

Among the leading characteristics of the times is the clamorous abuse heaped upon Mr. Jefferson. It would seem as if the spirit of faction must have some victim to mangle, and, disappointed in finding any vulnerable points in those now at the head of affairs, had determined to revive every stale calumny which ignorance or malice has fabricated during the past eight years to obscure the fame of this distinguished citizen. Professing an unbounded respect for the present Chief Magistrate, it daringly carries the dagger to the heart of his best friend, and denounces a career in which he sustained himself a part only secondary; exhibiting an extraordinary proof of consistency, as of respect for Mr. Madison. Be it so. Something as it might have been to the sage of Monticello to close his last days amidst the accents of universal praise, the syren sounds might have exposed the solidity of his fame to some question. It is not in the nature of ignorance and depravity sincerely to praise what they do not understand or hate; and applause from such a source might have been justly considered as hypocritical or selfish. The character, which the whole world applauds, is rarely understood, or is extolled more for its negative than positive traits. There is an inflexible sternness in virtue, that disdains and repels the adulation of the vicious, that shrinks from their approaches and friendship, and considers itself most endangered when made the subject of their encomiums. What, in fact, can be more equivocal than such praise? Can it spring from the love of virtue or the honest admiration of profound talents? This would imply an integrity altogether wanting in those who offer it. No. It can only flow from selfish considerations; from the desire to retrieve a character bankrupt in the public esteem, or from a wish to accomplish certain ends of which this is made the means. Away, then, with all such hollow homage. It can be the pedestal of no true greatness. It may undermine, but it can never rear true glory. Mr. Jefferson's fame requires no such trophy. The applause of the enlightened, the esteem of the good, these are the imperishable shields that defend it.

Does a name, thus revered, require a defence against the unjust reproaches lavished against it? Perhaps it does not. The blaze of light which has accompanied all the great measures of Mr. Jefferson, and above all the fruits of those measures gathered by a grateful nation, are conclusive answers to the ceaseless attempt to impair his character. But safe as his fame is, firmly as it may be fixed in the hearts of his countrymen, silence might be construed into insensibility, and might expose his republican friends to the charge of ingratitude, so affectively and falsely ascribed to republicans. If, moreover, the defence of his measures may not be requisite to the preservation of his fame, they may not be unimportant to ourselves. We have certainly reached a point of view, more commanding than any which could heretofore be occupied by the observer; events are now seen in their effects as well as causes; the connection of one measure with that of another is more distinctly perceived; and the general effect of the whole is felt. The Chief Magistrate has also retired from his political eminence. The lustre of high station, the cupidty for place, the thirst for power, no longer dazzle and seduce. The medium through which every thing is seen is unclouded, and the award now pronounced may be viewed, in some measure, as the award of history. It ought not, therefore, to be considered as a superfluous or useless task to pass in review the measures of Mr. Jefferson's administration, however amply they may heretofore have been scrutinized.

In performing this task, it will only be requisite to take large and general views. It will not be so necessary to scrutinize into the solidity of every individual link, as to examine the general character of the chain itself, whose soundness and competency will abundantly appear from the results from the several operations in which it has been used. We shall, in the first instance, take a view of our domestic concerns, then offer a view of our foreign affairs, and close the enquiry with contrasting the situation of the United States at the time of Mr. Jefferson's accession with that of his retirement from office.

The leading measures of Mr. Jefferson's administration respecting our internal concerns may be enumerated as follows.

The abolition of the internal taxes.
The abolition of what has been denominated the mid-night judiciary.
Provision for the rapid discharge of the public debt.

Reduction of useless expences.
Appointments to office.
Suppression of Burr's conspiracy.
Pacification of the Indians.
General expenditure of the public money.

Throughout the whole of this enquiry in examining the measures pursued during Mr. Jefferson's administration we shall be in danger of imputing to him opinions and acts, strictly speaking, not his own. According to the theory of our government he is the sole Executive, and directly, or by subordinate agents, wields the whole executive power, for the exercise of which he is considered as responsible. But although this is the theory, it is most obvious that, in the discharge of duties so complicated, multifarious, and remotely located, as those which embrace the interests of such an extensive territory, he must inevitably in many instances, bestow a confidence almost unlimited, and extremely liable to abuse; that, consequently, for the attainment of particular ends means will sometimes be used, which he, if similarly situated with his agent, would have been the last man in the world to have adopted.

