ſtoreſhips, as well as ſome other ſhips and veſſels employed for the ſame purpoſe, from the enemy's cruizers, I left in the road, at the requeſt of the Select Committee of this Preſidency, his Majeſty's ſhips and veſſels as per margin‡, under the command of Captain Halliday, of his Majeſty's ſhip Iſis.

On the 15th of May, when off Cuddalore, I ſpoke two Portugueſe ſhips from Trincamale, who informed me Monſ. Suffrein, with his whole force was there, fitting for ſea with all poſſible expedition, to come to the relief of Cuddalore. From that time I continued working to windward with the ſquadron along ſhore, leſt the enemy's ſquadron ſhould paſs in ſhore of me, and fall on the ſtoreſhips and their covering party, then at anchor near to Cuddalore.

On the 25th of May I came off Trincamale, and reconnoitred the poſition of the enemy's ſquadron, which I did not think by any means eligible to attack at anchor, under cover of their gun and mortar batteries, and therefore ſtood to the ſouthward, to intercept any reinforcement or ſupplies that might be coming to them, at the ſame time watching their motions by the frigates of the ſquadron, and keeping within a proper diſtance of the place, leſt they ſhould put to ſea in the night, and fall down on the covering ſhips and ſtore ſhips off Cuddalore.

On the 1ſt of June two Engliſh ſeamen in a boat eſcaped from the French ſquadron, and brought certain intelligence, that the Fendant, of 74 guns, with two frigates and two ſtoreſhips, had ſlipped out of Trincamale Bay; the ſtoreſhips I concluded carried ſtores for the French garriſon of Cuddalore, and the Fendant and two frigates deſtined to cover and protect them; and being apprehenſive they might attack our covering ſhips and ſtoreſhips off Cuddalore, I bore away on the 2d of June for the Coaſt, and on the 3d had ſight of the Fendant and two frigates, whom I chaced till night, when I loſt ſight of them.

I continued cruizing with the ſquadron to the Southward of Cuddalore till the 9th of June, when I anchored in Porto Novo Road, about ſeven leagues to the Southward of that place, partly to cover our own ſhips in Cuddalore Road, and engage the enemy's ſquadron before they could anchor there, and partly to endeavour to get a ſupply of water, of which many ſhips began to be in want; but, after exerting ourſelves to the utmoſt, no water could be obtained either at Porto Novo or Tranquebar; at the firſt place the enemy's troops were

* Sultan, Burford, Africa, Eagle, and Active.

† The names of the commiſſioned officers are as follow, thoſe of the warrant officers are not yet known, viz. Lieutenants Charles Fagan, of the Superb; Neal Morriſon, of the Eagle; Thomas Wilſon, of the Sceptre; James Thompſon, of the Juno; —— Pringle, of the Active; Alexander Allen, of the Sea-horſe.

‡ Iſis, Active, San Carlos, Naiade, Chaſer, Pondicherry, Minerva, and Harriot.

were in poſſeſſion of both Banks of the river, at the other the wells were dried up.

On the 13th of June the enemy's ſquadron, under the command of Monſ. Suffrein, came to ſight to the Southward, conſiſting of fifteen ſhips of the line, three frigates, and a fireſhip; and the ſame day I weighed with his Majeſty's ſquadron, and dropped down to about five miles diſtance off Cuddalore, and there anchored: the French ſquadron anchored off the Coleroon River, about ſeven or eight leagues to the Southward of our's.

On the 17th the French ſquadron being under ſail, and bearing down, I made the ſignal, and weighed with his Majeſty's ſquadron, and formed the line of battle a-head to receive the enemy; in the evening they hauled the wind, and ſtood to the ſouthward, and I followed them with his Majeſty's ſquadron: from this time to the 20th I was continually employed in endeavouring to get the wind of the enemy, which, however, I was never able to effect, from the extraordinary variableneſs of the winds, that often brought part of the two ſquadrons within a random ſhot of each other. On the 20th, the enemy ſtill having the wind, ſhewed a diſpoſition to engage, when I immediately formed the line of battle a-head, and brought-to to receive them: At four minutes paſt four, P. M. the van ſhip of the enemy, having firſt tried her diſtance by a ſingle ſhot, when ſcarce within point blank ſhot diſtance, the enemy's ſquadron began their fire on his Majeſty's, which, at twenty minutes after was returned, and a heavy canonade enſued on both ſides, the enemy ſtill keeping up their firſt diſtance; the canonade continued till ſeven, P. M. when the enemy hauled off: At day-light I made the ſignal and wore with the ſquadron, and brought-to to repair the damages, with the ſhips heads towards the land; ſeveral of the ſhips much diſabled in their hulls, maſts, and rigging, the Gibraltar and Iſis in particular; the enemy's ſquadron not in ſight.

In the morning of the 22d I ſaw the French ſquadron at anchor in Pondicherry Road, bearing S. S. W. directly to windward of his Majeſty's ſquadron, and ſome of them getting under weigh; and I made what ſail I could towards them, and anchored the ſame night off the ruins of Alemparvo, the more effectually to ſtop ſhot holes, and repair the damages ſuſtained.

I beg you will be pleaſed to inform their Lordſhips, that ſo early as the 8th of June, the ſcurvy began to make a rapid progreſs among the crews of all the ſhips of the ſquadron, but particularly on board the ſhips laſt arrived from England, under the orders of Commodore Sir Richard Bickerton, Bart.

The number of ſick on board the line of battle ſhips, amounted on that day to 1121 men, 605 of whom being in the laſt ſtage of the ſcurvy, I was under the neceſſity of ſending on the day following to the naval hoſpital at this place, in his Majeſty's ſhips Briſtol and San Carlos.

