

up as occasion might require a number of which were found on the way by which he passed when he was taken to the justice to be examined.

For the Gazette of the United States.

MR. FENNO,

The following extract of a letter from a friend in Virginia so well deserves attention at this time, that I persuade myself you and every other impartial printer, who incline to encourage good order and respect for the laws, will give it a place in the Gazette.

WHEN I read Mr. Jefferson's Notes on Virginia, the following passages made a deep impression on my mind. I confess my opinion was not entirely with him then, but subsequent events have proved he was right. He says—

"Here I will beg leave to propose a doubt, the present desire of Americans is to produce rapid population by as great importation of foreigners as possible. But is this founded in good policy? Are there no inconveniences to be thrown into the scale against the advantage expected from a multiplication of numbers by the importation of foreigners? It is for the happiness of these United States to harmonize as much as possible in matters which they must of necessity transact together. Civil governments being the sole object of forming societies, its administration must be conducted by common consent. Every species of government has its specific principles. Ours perhaps are more peculiar than those of any other in the universe. It is a composition of the first principles of the English constitution, with others derived from natural right and natural reason. To these nothing can be more opposed than the maxims of absolute monarchies. Yet from such we are to expect the greatest numbers of emigrants. They will bring with them the principles of the government they leave, imbibed in their early youth, and it will be in vain to attempt to change them off, it will be in exchange for unbounded licentiousness; passing, as is usual, from one extreme to another. It would be a miracle were they to stop precisely at the point of temperate liberty. These principles with their language, they will transmit to their children. In proportion with their numbers they will share with us the legislation. They will infuse into it their spirit, warp and bias its direction, and render it a heterogeneous, incoherent distracted mass."

How strikingly verified is the prediction of this enlightened statesman. Posterity will with difficulty believe that at a time when we are in the enjoyment of the freest constitution on earth—a government of our own choice—possessive of independence and every other requisite to make a people flourishing and happy—the admiration—the envy of the old world—lost at such a period one (A. B. C. D. E. F. G. H. I. J. K. L. M. N. O. P. Q. R. S. T. U. V. W. X. Y. Z.) a foreigner, who came a few years since to America, literally to seek his fortune, should be able to intrigue himself into a seat in the national Legislature, and obtain such countenance and support as at length to acquire influence enough, not only to warp many of the citizens, but actually to instigate a lawless banditti to burn houses, destroy property, murder or banish every citizen in their neighborhood who they think proper to mark out as objects of their vengeance. God knows how far this spirit may be carried, or how soon we may have the like distresses among us. Indefatigable pains are taken by some violent hot-headed people to inflame the minds of my neighbors; many of whom, though well disposed, have not the means to be informed of the true and real situation of public affairs, and are too apt to be led away by the misrepresentations of designing people, who, having nothing to lose, but something to hope for in a scramble, strain every nerve to prejudice and poison the minds of the citizens and throw the country into confusion. Surely it is high time for all temperate people to consider with that seriousness which the importance of the crisis demands, what are to be the consequences of that confusion which these hot-headed violent people are hurrying us into. Once deprived of the protection of the laws, farewell liberty, happiness, and every thing that is dear to freemen.—We shall then, when too late for us to prevent it, experience the same horrid scenes of massacre and devastation which have for some time past, and still continue to desolate the West-Indies—Where one day the whites and another the blacks prevail, and alternately murder and destroy all before them. These are the sure and certain consequences of anarchy—this the blessed prospect we have in view from abusing and nullifying government; from encouraging, instead of discountenancing licentiousness.

For the Gazette of the United States.

MR. FENNO,

IT has become fashionable to call this, the Age of Reason; and a pamphlet has lately been thrown on the public, as a ballad is laid in the streets, without a typographic dad or mam to claim the brag, with an intention to justify the title. I have perused the essay, and will take the liberty to communicate some thoughts, which the editors are at liberty to make use of as a preface to a second edition.

The Age of Reason! What then have been the ages of our ancestors?—the age of Newton, Boyle, Clarke, Locke, and Addison, men of the first rate talents?—was theirs the age of ignorance;—and has the dawn of reason been reserved for the rag end of the 18th century?—This reason, then, which here-

fore was esteemed a distinguishing attribute of humanity in all ages, must be a species of revelation, communicated occasionally.