The same remark will apply, though with less strength, to the measures of his cabinet, in which it is perfectly understood that a degree of

respect, accommodation, and even concession prevailed, that very frequently prompted the Chief Magistrate, on points which did not implicate principle, to forego his own opinion for that of his council. Few men that have ever lived knew, in this respect, human nature better than Mr. Jefferson. He knew that distinguished talents united with integrity are unbending, and disdain on any occasion, to act the part of a mere drudge. He, therefore, wisely determined to surround himself with able counsellors, and divide his power with them; so far at least as often to yield his own opinions to theirs. By setting this example a spirit of mutual confidence and concession was inspired; and, its valuable fruit, a harmony of co-operation insured. Although, then, Mr. Jefferson, be constitutionally answerable for all the measures of his cabinet, yet it would be unjust not to make an equitable allowance for the difference of opinion which always will more or less characterize independent minds.

If these considerations ought to influence our judgement in apportioning our praise or censure to the Executive acts of Mr. Jefferson's administration, how much more ought they to influence that apportionment with regard to the legislative acts of the government? Although it be the duty of the President "from time to time to give to Congress information of the state of the Union, and recommend to their consideration such measures as he shall judge necessary and expedient," it is no less the right of Congress, in the exercise of an independent judgement, to adopt or reject the measures thus recommended, or pursue such other measures as they may see fit. And, although it be admitted that there was great and unusual harmony between Mr. Jefferson and Congress during the whole course of his administration, yet, there is no doubt but that they in some cases rejected his advice, and adopted measures which he would never have suggested.

Keeping these circumstances in view let us proceed to a consideration of the leading measures adopted during his administration.

(To be Continued.)

The Gazette.

Wilmington, July 22, 1809.

An arrival at Boston from Halifax brings London papers to the 25th of May, which contain intelligence of the utmost importance to this country. The correspondence between Mr. Erskine and the Secretary of State had reached London, and on the 24th of May Mr. Canning declared in the British House of Commons that the agreement purporting to be entered into between their minister and our government, was not made in conformity with the wishes of his majesty, nor such as his majesty could approve of. Thus has the confidence of our government been abused, and the property of our citizens exposed to lawless depredation by the wicked machinations of a corrupt ministry. It is true that Mr. Canning, by way of smoothing off the matter, has said that the British government would respect the settlement that has been made until its explanations reach America. But who will believe him? Will not even some of his good friends in this country tremble for the fate of their property? Can any one suppose that Mr. Erskine would have been so fool-hardy as to make the proposals he did without full instructions from his government? We have had sufficient proof of Mr. Canning's talent for quibbling and sophistry to suppose he may succeed in blasting the reputation of Mr. Erskine, as he has endeavored to do that of Mr. Pinckney, but we are certain that the disposition of the British ministry towards this country, will be now properly appreciated. Whatever evils may result from the misplaced confidence of our government, as it must be apparent to all that a sincere desire to reconcile the existing differences has been manifested on our part, honest men of all parties will now rally round the government, and the small, contemptible British faction in this country will be fain to hide its diminished head.

Summary of Foreign News.—London papers state that the king of Sweden has been formally deposed, and the government placed in the hands of the prince regent, until a new constitution should be finally settled.

That the emperor of Russia had declared war against Austria, and marched his armies into Galicia and defeated them.

That Bonaparte has advanced to Vienna without any additional battle, leaving the Austrian army under the Archduke Charles in Bohemia, and an Austrian force on the Tyrol. It was presumed that French troops would proceed immediately for Hungary, in order to anticipate an insurrection there.

The emperor of Austria is said to have written a letter to the emperor Napoleon, imploring an armistice and peace of his majesty in the most humble expressions. It is not known what answer was returned, but conjectured to have been an unfavourable one.

A French squadron is said to have escaped from Toulon, and thrown itself into Barcelona. This is probably the squadron reported by captain Dashiels to have been captured by Lord Collingwood. The account is probably incorrect.

Rear admiral Harvey has been dismissed from the British service, for using "vehement and insulting language" to admiral Gambier.

