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## THE TABLET.—No. LVI.

"The more untaught and inconsiderate men are, the more entirely they are swayed by the passion that is uppermost."

THOSE who assert, that human nature is the same in all ages and situations, do not speak with precision. The observation is partly true; but it is not wholly so. Men act, equally in all stages of society, under the impulse of such motives as have the strongest influence. Civilization does not destroy the passions, nor prevent the mind from being warped by prejudices. In different situations, however, different passions take the lead; and men of education and reflection learn to make one passion subservient to another in such a degree, that that, which from present circumstances might be supposed uppermost, is not the predominating one. This is the effect of acting by system, and controuling the mental operations, by habits of order and self-denial. Some men, though they are constantly exposed to opposition, and meet with a thousand rubs and difficulties, seldom exhibit any marks of resentment or disquietude. The passion of anger resides in such a breast, as much as it does in one, that appears more turbulent and untractable. But a sensible man knows that unless he governs his spirit, he will defeat his own views; and this makes him conquer his anger, by subjecting it to the stronger sway of avarice or ambition. Thus it appears that human nature may be so managed, that it cannot, judging from appearances and effects, be called precisely the same in all situations.

Persons, who have lived long under the restraint of good laws, and have been blessed with the refined regulations of civilized life, are changed into a different kind of beings, from those who have been educated under rude or careless institutions. The force of the passions is not only restrained, but their bent and direction becomes very different. A well-bred man will not quarrel with his family or neighbors. He overlooks those little mistakes and incidents which throw a clown into petulance and anger. The objects which employ the mind of an ambitious citizen are calculated to soften and humanize the temper, and silence the imperiousness of passion, which rages with such violence in low scenes of life.

No conjecture can be formed how humane and amiable men may be rendered by more perfect institutions and laws. Were a person only acquainted with the conduct of people in obscure villages, he would not conceive it possible, how great a difference of deportment prevailed in cultivated society. May we not extend the idea, and anticipate improvements in the art of happy living as far superior to any that have yet been experienced, as the best specimens now known are to the worst? To live quietly and happily is a science which can be learned by study and attention. The best natural disposition, and the greatest sincerity of heart, which man ever possessed, will not secure his friends against his unsocial passions, unless by art and education he has been taught to curb them. I will close this speculation by an extract from an author who understood well the texture of the human mind. His remarks are sprightly and sensible.

"Persons that are well-educated have learned to study their ease and the comforts of life; to tie themselves up to certain rules and decorums for their own advantage, and often submit to small inconveniences to avoid greater. Among the lowest vulgar, and those of the meanest education at all, you seldom see a lasting harmony; you shall see a man and his wife, that have a real affection for one another, be full of love one hour and disagree the next about a trifle; and the lives of many are made miserable, from no other fault in themselves than the want of manners and discretion. Without design, they will often talk imprudently, till they raise one another's anger, which neither of them being able to stifle—the scolds at him—he beats her—the bursts into tears—this moves him—he is sorry—both repent, and are friends again—and with all the sincerity imaginable resolve never to quarrel for the future, as long as they live: All this will pass between them in less than half a day, and will perhaps be repeated once a month or oftener, as provocations offer, or either of them is more or less prone to anger. Affection never remained long uninterrupted between two persons without art; and the best friends, if they are always together, will fall out, unless great discretion be used on both sides."

## AN EPIGRAM.

IT was a saying of the late King of Prussia, that "Life was but a dream, and that the best dream, that a man could have, would be, that he was King of France;"—were he, however, alive now, he would hold a different language.

## LETTERS,

Written in Holland, in the Year M,DCC,LXXX,

By His Excellency

THE VICE-PRESIDENT of the UNITED STATES.

LETTER IV.

AMSTERDAM, OCT. 6, 1780.

SIR,

YOUR fourth question is, "Whether America, in and of itself, by means of purchasing or exchanging the productions of several Provinces, would be able to continue the war for six, eight, or ten years, even if they were deprived of the trade with Europe; or their allies, exhausted by the war, and forced to make a separate peace, were to leave them?"

This is an extreme case—And where is the necessity of putting such a supposition? Is there the least appearance of France or Spain being exhausted by the war? Are not their resources much greater than those of England, separated as she is from America? Why should a suspicion be entertained that France or Spain will make a separate peace? Are not these powers sufficiently interested in separating America from England? All the world knows, that their maritime power, and the possession of their colonies, depend upon separating them. Such chimeras as these are artfully propagated by the English, to terrify stock-jobbers; but thinking men, and well informed men, know that France and Spain have the most pressing motives to persevere in the war. Besides, infractions so infamous, of solemn treaties made and avowed to all mankind, are not committed by any nation. In short, no man, who knows anything of the real wealth and power of England on one hand, and of the power and resources of France, Spain and America, on the other, can believe it possible, in the ordinary course of human events, and without the interposition of miracles, that France and Spain should be so exhausted by the war, as to be forced to make a separate peace.