But before we give full credence to the novelty, it is not amiss to make some enquiry into the character of the author, as well as the merit of the subject.—To begin with the first.—The messenger has some shades in his history, which, when exhibited in one view, render the purity of his intentions a little questionable. The busy tongue of fame reports that, not many years ago, he was an humble satellite of royalty, to wit, a petty officer of the British customs;—and that, in consequence of failing to make up his accounts clearly, he came over to America, for the benefit of enjoying a freer air, than there was any chance of doing in the fleet or newgate. Here he commenced author and patriot;—and to compensate him for his writings in favor of Independence, which caught the public favor as surprisingly, as he became a patriot, he was made a clerk to the committee of foreign affairs. Not discharging his trust to the satisfaction of his superiors, he was once more reduced to a private station.

It is likewise reported that, during his stay in Philadelphia, he spent great part of his time in beer-houses, and in the company of a fair American, who, in due season, honored our author as the father of one of her children.—Whether he had any qualms about patronizing this fruit of his unlawful amour, or whether he had any reason for them, we leave with the parties;—but, in a short time, he thought proper to revisit the country of his fore-fathers. There, if the pen of history be faithful, he spent his time in projecting schemes of various kinds, writing against kings, and in reeling from one porter-shop to another.—It appears moreover that the people of England did not relish his opinions, quite as well as he expected; and that for one of his last pieces, as destructive to the peace and happiness of their country, they threatened our knight errant with such serious vengeance that, to avoid a trip to Botany-bay, he fled over to France, as a less dangerous voyage.

To the last mentioned country fame went before him:—and, strange as it may sound, he was no sooner landed, than he was called to the seat of a legislator, in the grand council of the nation; for which he was certainly less fit than Sancho Panza was to be governor of an island:—but continuing steady in his hatred of kings, he soon transfused such a portion of his anti-royal principles into the heads of his hearers, that Louis the 16th was considered as a useless member of the body politic, was denounced, and the guillotine very speedily closed the process. But, when within sight of port, fortune again played the jilt with our author. The Committee of Safety, whose power is more absolute than that of all the Louises put together, suspecting our political Don Quixotte of plotting against the unity and indivisibility of their power; and as their proceedings are conducted with remarkable dispatch, not being clogged with an HABEAS CORPUS act, he was quickly introduced to the castle of Luxemburg:—where, as a compliment to his claim of citizenship in the United States, he has been indulged with a lengthy respite from the scaffold, and as much beer and French brandy as he can swallow. Here Thomas caught his inspiration—and this is not so surprising, as it would be to hear of his escape. Let us try to account for it. To destroy the christian religion in United America, which inculcates submission to the laws, and respect for its ministers, might be considered by the Republic of France, in which this religion is formally abolished, as such an essential service to their cause, as to entitle the author to a pardon and his liberty: and this idea infused into the head of a poor culprit, constantly haunted with the dreadful image of the guillotine, must certainly be a powerful spur to invention, and aided by the ethereal particles of aquavitz, produce an uncommon effect.

All these things being put together, I confess my faith in the author is a little staggered.—But, on the other hand, when we come to consider that this is an age of most wonderful events, whether it be the age of reason or not, and that Thomas has touched the right key of popular frenzy, which always delights in the removal of restraints, he may, notwithstanding the drawbacks I have mentioned, be as successful in America in overturning the altars of the Deity, as he has been here and elsewhere, in shaking the thrones of kings. Should it turn out so, it behoves the people of America, to whose special information he has dedicated his lucubrations, to provide some new system for their general accommodation, before they total-

ly discard the ancient one if their fore-fathers. It would not be prudent to leave so serious a matter to the fortuitous jumble of the times; or implicitly to adopt the religion of any other country.

In the first place then, all jesting apart, I would advise, and I have as good a right to advise as any culprit in any of the battles of France I say, I recommend it to my fellow-citizens of the United States, to give the old religion a fair examination, and compare it with the new one proposed. Church history informs us that the former made its way into the world, against the combined opposition of kings, priests and nobles, and contains nothing adverse to a republican government; that, while it remained unmixt with human inventions, the professors were distinguished by purity of manners, universal benevolence, and all the virtues which are necessary to make a commonwealth happy and flourishing. At this day, even, after so much hath been done to tarnish its beauty, and pervert its design, the best and greatest men are sincere devotees of this religion. Glory to the Universal Ruler, and peace and good-will among men are its prominent features.

