

From the Columbian Centinel.

MR. RUSSELL,

What would be the feelings of the citizens of Bolton, were they to see in a London paper the following paragraph—“IMPORTANT—IF TRUE?”—We learn from Bolton, that a fire broke out in that town, on the morning of the 30th July, when seven large manufactories of cordage and near one hundred houses and buildings, with immense quantities of stores and furniture were destroyed!—“Ca ira?”—Would they not think that the animal who could thus exult over human misery, was much fitter to toil on a West-India plantation, than to dwell in civilized society?

HUMANITAS.

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MR. RUSSELL,

What is the use and advantage of clubs?—If there be none, honest men whom candor will not deny to be found among the clubbists, should renounce them. For honest men will see and confess, that if there be no use, there is much abuse resulting from them.

The pretence (it is not argument) is, that by meeting together, political information is collected and diffused. This supposes that a club has means of information, which the people in general have not. How do they get it, and when? Before they meet in club, or at club? If before, why should not the information be published, and then the whole people will be a club to weigh and examine it.—How do they get intelligence, in consequence of club connections? Is a man the wiser for joining a club, all of whom individually are destitute of information? No, the pretence is ridiculous. A few spouters, fame says, declaim against government, and take the Chronicle, which they had before filled with their own rant, as authority. Is this information, or misinformation? Ignorance may thus be made too angry to be enlightened, and prejudice may be doubly a tyrant over the mind; but information is to be obtained in no such way.

To establish facts, we usually enquire for witnesses who know them, and who are honest and impartial. The clubbists are not such; they are chiefly composed of men who from the first were enemies of the Constitution. Their hatred of it may suggest to them numberless opinions, all tending to make others hate it; but what peculiar advantage do they possess over others for knowing facts?—None. Perhaps their correspondence with the insurgent societies, in other states, may enlighten them. And are the lies, many of them incredibly gross and stupid, which were made by dozens during the late most interesting session of Congress, to be called information.

But why should they assemble in the club, to get *frigid* intelligence, which is already in the hands of the public? If they carry on more secret cabals and intrigues, such as they are obliged to conceal; why should not CATALINE brag as well of his patriotism as they? They meet in the night, and their doings are wrapped in more secrecy than in darkness. An honest inquisitiveness for political truth has no need of skulking and disguise. O guilt, what miserable excuses do you not set up! But what occasion for clubs to collect and examine all the documents for a sound judgment. Men should judge for themselves and not pin their faith on the vote of a club, as if a parcel of men could throw their real private opinions into a common flock, and think as the major vote may direct.

If the citizens think proper to meet and consult, what better club can be desired than a town meeting, where all is day light, and the law has regulated the proceedings in such a manner as to secure to every man his fair and equal privilege. To talk of clubs in New-England, is worse than nonsense.

It is often said that all men have a right to meet and consult in a peaceable orderly way. But is this the orderly way in our country, where better legal and known ways are in use.

Let some thin pretext should be seized, it is to be observed by way of explanation that it is not the right but the tendency of clubs that is in discussion. Suppose, for arguments sake the strict right to meet in clubs is admitted; yet it is not the existence, but the abuse of the right that is urged. An abuse that *must* flow in such a country from such a source.

These clubs affect to be popular societies. They are not so. They are aristocratic. For what is their power and influence but usurped and exercised in derogation and sometimes in total destruction of the equal rights of others.

When we talk of a republican government, what do we mean by it? A government derived from the people and vested in their representatives, either directly or indirectly. In this way, the people govern, and a man would be thought to want common sense who should say the people could govern in any other way. Yet our clubbists pretend to be advocates for the power of the people; when they openly affect to check, guide and influence public measures in some other way, a way in which neither the people nor their representatives can have any agency. Is this most remarkable for impudence or inconsistency?

Every body knows that the Insurgent Clubs are used not for their information but their political influence. The real intention of their formation is best explained by their proceedings. And who is weak enough to suppose they were made for any thing but the dirty uses they are put to. Is this political influence of Clubs, then popular, or aristocratic?

Perhaps if a society of men were divided into bodies called Clubs, and those so regulated as to act equally and fairly, order might be preserved. But that would be a dispute about names. Our towns are virtually such sections of the society. It is easy to see however that if part only of the citizens are formed into Clubs, and the others remain unassociated, the Clubs though a minority would have an over-ruling influence—and that excess of influence would be unfair, and utterly repugnant to the nature of an equal republican government. By thus combining together, a few may ever perplex and mislead the many. In a word, it is an aristocratical partnership, the object of which is to increase the power of the associates and to annihilate or overcome the power of their competitors.

