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TO THE PUBLIC.

THE EDITOR proposes to continue the publication of the GAZETTE OF THE UNITED STATES, for distant circulation, after the first of December next, on the following terms, viz.

It shall be published on WEDNESDAYS and SATURDAYS, on paper of the Medium size—which is larger than the present.

The price, Three Dollars per annum, exclusive of postage.

Subscriptions to be received by the respective Post-Masters throughout the Union, or such other persons as may see proper to collect them.

The papers to be forwarded by post twice a week. No packets to contain less than six papers—and no subscriptions to be received for a less term than six months.—Payments to be constantly six months in advance.—Twenty per cent. deduction from the price of the GAZETTE, will be allowed to those who collect and forward the subscription money, free of expense, in full of all charges for their trouble in the business.

The publication will contain as usual, a variety of original essays—foreign and domestic intelligence, and a summary of the proceedings of the Legislature of the Union, &c. &c.—Attention will be paid to dispatching the papers with punctuality, and Subscribers may depend on receiving them as regularly, as the posts arrive.

June 8.

For the GAZETTE of the UNITED STATES.

THOUGHTS ON THE STATE OF AMERICAN INDIANS.

(Continued from No. 104, of this Gazette.)

No. IX.

ANOTHER principle which contributes to form the basis of civil society, and which distinguishes social from savage manners, is the establishment and management of private property. In the early stages of society, men are strangers to those distinctions of property which exist in more polished periods. Land is more connected with the nation than with individuals—the territory which belongs to the tribe, is cultivated for their use, and each receives what is sufficient for his necessities.* As their numbers increase, as their wants multiply, and society advances, the idea of appropriation is formed. They become desirous of a better provision than the promiscuous industry of many copartners affords, and by degrees withdraw their regard from the community, and direct their views more to their own interest.

At length when personal distinction arises from an accumulation of the simple productions of nature, or the acquisitions of industry, they begin to claim the property of the soil, as well as the fruits which it yields. The occupation of land ensues, and the agricultural state takes place—this forms a new era in the progress of manners, and constitutes the true foundation of civil society. From this source all improvements in the various departments of social life directly or indirectly flow. It gradually changes the habits and manners of a people, and introduces means of eminence and respectability unknown in the savage state—it confirms and improves the idea of private property—it necessarily attaches them to a particular spot—leads to a division of lands, to industry in cultivating and enriching them—to the construction of proper habitations for the accommodation of their families, and to the arts subservient to these purposes. Agriculture also gives birth to arts, to commerce and to laws—prevents famine—accelerates population—creates many new attachments—opens new sources of enjoyment, and strengthens the bands which connect and support the diversified interests of society. The surplus produce of the farmer creates a fund for the maintenance of artificers, whose joint skill and industry are necessary to give perfection and extent to their productions. These again return the farmer his raw materials converted into some more agreeable and useful form. As arts multiply, the practice of exchanging one commodity for another takes place—and innumerable ties are formed which cement the interests and affections of men—enforce the obligations to mutual kindness and assistance, and sweeten the charms of social intercourse.

Agriculture also creates a necessity for new laws—the partition of lands—the tenure of property—the forms of contracts—the regulation of succession of transmission and donation all require known and established rules. The use and value of metals, and especially that species which serves as the standard of

the exchangeable value of all other commodities, must be particularly specified by the laws of the society. The penalty incurred by the infraction of these, should be delineated, and an authority appointed to see it duly executed.

Agriculture further facilitates the means of providing subsistence—encourages marriage, by the prospect of an easy and secure support—lessens the danger of famine, and multiplies the number and augments the happiness of the human species.

It gives rise to various employments, which kindle the sparks of emulation, rouse the latent powers of genius, excite invention, and contribute to enlarge the bounds and multiply the objects of human knowledge. Thus arts, sciences, laws and government, all ultimately flow from the establishment of private property and the cultivation of the soil.