Can we say as much for the French philosophy?—Or what can we say for it? If we recur to the writings of the teachers of this sect, which differs from all the sects of ancient Greece, we shall discover such sophistry of argument, such obscurity of images, and such labyrinthine of scepticism, that a shrewd and candid inquirer shrinks with disgust from the perusal. If we consider the solemn mummery, which Robespierre has instituted as the public worship of the Supreme, it is such a hotch-potch of barbarian ferocity, and ridiculous frivolity as none but such a head could invent, or such a heart tolerate, as a serious act of religion. Lastly, if we examine the tree by its fruits:—if we look into the present history of this people, and amidst the storm that surrounds and pervades them, catch, if possible, an idea of Reason and Justice, which they have elevated to the rank of inferior deities, we shall be more than ever perplexed. These entities, or non-entities, call them what you please, are so local, indefinite and convertible, that what is adored as celestial in one place, is execrated and abhorred as most infernal in another. The temple of Reason at Paris is built on the unmerciful destruction of all those, who dare to exercise the reasoning faculty, by dissenting from the Committee of Safety, or in the smallest degree to oppose those her tremendous Priests. The altars of justice are furnished by rapine and plunder; smoke day and night with hecatombs of human sacrifices, and perpetually resounding with the groans of widows and orphans.

In the French islands, where the *vous avez raison* is quite as rational as at Paris, these same reason and justice are inculcated by burning and facking of towns, destroying of plantations, and plunging the bayonet in the breasts of many women; and child.

It is but a few years since attempts have been made to introduce these novelties into the United States of America; but wherever they have been embraced, they have in a degree, produced the same deleterious effects as elsewhere: they have poisoned the minds of her citizens, and impelled them to acts of rebellion against the laws of their country—of ingratitude and defamation against her most faithful and tried servants. Have such times, then, any title to be distinguished by the age of reason? Or shall we exchange the mild, beneficent religion of our forefathers for this turbulent enthusiasm, which, in its infancy, a period when all religious systems are the purest, creates such horror in the minds of those, who have escaped the infection. I would sooner fetch my creed from the theology of Hesiod, or the Metamorphosis of Ovid. Give me rather the divinites of Rome and Athens; as less dangerous to the peace and happiness of the world.

Foreign Intelligence.

BRUGES, June 17.

According to accounts received at Tournay, the loss of the allies in the engagement on the 16th on the Sambre, was estimated at 2,500 men.

LISBON, June 1.

It was currently reported yesterday evening, that the unfortunate Queen had had a paralytic stroke, and from the effects of which it was scarcely expected that she could recover.

A small squadron of ships of war is preparing, to convoy a fleet of transports, on board of which are some thousand troops for Roussillon.

Our recent accounts from the scene of action, are more gratifying than usual. I understand, however, that it is the intention of the Spanish armies to act in future on the defensive only.—They have no object to look to which they can hope to accomplish, and by offensive measures they only attack swarms of enemies. I do not believe that they are sufficiently zealous in the cause, to hazard even probable loss to make a diversion in favor of any other power.

The Spanish fleet is still in port; they are jealous of the English. The business of Toulon sowed the seeds of much dissention, which I am persuaded, has grown to such extent, at least on their part, that their present engagements with regard to France, alone restrain them from evincing their enmity.

LEGHORN, June 1.

A squadron of 20 large men of war has just made its appearance off the Gulf of Spezzia: we are ignorant to what nation it belongs. An English vessel which entered this port, received immediate orders to put to sea again, unless the commander should be provided with the news of the blockade of Genoa being raised. The Captain making no reply, the Commandant ordered the fortress to fire on the vessel, which, after receiving some damage, was obliged to put to sea. The French are demolishing the fort of Saorgio, and propose to pursue the same plan with respect to all the other fortresses on the Italian side of the frontier.

MADRID, May 11.

Our army in Roussillon, having sustained considerable losses, the King has called on the whole nation for a levy of 80,000 men, to be taken by lot; and the recruits are already beginning to assemble. In the action of the 21st of April, the troops which suffered the most were the Wallon guards, the regiment of Guadalaxar, and two squadrons of cavalry. Six field officers, among them the Marquis la Torres, who had a yearly income of 60,000 ducats, were killed.

On the side of Navarre, our troops have made an irruption into the French territory, and defeated the enemy, whose villages they burned, and carried off a considerable booty.

At Barcelona and Carthagen, 40 ships of the line are fitting. They are to carry troops to be embarked on a secret expedition. The German Emperor Frederick III. caused the five vowels, A, E, I, O, U, to be engraved by way of inscription on the frontispiece of the Imperial Palace at Vienna. They signify Austria, Imperator orbis Univerſo, that is, "The destiny of the House of Austria is to command the whole world."

The Count de Provence (Monſieur) arrived at Verona on the 25th of May. M. Mocenigo, the Governor, made an offer of his carriage, and every thing else he should have occasion for, during his residence there. This unfortunate Prince replied—"That he would be better suited by a little apartment in some obscure corner of the city, being unequal to the expense of an inn—because he had no money."

LONDON, June 23.

At the close of the present campaign, the expenditures of the war will amount to full Thirty Millions sterling.