A body of nobles are not to be distinguished from a Club, as it respects the nature of their power. They like the Club claim more than an equal share of power. The impudence of the popular pretensions of these societies is therefore no less to be wondered at, than the tendency of their schemes is to be dreaded. We see, although it is thro' a glass darkly, who they are and what they do—the most credulous, the most worthless, and the most restless men in society glide through the gloom of night to a place of meeting. There we may believe from what we know, the nature of those transactions which are hid from us. Is it, or is it not known to the public, that they propagate and probably fabricate calumnies against men and measures, that they agree on town committees, drafts of resolutions, and the candidates for elections, that they cabal to carry points; and that they so carry them. Are the country people the better secured in their privileges, when they find their votes are guided or rendered null and void by the dark cabals in the cities?

Another pretence is, that Clubs check the tendency of the constituted authorities to excess and abuse; and that they virtually soften the rigor of government, and increase the popular influence upon it. But though it may be true that they augment the power of party over the laws and the legislators, they diminish and obstruct that of the whole people; a point that has been illustrated already. The former part of the plea for Clubs is no less sophistical and false.

We agree that we will do with as little government as we can. The less, the better, but still there must be enough to secure peace, liberty and safety. Now a body of orderly, moral, well principled citizens will do with very little government. The discontented and licentious may wish to disturb the rights of the others; but if they are not embodied into clubs, the orderly good citizens will in a great measure take upon them the office of the laws, and by watching, checking and keeping in awe those who are inclined to be unjust and turbulent, they will prevent offences and tumults. New-England has been long in that happy state; during the first years of the war, good habits and principles took the place of good laws, which then we had not.

Suppose, the turbulent men instead of being separate and dispersed, were embodied into armies, or clubs, which are no less active means of disturbance. Is it not plain that all good citizens would call out for more law and government to protect them.—they would say, we are not embodied, as the stirrers up of sedition are. We must have the controlling power of our own laws strong enough actually to control these strong combinations.

Thus our consistent clubbists, affect to make government less by augmenting the necessity for more. Thus it is, that strong parties are always aiming to make

government weaker than themselves. For when the constituted authorities are weak, the usurped authorities of clubs and combinations are strong. The government becomes their tool, and instead of being the People's, it is the club's. Thus the few bring it about to rule the many. Experience speaks in another country, where she has written her lesson in blood.

When a party can possess itself of the government, it will not spare the governed. It is their own power which they would not have resisted or curtailed. The way to introduce despotism, is by disorganizing government; and of all ways of effecting this, clubs are the most efficient. They can use such a language of liberty, while they act the part of the tyrant, that no conspirator against equal right, will in future fit up without their aid. They are what the people never can be, precisely what the enemies of the people would chafe to be.

Foreign Intelligence.

LONDON.

USE OF BALLOONS.

A letter from an officer in the Duke of York's army, dated Merchem, on the way to Antwerp, July 7, has the following curious passage. Speaking of the surrender of Charleroi, he says, “What rendered this event more extraordinary was, that the French directed all their operations according to the information they received by the means of Balloons suspended in the air, at a certain height. From that elevation, all the motions of the allied army were seen and made known to the French Generals by Engineers who went up in the Balloons; and who, according to the declaration of deserters, sketched the position of their enemy, and communicated the paper on which their sketches were made, and other notices given of the force and movements of Prince Cobourg's army. Owing to this, all the amazing efforts of the allies miscarried, because every thing was foreseen and provided against.”

UNITED STATES.

ELIZABETH TOWN, October 2.

Every American who contemplates the distresses of Europe, cannot but derive singular pleasure and satisfaction from the scenes of his own country. Here are observed the blessed effects of religion, peace, and order. There, the deadly consequences that flow from infidelity, war and anarchy. Here, the law reigns supreme, we obey no man, but as he is the organ that declares the will of the whole, previously settled and promulgated by the people, in their just and equal representation. There, tyranny and despotism, with all the instruments of death and torture, are sacrificing millions to the caprice of lawless will. Here, the arts flourish, and the land well cultivated produces an abundant supply for man and beast; improvements in agriculture are constantly meeting the wants of an increased population of cities, and far distant from these we behold the desert, and the wilderness blooming as the rose. There the skilful artificer and the industrious husbandman are dragged from the plough and the plough to the dreadful scenes of war and destruction—whole cities burnt and prostrated with the ground, and their peaceful inhabitants suffering death individually, or in hundreds from the ax, or the ball, as shall happen to suit the capricious cruelty of their tyrants.