Capture of the Toulon Fleet.—Captain Dashiels of the sloop Henry in 8 days from Ber-

muda, informs us that he sailed from Martinique on the 27th of June, and on that day, advices were received there of the capture of the Toulon fleet, by Lord Collingwood, consisting of 5 sail of the line, 6 or 7 frigates, and 30 transports, having on board the French garrison of Barcelona. Capt. D. further states that a vessel had arrived at Martinique having spoken an American ship, from Gibraltar, and was informed by the American captain, that Lord Collingwood had arrived at Gibraltar previous to his sailing, with the whole French fleet his prizes.

The above account is confirmed by a letter from St. Croix, of the 2d July, received by the Richard. N. Y. Gaz.

Confederation of the Rhine.

This confederation has been recently formed by several German States; and as it has now become very important in the scale of affairs on the Continent, and will probably become more so from the large acquisition of strength it will receive in the present war, we lay a short account of it before our readers.

Several German States situated between the Rhine and the Mayne, separated themselves from the Germanic body, and associated as confederate states of the Rhine, under the protection of the French empire, in the year 1806. The instrument of confederation was signed at Paris on the 12th July, the same year. The contracting parties were the Emperor of the French on the one part, and on the other the Kings of Bavaria and Wirtemberg (made kings by Bonaparte the year before) the Archduke of Ratisbon as Prince primate, the Grand Dukes of Baden, Berg, Hesse-Barmstadt, Nassau-Weilbourgh, and Nassau-Usingen, the Princes of Hohenzollern Hichingen, and Seigmaringen, Salm-Salm, Salm-Kyrburg, Isenburgh, Birstein and Litchenstein, the Duke of Ahrenberg, and the Prince of Leyn. They declared that they would admit other German Princes and States in all cases where their union with the Confederation might be found consistent with the general interest; and thus virtually annihilated the inconsiderable part that was left of the German empire. This induced Francis II, last Emperor of Germany, and I of Austria, formally to abdicate the German empire by his proclamation of the 6th of August 1806. It was then expected that a similar Confederation would be formed north of the Mayne, under the protection of either Prussia or Russia; but the King of Prussia having declared war against France in October 1806, and having been struck nerveless at the battle of Jena, 14th of the same month, several other German States hastened to join the Confederation of the Rhine, as Liepzig, Detmold, Schaumburg-Buckeburg, Saxe-Weimar, Saxe-Gotha, Saxe-Cobourg, and the newly created kingdom of Saxony (formed out of the electorate of Saxony, duchy of Warsaw, and some other acquisitions) the King of which is the late Elector of Saxony. By the peace of Tilsit in 1807, which erects the Prussian provinces on the right bank of the Elbe and the possessions of Hesse-Cassel, Orange-Fulda, and other petty German states into a new kingdom called Westphalia, (over which is placed Jerome Bonaparte of Baltimore memory.) the Confederation of the Rhine is extended to the bank of the Elbe; and Prussia has since (in 1808) joined the Confederation. By this Federal compact an union of several sovereign states has taken place, embracing a population double that of the U. S. of America, forming a complete barrier to France on the German side, and ripping up completely the Germanic Empire, leaving Francis nothing but the hereditary states.—It is a stupendous fabric erected by the mighty genius of Napoleon, and will do more to subvert his purposes in subjugating Europe, than an alliance with the most powerful kingdom on the continent.

It may be said with certainty, to this Confederation the house of Austria owes its downfall. In a little time Francis will be dethroned and drove from his hereditary possessions; every thing which will be left to him he will hold by the precarious tenure of Napoleon's bounty; and willingly would he then accept of a life-estate in the small possessions which the house of Hapsburg once possessed in the Canton of Bern. But the fatal decree has been proclaimed: Napoleon has said he should cease to reign; and with his reign ends a resting place for him on the continent.

Continued of Freedom.

The Republicans in '98 and '99 unequivocally disapproved of the measures of Mr. Adams' administration; and they now as freely commend him for bringing to light the midnight iniquity which then prevailed with the "Essex Junco."—For this they are represented in the federal papers as acting an inconsistent part; and the question is exultingly asked—how can you now approve of the man you then so loudly condemned.—An answer is ready: Mr. Adams was a better man than his measures bespoke—and being at the helm of state he had to father the misconduct of others. But since the truth has come out, it plainly appears that the most obnoxious measures of his administration are to be traced to the contaminating influence of Hamilton and Pickering, and not to Mr. Adams. Now, who is most inconsistent, the Republicans in commending an honest development of infamy and intrigue; or the Federalists in blunting the effect of their exposures by reproaching their old friend and advocate. Ibid.