It is a circumstance not generally known, that the Brunswick had 26 of her guns dismounted in the action of the 1st of June.

One of the cutler's shops at the west end of the town, has a board, on which is inscribed, "new invented spurs for ladies." Several well informed gentlemen of our acquaintance, assure us, that the ladies of the present day have more occasion for new-invented Bridles.

Fashion, which loves to deal in extremes, has now quitted the fantastic frippery of France for the drapery of the Turk: and the tempting dresses of the Seraglio succeed the fantastic wantonness of the Parisian Belles.

Died, at Edinburgh, in the 30th year of her marriage, and 7 months pregnant of her 26th child, Mrs Alice Lauranſon D' Aſh, aged 45 years.

Legislature of Pennsylvania.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,

September 13.

The bill for the suppression of the western insurrection was read a third time, and passed, Yeas 45 Nays 18.

Mr. McLene asked leave to enter a protest on this vote at a future day. It was objected, that the house should have an opportunity first of judging whether it contained no improper reflections. The question on granting leave was postponed.

The petition of the Schuylkill canal company, praying, that the unappropriated money in the Treasury be vested in shares of said company, or that a sum be lent them at an interest of six per cent, was read a second time, and on motion referred to the consideration of the next legislature.

The bill to allow certain freemen of Northumberland to vote at the next

election in the town of Southbury passed to a third reading.

Mr. Swinwick of the committee appointed, reported a bill for the better preservation of the health of the city. Read and made the order of the day for Wednesday.

The land office bill was taken up, in committee of the whole, Mr. Erwin in the chair.

The first section provides, that after the day of the land office shall be shut against all applications for lands, except where a settlement has been made; provided, nothing in the act shall injure persons holding lands by virtue of improvements agreeably to the act '92. The committee agreed this section.

The second section provides, that after the passing of the act, all the applications in the land office on which the payments due are not made, shall be considered as void. It was moved to make an amendment to this section, giving a limited time for making the payments due on those applications. In favor of this motion it was principally urged, that the applications had been lodged under the expectation of credit, and that to declare that credit at an end, without warning, was unjust; also, that those applicants who were at the seat of government would have an advantage over those at a distance, by making good their payments; and, that monied men might, before the law was finally past, make applications for lands already applied for by persons who had at much trouble acquired a knowledge of them, but who might on the spur of the moment not be able to pay the purchase money.

Against the motion it was urged that when the legislature passed the law relative to the land office during the last session, it was intended, that it should then at a certain limited time exclude the delinquents; but by a construction put upon the law by the attorney general it was made to extend to only a portion of the applications, and that that intention; which was well known, but which had been defeated by an improper wording of the law, must have been a sufficient warning to the delinquents.

That the delinquents were chiefly speculators who deserved no indulgence from the state; that it was a doubt whether the state had land enough to dispose of to satisfy all the applications in the land office, and that if they should prove not to have enough, it would be unjust that those who had paid and those who had not, should be put upon an equal footing.

The motion was finally rejected by a considerable majority, and the section agreed to.

The committee then rose, reported progress and obtained leave to sit again on Monday.

Adjourned.

PHILADELPHIA,

SEPTEMBER 15.

A correspondent observes, that the speech lately made by a certain Demagogue, in a certain respectable Assembly, must be regarded as a proof of the difficulty of correcting bad habits: For in the act of giving his assent to measures so necessary to the preservation of his own property, he could not help lamenting, that a member had been prevented from speaking out, or in other words from dwelling upon the identical false and mischievous Topics, which have been so industriously used to mislead the people in the western counties. It is much to be wished, that the unhappy catastrophe which this kind of speaking out is likely to produce, may convince the herd of popularity seekers, of the truth of the old adage, *That it is much easier to raise the Devil than to lay him.*

Extract of a letter from the Eastward.

"Of all the anarchical and antifederal writers, none miss their aim more than those who censure the President; for so great is the affection of the people towards him, and their confidence in him, that they at once conclude such writers are knaves or fools. Indeed the confidence of the people must be well founded, or there never can be confidence in any ruler; for if a long life of virtuous patriotism, devoted to every hazard to his country, and filled with successful exertions for the public good will not inspire affection and confidence *nothing will.* The PEOPLE do love and confide in him, and it is an high evidence of their good understanding.—But who are the men who censure the President? a few disappointed foreigners—and a very few others, who want promotion, and are unworthy of it."

The subscription opened, for the support of the wives and families of those persons who may engage in the service of their country, against the insurgents, whose circumstances in life render such support necessary, is filling fast.

The Philadelphia Light Horse—the Second Volunteer Troop of Light Horse