The soil uncultivated no longer yields her increase, and famine joins with tyranny and anarchy to desolate the land and murder its inhabitants—What will be the end of these things in the old world is beyond the ken of human sagacity. Religion and humanity oblige all who feel their influence, to pray that anarchy and despotism may soon cease—that peace and order may be restored to a bleeding and distracted world.

NEW-HAVEN, October 1.

New-Haven, Sept. 30, 1794. The Committee, to make weekly reports of deaths and the state of the sickness in this City, certify that the following persons have died since their last report, viz.

24th. Mr. G. Cook, aged 45 years putrid fever, Amos Morrison 19 do.
A son of Mr. H. Huggins, 2 do.
25th. Mr. J. Townsend, Jun. 60 consumption.
56th. Stephen Herrick, 19 putrid fever.
Deering Phipps, 12 do.
27th. Mr. Abigail Perit 81 do.
Mrs. —Albro 49 do.
Miss Sarah Pratt 35 do.
28th. Wife of capt. J. Sabin 39 do.
Wife of Wm. Plymert 56 do.
29th. Wife of Mr. N. Jocelyn 57 do.
Mr. John Albro 51 do.
Miss Sarah Gourley 15 do.
Mr. Sam. Post (Philadelphia) 34 do.
30th. The Wife of Mr. Jos. Eels 40 do.

They further certify, that there are 15 persons sick with the putrid fever, 8 of whom are getting better; 4 are dangerous; and that the fever has not arrived to a crisis with the other 3. And that there is but one person sick of the fever, in all that part of the city north of George, and west of Union-streets.

ENEAS MUNSON,
HENRY DAGGETT.

LANCASTER, October 1.

Saturday morning his Excellency the Governor, accompanied by General James Rols, his Aid-de-Camp, and Mr. Dallas his Secretary, set off for York Town, Harrisburgh and Carlisle.

Thursday morning, three troops of Philadelphia horse under the command of Captains Dunlap, Singer and McConnell set off from this town for the westward.

On Friday evening 10 pieces of Artillery arrived here under an escort of Continental troops; next morning they set off for York Town, on their way to the westward.

Saturday forenoon arrived here, a detachment of general Proctor's brigade from Philadelphia, under the Command of Major Fisher, Captains Thompson, Seidle, and Nice. Colonel Gurney's regiment, consisting of Capt. Nelson's and captain Cusicks grenadiers—and five other companies, under the command of the following captains, to wit: Price, Ashmead, Scott, Lawrence, Carlson, and Anthony; together with two other companies, under the command of Major McPherson, and captains Baynton, and McEuen. Sunday morning the companies under the command of Major McPherson took their route to the westward: the other companies set off on the same route on Monday morning.

Yesterday forenoon the Lancaster troop under the command of Major-General Hand, set off for Carlisle, to join the troops going against the insurgents; and this morning they were followed by a company of volunteer infantry, under the command of capt. Mosher; they were all elegantly equipped, and appeared in high spirits.

The quota of Militia required for this borough and county, being also completed, will proceed on their march to-morrow.

CARLISLE, Sept. 24.

Extract of a letter from a gentleman in Hagerstown, dated 21st instant, to a gentleman in this town.

“I believe you were here when the first liberty pole as it was called was set up and cut down—the Monday following about 50 inhabitants of the town under the command of Henry Bowart, and about 250 from the country commanded by George Hoffner, Peter Baker, and Adam Thorp, assembled armed with guns, swords, and clubs, in a very riotous manner to oppose the draft, and set up another pole, which they did in Court House square, and guarded it several nights—the same week great exertions were made by their leaders to recruit men to march to Fredericktown, and I have not a doubt but they would have collected 1000 men had not the Fredericktown people got notice of their intentions, and armed themselves to the number of 500, and entrenched themselves about the magazine, which appeared to be the object of the rioters; this intelligence alarmed so many of them that the number which collected at the place of rendezvous on the mountain on Monday evening last was but 90 men, who concluded it prudent to disperse and return home.

“On Wednesday a party of horsemen collected at this place and went out, took about 20 of the leaders, the next day 300 militia arrived here from Frederick, Baltimore and Montgomery, and parties of horse have been constantly out since, and are now out bringing the rioters in, the principal leaders are imprisoned, some of an inferior class bound over to court, and others discharged—there are very few persons of any character or property involved in the business. I believe if we had 100 muskets the business might have been stopped at the beginning—there is now upwards of 500 armed militia here from below.”