This representation is perfectly coincident with the experience of past ages. The ancient history of Greece, of China, of Germany, of Peru, and of some other countries, informs us that land in the infancy of those nations was common, and ascribes the division of it to their first legislators.† So highly did those nations estimate the establishment of agriculture, that the most of them paid religious homage to those sovereigns and legislators who had been the instruments of introducing them. To facilitate the reception and improvement of this art, they were careful to furnish the means by which it might be easily and successfully cultivated. For this purpose, they rendered it unlawful to destroy those animals which are usually employed in the cultivation of the earth. Thus the laws of Egypt, of India, and in late times of some of the French islands in America, prohibited the killing of oxen, the animals generally employed in agriculture, on penalty of death.—On the same principle it is highly probable that other laws were made to accelerate the improvement of agriculture.

If, as has been attempted to be shewn, agriculture lies at the foundation of civil society, and is the source from which all social improvements are derived—another important step to be taken in bringing the savages to the knowledge and enjoyment of social life is to give them the idea of personal appropriation—a fixed residence and the cultivation of the soil; this will be more easy than may be at first apprehended—they are at present in a state bordering upon it.—Each nation has a certain territory which it claims as its own—the limits of which are well known, and the encroachments on which by other tribes is a fruitful source of discord among them. The transition is easy from the idea of national to that of individual appropriation.

The Germans and Peruvians exhibit the progress of this change in the habits of a nation.

This progress also may be more readily effected among the Indians than in nations left wholly to the impulse of their own genius.

The instruments of agriculture—the use of domestic animals and the use of metals which greatly facilitate the progress of this art may be furnished them. Extraordinary encouragement may be given them to excite them to industry and a perpetual stimulus afforded by the prospect of exchanging the produce of their labour for articles which they may deem more desirable.

* The Egyptians to Osiris—the Greeks to Ceres—the Romans to Saturn—the Chinese to Yao—and the Peruvians to Manco Capac. Coquet, vol. 1. p. 34.

For the GAZETTE of the UNITED STATES.

THE incendiaries who are every where blowing the sparks of dissention into a flame, have lately outraged decency & the sentiments of our nation, and indeed of the civilized world so far as to insult the President of the United States. The style of animadversion on his conduct and character has been as insolent as it is insidious; nothing can shew more manifestly the profligacy of their principles and their violent spirits.—It shews that the party who hate the constitution and the supporters of public order are held by no ties of sentiment or duty, and mean to keep within no bounds which the moderation of other men has supposed even the most violent would not step over. Men who have any principle of virtue will honor it in others. Yet the pretence is that the honor done to one man is a distinction inconsistent with the temper of a republican government. This is an impudent libel on republicanism which in reality tends to give energy to the human character; which calls into action the most sublime virtue, as well as the sentiment which is to cherish and reward it. Does Syracuse stand dishonored in history for her gratitude to her deliverer the virtuous Dion? Was Corinth enslaved by Timoleon, or was the confidence of Thebes in her Washington condemned by her heroes and philosophers? Those cities are in the dust; but the fame of these three great men will never die.

These scribblers are jewellers in morals as well as politics, they propose to degrade ex-

cellence because while they envy, they pretend to fear it.

This forth doctrine is the metaphysics of baseness—it puts out the light of reason and quenches the flame of sentiment in the heart. The admiration of an hero of whom our country is proud, the gratitude we feel for him who saved it, are pretended to be dangerous. The people are impudently told to smother their best and long accustomed feelings and to yield in future to the meanest and most cowardly of their prejudices—their envy and fear of merit, because it is pre eminent. Thus it is that our scribblers mistake the sentiments of the American people by supposing them in their addresses already degraded to their own level. They tell us that Kings are monsters, thrones and sceptres are glittering baubles. They corrupt virtue but can neither distinguish nor reward it. It happens however that the man famed for his illustrious services and personal merit, that ask'd no recompence yet enjoys the highest, is treated rudely, as if the gratitude of a free people was an offering to ambition or was extorted by usurpation and violence. Birth and power cannot confer true distinction—nor according to those writers, can virtue and merit. There are men whom the virtue of others dishonors—who find reproach in good example—who sicken in its splendor like the tempter when he first came from darkness into the sunshine; like him they deceive in order to debate; like him they give insidious counsel to trample on the primary laws of our social order—and like him they incite an happy race of men to shake off their most amiable duties as fetters, to renounce their best rights in society at bribes for obeying it, and to barter a second paradise for an apple. CIVIS.

Foreign Intelligence.

CREUTZNACH, (Ger.) March 30.