The other supposition here made is equally extreme. It is in the nature of things impossible that America should ever be deprived entirely of the trade of Europe. In opposition to one extreme I have a right to advance another. And I say, that if all the maritime powers of Europe were to unite their navies, to block up the American ports, and prevent the trade of Europe, they could not wholly prevent it. All the men of war in Europe would not be sufficient to block up a sea-coast of two thousand miles in extent, varied, as that of America is, by such an innumerable multitude of ports, bays, harbors, rivers, creeks, inlets, and islands; with a coast so tempestuous, that there are many occasions, in the course of the year, when merchant vessels can push out and in, although men of war cannot cruise. It should be remembered, that this war was maintained by America for three years, before France took any part in it: during all that time the English had fifty men of war upon that coast, which is a greater number than they ever will have again: yet all their vigilance was not sufficient to prevent American trade with Europe. At the worst time we ever saw, one vessel in three went and came safe. At present there is not one in four taken. It should also be remembered, that the French navy have never, until this year, been many days together upon the American coast. So that we have in a sense maintained the trade of the continent five years, against all that the English navy could do, and it has been growing every year.

Why then should we put cases, that we know can never happen? However, I can inform you, that the case was often put before this war broke out—and I have heard the common farmers in America reasoning upon these cases seven years ago. I have heard them say, If Great Britain could build a wall of brass, a thousand feet high, all along the sea-coast, at low-water mark, we could live and be happy. America is most undoubtedly capable of being the most independent country upon earth. It produces every thing for the necessity, comfort, and conveniency of life—and many of the luxuries too. So that if there were an eternal separation between Europe and America, the inhabitants of America would not only live but multiply, and, for what I know, be wiser, better, and happier, than they will be, as it is.

That it would be unpleasant and burthenome to America to continue the war for eight or ten years, is certain: But will it not be unpleasant and burthenome to Great Britain too?—There are between three and four millions of people in America. The kingdom of Sweden, that of Denmark, and even the republic of the United Provinces, have not each of them many more than that number—yet these States can maintain large standing armies even in time of peace, and maintain the expences of courts and governments, much more costly than the governments of Ame-

rica. What then should hinder America from maintaining an army sufficient to defend her alters, and her fire-sides? The Americans are as active, as industrious, and as capable as other men.

America could undoubtedly maintain a regular army of twenty thousand men for ever. And a regular army of twenty thousand men would be sufficient to keep all the land forces, that Great-Britain can send there, confined to the sea-port towns, under cover of the guns of their men of war. Whenever the British army shall attempt to penetrate far into the country, the regular American army will be joined by such reinforcements from the militia, as will ruin the British force. By desertions, by fatigue, by sickness, and by the sword, in occasional skirmishes, their numbers will be wasted, and the miserable remains of them Burgoyne'd.

I have the honor to be, &c.

JOHN ADAMS.

MR. CALKOE.

## FURTHER EUROPEAN INTELLIGENCE.

Received by the SANDWICH PACKET.

LONDON, AUGUST 27.

M. CALONNE, M. NECKAR.

M. NECKAR's publication, on the object of the first controversy between him and Mons. CALONNE, was read with avidity and approbation all over Europe.

Mr. Calonne promised a confutation—but instead of producing it he came forward with apologetic reasons for postponing it till the meeting of the States General—from these reasons we have translated a few extracts, which will serve to illustrate the character of M. Calonne.

He begins thus:

"The reply, (of M. Neckar) so long expected, so eagerly wished for, at length appears. It appears in the minute when the author is called upon to save the State."

Here M. Calonne breathes the spirit of a prophet: M. Neckar has saved the State.

From the dreadful crisis in which this reply appears, it acquires the force of sacred rights in directing the interest of the public."

The politics of M. Neckar deserve this character, they have infused the genuine spirit of civil liberty among the people, and the sacred rights of man are now establishing, and taking root in the soil of France.

This reply:

"It appears at a moment when the eye of the nation is fixed upon the author—when patriotic vows are offered up to heaven, imploring success to his measures, and the means conspire to ensure it."

Never did the eye of a Nation take a more proper or wise direction. The object was pointed out by the finger of Providence, and the prayers offered up to heaven were heard and granted.

"This reply appears at a time when those sentiments, which I shall retain to my latest breath, prevents me from acting in any manner prejudicial to the necessary confidence which ought to be placed in the author."

M. Calonne, when he wrote this, well knew that M. Neckar possessed the full confidence of the people; and his sentiments, when they became known, so far from prejudicing the cause, spurred on the people to a consummation of their freedom.

"Such essential confidence did exist, but was defeated by unskillfulness, which the public must condemn, and of course, the author will take advantage of every assistance that a skilful hand can draw from the experience of blunders."

The advantage drawn by M. Neckar from the blunders of the French Administration, have wiped away the oppressions that aggrieved the people. When dismissed, the people recalled him—when recalled, he accomplished their liberty! The strongest proof of essential and reciprocal confidence.

"To what evils must France feel herself exposed, should I attempt to frustrate that, which in consequence of her present circumstance, is her only means of support. Should I attempt to depreciate a measure to which the nation looks with ardent hope."

This is vanity issuing from weakness. M. Calonne here appears totally ignorant of the great and extensive plan which M. Neckar had in view for the emancipation of the French nation. A plan which the narrow views and mechanical calculations of M. Calonne can never frustrate—the erecting a Temple to Liberty on the ruins of a despotic government.

"My honor will not relinquish those truths I have supported, when a future day shall dissipate those clouds which threaten to overshadow it. The reproaches of the public are terrific, but an apprehension of their effect shall not induce me to