ALBANY, September 29.

Extract of a letter from Montreal.

“A Mr. McKenzie of the northwest company of this place has returned from his discovery of the Western ocean; he took his departure from Lake Arabaska the beginning of May, 1793 and returned to it in September following after falling in with the ocean about 30 miles northward of Nootka sound. Mr. Metcalf, whose family lives in Albany had sailed from thence only 9 days before Mr. McKenzie arrived, and had he had the good fortune to meet that gentleman, it was his intention to have gone to China and thence to London; about half way between Arabaska Lake and Nootka he crossed a large high mountain covered with snow but when he descended into the plain he discovered a rich and fertile country, well watered; at the foot of the mountain he embarked on a large fine river the course of which he followed for two days, but finding it took a southerly direction he quitted it and took a more northerly route till he came in upon other rivers, that bro't him to his journey's end.”

NASSAU August 26

We are informed that a frigate from France lately appeared off Aux Cayes

and that Polverel and Southonax being invited on board to an entertainment, were with their suite, carried off in her to be presented to the National Convention.

BOSTON, Sept. 27.

In Yesterdays Chronicle we had a pompous account of the several descriptions of Citizens (said to be 400) which compose the Constitutional Society so called, now the public would be gratified to know how many there are of “Civil and Military Officers of the late Members of the Senate and House of Representatives. Gentlemen of the board of Selectmen and Overseers, Merchants of Fortune and of great commercial possessions old Committees of Correspondence, Officers and Soldiers of the late Continental Levies, Justices and Constables, Manufacturers and Mechanics” belonging to it; it is shrewdly suspected that a particular account would reveal that given by Falstaff in the play of the number of Robbers that befel him—it is truly laughable to find several leg'd in head and shoulders and under different descriptions—A Senator Merchant of Fortune Manufacturer and Mechanic—he counts for four—a member of the House of Representatives Justice of the Peace, Selectmen and Officer in old Continental line, he also counts for four—Judge of the Court of Common Pleas, County Officer, late military officer of the late, Justice of the Peace, Selectman and Mechanic—he counts for six; so that three from the variety of professions which they sustain are multiplied to fourteen.

Go on redoubtable fire in your cookery hide your names eternally from the public view, and continue if you please to tell the Story of “Sinbad the Sailor,” but be assured that your works will follow you and that the People of America, composed of 4,000,000, will never be dictated to by ‘400.’

A facetious correspondent informs us that the celebrated Thomas Paine, was considered by many intelligent people in England, to be the best oculist that country ever gave birth to; for he had opened the eyes of JOHN BULL with out coaching, or making use of another instrument than the point of a pen!

The Regent of Portugal, has ordered a Squadron of five ships of the line, to reinforce the English fleet.

In Revolutionary times it is hazardous to celebrate any particular men! an instance of this hazard has been lately experienced by a “citizen” ship owner of this town, who, when the wind blew *ou-la-Genet*, named a ship after that *Brissotine*. Unfortunately however, when the ship was entering Bourdeaux river, so say reports, the Captain finding that the name and head of his ship were unpopular, and might endanger the vessel, took the precaution to give the eidevant Ambassador a black face, and erasing the name from the stern, the figure passed very well for an African, or an aborigin of American. Peradventure the *Robespierre* may share the same fate.

POOL'S MARINE LIST.

NEW-LONDON September 23.

Sail'd, Sloop—, Noyes, for Savannah, with 90 men on board, bound to the river St. Mary's, to cut timber for the Ships ordered by Congress.

PHILADELPHIA,

OCTOBER 4.

CAMP, near Carlisle, Tuesday Sept. 30.

(Extract of a Letter.)

“We arrived here on Sunday at 2 o'clock, and encamped at the back of the town—near us lay the Jersey troops. “Nothing material has occurred, except that yesterday a detachment of 20 horse (of which I was one) under adjutant Jacob Cox, was dispatched with a constable at their head, to take several of those who are here called *Whiskey Boys*—Two were taken, but some others, having notice of our approach, escaped. One of the dragoon's pistols went off by accident, and shot a man in the groin, of which he since died: He was brother to one of the persons we were in pursuit of, and during a parley at a farm-house, the accident happened.

“The two persons we brought in were last night examined by the Attorney-General, which proved their inveteracy to the government, and it is probable some of these gentry will soon suffer for their ill judged enmity to the best of countries and mildest governments.

“We rode through the woods in various directions in pursuit of these jockies; those we took did not appear