ON the first intelligence of the approach of the Prussian troops, the French marched to meet them at the distance of half a league from this place. Generals Custine and Wimpfen had their head quarters at Breitenheim; Gen. Neuwinger had his at Bingen, and those of Gen. Howgard were at this place. For the two last days he had established himself at Heddelsheim.

The left wing of the Prussian army first attacked the entrenchments of Waldalgesheim, from which the French were driven, after making a very obstinate resistance. The Prussian cavalry pursued the fugitives beyond Bingen, and cut to pieces a great number of them with their sabres.

During this time another body of Prussian troops attacked the batteries on the mount of St. Roch, which were also carried; the French left there a great many killed & wounded with all their artillery. The victors took some hundreds of prisoners, among whom is the famous General Neuwinger.

Whilst this was passing on the left wing of the Prussians, the right advanced against this place, and met with great resistance by the way, but the French were at length obliged to fall back, and to save themselves by flying during the night of the 28th. The hussars of Eben pursued them through this town, as far as Alzey, where they cut to pieces a part of them, and took a great number prisoners.

As the Prussians have blocked up on one side all the passages to Mentz, and are on the other in pursuit of the enemy, the position of the latter is extremely critical. This day a continual cannonade has been heard towards Mentz; about one thousand three hundred French prisoners have been already conducted to Bingen.

FRANCKFORT, April 1.

General Neuwinger who has been taken prisoner by the Prussians, was brought hither this day with some more Frenchmen, and several pieces of artillery. The General has five wounds, none of which, however, are dangerous.

This day the garrison of Coblenz made a sortie, but were repulsed with loss.

MANHEIM, March 31.

No mails are arrived here except the post from Frankfort. This is the result of the invasion of the Prussians on that side, and the Austrians on this side of the Rhine.—The former have this day taken possession of Worms; the latter gather in our neighbourhood, and are on the point of passing the Rhine. The French deem it in vain to make any stand at all against the formidable forces ready to pour in upon them from all quarters. They have evacuated the whole district of Worms from that city hither. Previous to their retreat, they set fire to their magazines at Neuhausen & Frankenthal. At Worms they destroyed their magazines, and threw several pieces of cannon into the Rhine.

Thus the French have lost all their German conquests except Mentz, which, on account of the weakness of its garrison, will soon be forced to surrender.

This evening intelligence has been received here that General Wurmsler crossed the Rhine at Ketsch, with 7000 men, and is already at Spire. The French have vanished every where, and the Prussian parties make incursions as far as Oggersheim.

APRIL 2.

The Prussian head quarters are at Guntersblum.

A brisk engagement took place in that quarter a few days ago, when the French had a great number of men killed, and between 8 and 1200 made prisoners.

His Prussian Majesty is expected to reach Worms to-morrow.

General Neuwinger is conveyed to Magdebourg; on his way he was insulted by the populace, on account of the severe contributions which he had exacted.

BRUSSELS, April 4.

This morning the French state prisoners, sent hither by the Prince of Saxe Cobourg, are expected to arrive, and will immediately continue their route to the citadel of Antwerp.

The French army which was to have made the conquest of Holland, still continues in virtue of its capitulation with the Austrian generals to file off through Dendermonde, with all their baggage & ammunition.

HAGUE, April 6.

On Wednesday the 3d inst. the states general received from the hereditary Prince of Orange, commandant general of the troops of the republic on the frontier, the following letter:

“High and mighty Lords,
“I have the honor to inform your Mightinesses, that this night I received a courier from the prince of Saxe Cobourg, bearing two letters from Gen. Dumourier, addressed to the respective commandants of Brada and Gertruydenberg, charging them to surrender those fortresses on the terms of an honorable capitulation. I immediately caused the letters to be delivered to the said commandants, and made such use of them in support of the negotiations commenced, that I have no doubt of being soon in possession of both these places.

“I have the honour to congratulate your high Mightinesses on this success, so decisive for the safety of the republic, not doubting but your high mightinesses will learn with satisfaction, that the territory of the republic will very soon be clear

* Tacitus de Mor. Ger. c. 26.—Cesar de Bel Gal. lib. 4. c. 1.—History of American Indians, by Adair. Carter de. p. 126. 157.—Commentaries of Peru, book 5. c. 1. 3.