From that time to the 22d, the diſeaſe increaſed the numbers of the ſick daily, ſo as moſt of the ſhips of the line had from 70 to 90 men, and the ſhips laſt from England double that number, very many in the laſt ſtage of the diſeaſe, and unable to come to quarters, dying daily. Under theſe circumſtances, and the water of moſt of the ſhips being expended, except a few caſks in their ground tiers, and none to be obtained to the Southward, I determined to return to this road, there to land the ſick and wounded, and compleat the water of the ſquadron for further ſervice; and on the 23d of June I weighed with the ſquadron, and arrived in this road in the afternoon of the 25th.

On my arrival there, I received authentic (altho' not official) intelligence, that the preliminary Articles of Peace between Great Britain, France, Spain, and America, had been ſigned and ratified, as well as a ceſſation from hoſtilities agreed on between Great Britain and the States General of the United Provinces, of which information the Select Committee of this preſidency were alſo in poſſeſſion; and being ſummoned the ſame day to a conſultation with the Select Committee, to take into conſideration theſe circumſtances, I concurred with the other Members of the Committee, that it would be proper and was neceſſary to communicate to the Commanders in Chief of the ſea and land forces of the French King at Cuddalore, the information we had received, together with the grounds on which we believed it to be true and authentic; and on the 27th of June I diſpatched his Majeſty's ſhip Medea, as a flag of truce, with letters to M. Suffrein and the Marquis de Buſſy.

On the 4th of July the Medea returned to this road, with anſwers from Monſ. Suffrein and the Marquis De Buſſy to my letters of the 27th of June, by which they concurred in a ceſſation of hoſtilities by ſea and land, as well as an immediate releaſe and return of priſoners on both ſides; in conſequence, I have received all the priſoners belonging to the ſquadron in Monſ. Suffrein's power, amounting to about 200, and have returned all thoſe made priſoners in French ſhips, amounting to about 350. Monſ. Suffrein informs me by letter, he has alſo ſent to the Mauritius for ſuch Engliſh priſoners as have been ſent thither, and will return them.

I have judged it neceſſary to ſend for their lordſhips information, the liſt of the ſhips of his Majeſty's ſquadron under my command, on the 20th of laſt month, and a liſt of the French ſhips oppoſed to me under the command of Monſ. Suffrein.

Rich. King, Eſq. Commodore of the Red.

Guns.		
74	Hero,	Com. Rich. King Capt. Jones
74	Cumberland,	Allen
64	Monmouth,	Alms
64	Eagle,	Clark
64	Magnanime,	Mackenzie
50	Briſtol,	

Guns		
50	Briſtol,	Burney
Frigates,	Chaſer, San Carlos, Harriot.	Pondicherry,

Sir Edward Hughes, K. B. Vice Admiral of the Blue.

74	Superb,	Sir E. Hughes, Capt. Newcome
74	Sultan,	Mitchell
70	Burford,	Rainier
68	Monarca.	Gell
64	Sceptre,	Graves
64	Africa,	M'Donall
64	Worceſter,	C. Hughes

Frigates, Combuſtion, Medea, Lizard, Juno and Seahorſe, to repeat ſignals.

Sir Richard Bickerton, Bart. Commodore of the White.

80	Gibraltar,	Sir R. Bickerton, Capt. Hicks
74	Defence,	Newnham
64	Exeter,	S. Smith
64	Inflexible,	Chetwynd
50	Iſis,	Haliday

A liſt of the French ſquadron in the Engagement with the Britiſh ſquadron in the Eaſt-Indies, on the 20th of June, 1783.

Ships.	No. of Guns.
L' Hëros,	74
Le Fendant,	74
L' Hannibal,	74
L' Illuſtre,	74
L' Argonaute,	74
Le Sphinx	64
Le Vengeur,	64
L' Artiſien,	64
L' Ajax,	64
Le Severe	64
Le Brilliant	64
L' Hardie	64
Le St. Michael,	60
Le Flamand,	50
Le Petit Hannibal	50
Le Cleopatra,	36
L' Apollon,	40
Le Coventry	28

ED. HUGHES.

Abſtract of the Officers, Seamen, and Marines, killed and wounded, on board his Majeſty's ſhips in the action of the 20th of June, 1783.

Ships.	Killed.	Wounded.
Superb,	12	41
Hero,	5	21
Gibraltar,	6	40
Monmouth,	2	19
Cumberland,	2	11
Monarca,	6	14
Magnanime,	1	16
Sceptre	17	47
Sultan	4	20
Burford,	10	20
Defence,	7	38
Inflexible,	3	30
Africa,	5	25
Worceſter,	8	32
Eagle,	4	8
Exeter,	4	9
Briſtol,		10
Iſis,	3	30
Total	99	431

Officers killed.

Lieut. Robert Travers of the	Monarca.
Lieut. James Dow,	Sultan
Lieut. John Lett,	Defence
Mr. Parker, Maſter,	Ditto

Officers wounded.

Lieut. Middlemore, of the	Hero
2d Lieut. Thompſon of Marines	Ditto
Lieut. Watſon,	Sceptre
Mr. Stone, Maſter,	Sultan
Mr. Hunter, Boatſwain	Defence
Mr. Sinclair, Boatſwain	Worceſter

*** On Account of the extraordinary Length of the Gazettes, we are obliged to defer the Liſt of Promotions, Births, Marriages, and Deaths, &c. to our next Number.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS to CORRESPONDENTS.

The Letter ſigned *Beliſarius*, is under Conſideration.

Aretine's Diſſertation is too indecent for our Collection.

Bob Short is not *pithy* enough to deſerve a place.

C. L's. *Letter*, *Ariſtides*, and the *Matrimonial Creed*, will appear in our next.

As nothing of any Importance has been produced at the Theatres this Month, we have deferred our Account of the Drama, to make room for more intereſting matter.

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