FOR THE DELAWARE GAZETTE.

To the Democratic Citizens of New-Castle County.

New-Castle county is undoubtedly the strong hold of democracy in Delaware. It is the Mount Arrarat on which the ark of our safety found a resting place, when the deluge of Federalism overwhelmed the state. It is your highest praise not to have been overcome—for without union, without design, without leaders, torn by petty jealousies and conflicting animosities, you have kept the field in the face of obnoxious partisans, headed by a bold and arduous aristocracy—but there is another, and a serious view of this subject, a view which flattery might conceal, or good nature soften. You will not always be so fortunate. It is the wise order of nature, that success shall crown exertion—active vice, will prevail over inactive virtue. Learn from your opponents, their discipline and conduct, and your cause will give you the victory. If your political opponents, are fixed in their purpose, enlightened as to the means, determined as to the end, it becomes you, to be circumspect and vigilant in an ordinary degree. If they move in a body of which their party interest is the soul, it becomes you to connect yourselves, by that individuality of principle, which I know you feel.

It has ever been your error, and your punishment, to be deficient in union and perseverance. Contemptible local interests have overbalanced great political motives, and you have bowed the neck to an imperious aristocracy, rather than refrain from taking part in town and borough animosities.

I have seen and lamented those degrading scenes. When the Wilmington bridge was erected, I had hoped, that the curtain had fallen on them for ever. But it again rises—rises to exhibit for the entertainment of our enemies, another act of petty rivalry, of contemptible folly. Under the garb of general utility, under the broad mantle of the people's good, self interest and envy, have undertaken to remove the seat of justice in New-Castle county!—The faith of the county is to be violated, and their pockets emptied; the democratic party once more to be shewn to its very centre, if indeed it survive the shock—for what? What is this political sin which is to bring the fire and brimstone of the county upon the devoted sodom?—a road, a turnpike road from New-Castle to French Town, to facilitate the communication from Philadelphia to Baltimore!—Partisan Motives, nascent, ridiculous, mas! Bessotted must have been the intellect, despicable the understanding, worse than nothing the judgement, which could have assigned such a motive as the real one for moving the court-house. Such conduct was only equalled in its cowardice, by the shallowness of mind which prompted the pretext. Is then the prosperity, the public spirit of a town to become the signal for its ruin?—Is the reward for a steady adherence to democracy, to be found in a proscription by those whom New-Castle has never deserted? Is this the means of making democracy flourish? Persecution may be carried too far—the sense of injury will nerve the hand of resentment. Your wisdom, your impartiality, fellow citizens, alone can repress these angry effervescences, by frowning into silence these non-descript disturbers of the public peace—like a gloomy tyrant of antiquity they cannot bear that any town should raise its head above the insipid level of its fellows. Concluding the court-house to be the source of the prosperity of New-Castle, each individual declaims on the disadvantages of its present situation, and proposes as his interest prompts, Christiansburg, the Red Lion, Staunton or the Bear. What noble counsellors! grave advisers! Take them to your bosom, and if anarchy be not the result, let folly in future usurp with impunity the seat of wisdom!

(To be Continued.)

Ann Cannon,

RESPECTFULLY informs her friends and the public in general, that she has opened

A Military & Fancy Store, next door to Mrs. Huggins's Tavern, Market street, Wilmington (Del.) July 22.

WILMINGTON COLLEGE.

THE Trustees of Wilmington College take pleasure in being able to announce to the public the revival of the Latin school in this institution, under the immediate care of Mr. Bigelow and general superintendance of the Rev. Dr. Read. The healthy situation of Wilmington, its character for morality, the goodness of its market and choice of best boarding houses, joined to the evidence of Mr. Bigelow's capacity as a teacher, and the long and justly established reputation of Dr. Read as a successful preceptor, all concur to recommend this seminary to the attention of Parents and Guardians, anxious to promote the education and improvement of the youth intrusted to their care, especially when they are further assured that the other departments of the College are provided with tutors fully adequate to their appointments, and of unexceptionable moral characters

By order of the Board,
ROBERT HAMILTON,
EBENEZER A. SMITH,
JOHN RUMSEY,
WILLIAM PRYCE,

July 22, 1809.