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[Whole No. 194.]

Discourses on Davila.—No. 25.

(Continued from No. 88 of this Gazette.)

THE Queen, perfectly informed of all these projects, and wishing to preserve, with all her power, her own liberty and that of her children, continued to play off her artifices, to balance the power of the Grandees, and to prevent the ascendancy of one party over the other, from drawing after it, the ruin of the State. Thus, that she might not be obliged to favor, one or the other party, she quitted Paris and retired to Fontainebleau. She thought, that in this residence, where she was more at liberty, than in Paris, they could not compel her to declare herself, and she still studied to support her confidence, which she had managed with both factions, whose Chiefs she amused by equivocal discourses, and ambiguous promises. The Prince of Condé, and Coligni, yielding to the superiority of the Catholic party, had quitted Paris to take arms. The Queen gave them secretly to understand, that she was disposed to join them, as soon as she should see them supported by forces sufficient to make head against their enemies. On the other hand, she protested to the King of Navarre, the Constable and the Duke of Guise, that she had no intention to separate herself from the Catholics, nor to consent to the new reform, any further than necessity and the advice of good men should oblige her, to grant to the Hugonots, a moderate liberty.

Her letters were not less ambiguous, than her words: and she did not explain herself more clearly abroad than at home. She gave continually new instructions to the ambassadors in foreign courts, and especially to Delile, who resided at Rome. Sometimes she contracted and at other times she extended their powers, and by these variations held all minds in suspense. But this conduct began to be more delicate than ever. The Chiefs of the two parties, were not less politicians than herself: During the course of her regency they had found opportunities to unravel all her artifices, and penetrate all her disguises. The King advanced in age, and that circumstance was to them a necessity to hasten the execution of their designs. His minority might give to certain measures a colour, which would no longer exist, when he would be of age; when all ought to depend upon his will, to which they could no longer oppose themselves, without the guilt of rebellion: At the present moment they could pretend, that their opposition was only to a bad administration, and the pernicious designs of those who governed under his authority.

Already the Duke of Guise, more enterprising and more alive than the others, directed, at his pleasure, the resolutions of his party. He had drawn into his sentiments the Constable and the King of Navarre, by persuading them, that if they would all resort to court, they might bring off the King and the Queen-Mother to the capital, and reduce them to the necessity of taking measures, and issuing edicts, as the Catholics should judge convenient to their interests, without exposing themselves, any longer, to the danger of being anticipated, and without permitting their enemies to seize on the King and avail themselves of his authority. The Prince of Condé had formed the same design: He had retired at first to Meaux, and from thence to his estate, at la Ferté, where he intended to assemble the main body of his forces. This resolution was the effect of the advice of the Admiral, suggested by the promises of the Queen, and by the projects of the Catholics, which had not escaped his penetration—nothing being more common in civil wars, than to discover the designs of an enemy either by the infidelity of some in the secret, or by the multitude of spies who are employed. The chiefs of the Catholic party had occasion only for their ordinary retinue to execute their design: the neighbourhood of Paris, which was wholly devoted to them, assured them of sufficient forces, and offered them favorable opportunities. On the contrary, the Prince of Condé, weaker than his enemies, and followed by few troops, was obliged to wait for the Lords of his party, and the nobility whom he had summoned from several provinces, who assembled but slowly. Thus the Catholics were before-hand, by appearing all well attended at the Court.

Their unforeseen arrival disconcerted not the Queen. Although she depended little on the success of her intrigues, she exerted herself to persuade the King of Navarre to depart from Court, with the Princes and Lords who had accompanied him. "No man is ignorant," said she to him, "that the Catholic Lords would take advantage of my weakness, and that of my son, to compel us, to regulate the State, according to their inclinations, by governing at the will of their ambition and private interests. This conduct, directly opposite to the principles of honour and of fidelity, of which they boast, is not less contrary to the tranquillity and the conservation of the State, which they pretend to have alone in view. To issue new edicts, and revoke those which have been published, is it not to put arms into the hands of the Hugonots? These sectaries, already so audacious and so ready to revolt, will complain aloud of injustice, if we annul, without reason, an edict prepared and accepted with the consent of both parties. During the minority of the King, we ought to avoid war, and the troubles inseparable from it, to the utmost of our care and power. To whom will the nation impute the disasters which will overwhelm it? Will not an eternal infamy be the portion of those who have the principal share in government? It was to avoid these dangers, and to take away all pretexts from the incendiaries, that I subscribed to the edict of January, and quitted the capital. The most effectual means of irritating the violence of an evil, which as yet is only creeping on secretly, would be to carry us into a suspected city, and repeal an edict already published. The King of Navarre, and the Catholic Princes, ought to remember, that it belongs only to the flagitious, whose fortune is uncertain or desperate, to excite civil wars. The Prince commands without contradiction. The Lords of his party, loaded with riches, dignities, employments and honours, enjoy the most flourishing fortune. Can they envy the people an imaginary and momentary liberty? Let them suffer the King to arrive at his majority, without seeing his kingdom distracted with war. Forced by necessity, I have only pardoned faults which I could not punish—nor have I granted to the Hugonots other liberty than that which they had usurped. It is only by management that we can cure the people of this phrenzy. Let the Catholic Chiefs then arm themselves with patience, for fear that, by rash remedies, they may envenom an evil which may draw after it fatal revolutions, and the most melancholly events. If however you are resolved to make any alteration in the edict, it ought only to be done by inflexible degrees, and by the favor of suitable opportunities and conjunctures. To employ violent means, would be to furnish the seditious with pretexts, which they seek with so much ardour."

The TABLET.—No. 154.

"To catch the living manners as they rise."

IT is a circumstance much to be regretted, that there has yet appeared no complete publication, under the title of, a *tour through the United States*. Perhaps no species of composition is better calculated both to amuse and instruct, than a relation of travels, written with candor and discernment. The facts communicated through such a channel impress themselves much more strongly on the mind than those which are collected through the medium of general history. In short, some of the accounts of modern travels, such as MOORE'S, BRYDONS, DUPATY'S, and several others, occupy that middle station between dry history, and gay romance, which unites the utility of the former, with the allurements of the latter. The scenery exhibited in travels may be brilliant and fascinating, at the same time, that it is correct and real. And it certainly must be of more importance to gain information of characters and incidents cotemporary with ourselves, than of those which existed in periods, remote and dissimilar from our own. The preference of current memoirs over those which have long past, is almost as great, as true history is over fabulous.

There have been published some partial memoirs, at one time and another, of travels through the United States; but as far as I can recollect, they possessed more the spirit of criticism than philosophy. It is immaterial whether the prevailing opinions and manners, in this country, compare exactly with such as the traveller has been accustomed to notice in other countries.—It is not on the score of comparison, that our merit or our happiness is to be measured. The customs and manners which are most commendable, in many parts of Europe, would be highly improper, were they adopted by the people of the United States. The traveller, therefore, who cannot discern the aptitude of our manners and habits to our situation, fills his memoirs with sarcastic criticisms, which mislead the unwary reader, and stamp on his mind a thousand false impressions.

There are two sources of delusion to which memoir-writers are exposed, and against which they should fortify themselves with the armour of philosophic candor and precision. One of the points to which I allude, is the liability of travellers to overlook those circumstances which assimilate with what they have been accustomed to observe, and to confine their remarks to objects which custom has not rendered familiar to them. By this detached mode of viewing occurrences, they exhibit only a few peculiarities in which one nation differs from another, while they are silent with respect to many important particulars in which both nations have a resemblance. Thus it happens, we are led to imagine they are much more unlike than they really are.

The other point about which a discussion prevails, is the proneness of travellers to draw general conclusions from too small a number of particular cases. This is a source of mistake, from which even the most prudent and liberal man can hardly exempt himself. Exceptions from general rules are so apt to be taken for the rules themselves, that it requires the closest observation to make the suitable distinctions. Those instances, which may be deemed exceptions to general rules, are like some prominent part of an image, which allures attention to itself, to the neglect of those parts that are less conspicuously delineated. A Frenchman, who undertook to write memoirs of his travels through America, has given a specimen of a mistake such as I am defining. He was entering the town of Boston, and observed a small wooden building, on rollers, in the middle of the street—upon enquiry, he was told that the building was put on those rollers to be removed to a considerable distance from the place whence it was taken. Had he continued in Boston two years, he probably would not have seen another instance of the removal of any building in that manner; nor perhaps is there one building in fifty in that town that could be removed, without first taking the materials to pieces. However, the Frenchman thought it a proper incident to form a page in his memoirs. He mentions it as a general circumstance, that the buildings in the town of Boston are made of such light materials, and erected upon such a model, that they can conveniently be removed from one part of

the town to another. This error of the Frenchman is not more remarkable than frequently occurs with people travelling in the United States. Some incident takes place which strikes the view of the traveller, and he records it among the characteristics of the people who are then under his notice. Being thus deluded, and being too indolent to investigate the real state of the matter, he imposes upon the reader an extraordinary instance, as something usually prevalent.

Too much applause cannot be given to the discerning and liberal traveller, who justly describes the objects that come under his view, and makes the people of one country acquainted with the existing opinions and manners of another. The chains of superstition may be thus broken, and the clouds of prejudice dispersed. Mankind hate and persecute one another, only because they are ignorant of the true character of those who excite such hatred and persecution. Let the veil of error be removed—let true philosophers develop the history of countries—and men of all nations will find, there is much more reason to love and respect each other than they have been taught to imagine.

HENRY KUHL,

No. 143, North Second-Street.

FROM an expectation that a mutual advantage would be derived by the dealers in public securities, and a person who should undertake to transact such business on commission only, has concluded to offer himself for that purpose. Being of opinion, that every requisite to convince them and others of his disinterestedness ought to be attended to on his part, he has duly made oath before the Hon. the Chief Justice of the State of Pennsylvania, that he will faithfully execute the trusts which may be reposed in him.

COPY OF THE OATH.

"I Henry Kuhl, of the city of Philadelphia, stock broker, do swear, that I will not be concerned either directly or indirectly, on my own account, in any purchases or sales of the evidences of the debt of the United States or of particular States, but will truly and faithfully execute such purchases and sales on commission only for those who may employ me: that is to say, until I shall announce in one or more of the newspapers printed at the seat of the government of the United States, my determination to the contrary."
HENRY KUHL."

Sworn at Philadelphia, February 12th, 1791, before
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The commissions he will charge for the present, are—
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N. B. All orders for purchases or sales to be in writing.
Philadelphia, February 19, 1791. (85 t. f.)

Virginia, Culpeper County, 25th Jan. 1791.

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And one other Plantation about 5 miles nearer said towns, consisting of about 1500 acres, on which is good merchant, grist, and saw mills, where nature, labour and art, have fully conspired to render them complete; a large constant stream, on which they stand, affords them water in great abundance; convenient thereto is a kiln end house, for drying corn, a bake house, a dwelling house and several other improvements mostly new; about 300 acres of the lands are in cultivation, very good in quality; the other part thin soil, but abounding with timber, is an inexhaustible source for the saw-mill.

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