

AN ENQUIRY INTO THE NATIONAL CHARACTER OF THE PEOPLE OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.

We have seen that the illustrious discoverers of America were enterprising natives of distinguished Italy—of Genoa, of Tuscany and of Venice.

The sentiments on the northern section of this continent, which were within the limits of our present dominions, or may be considered as near enough to have influenced our character, were made under the auspices of various European powers, and were originally composed of their citizens and subjects. In the course of our growth through infancy and youth to our present manhood, migration to America has taken a much wider range. We have seen, we have felt the influence of the minds, the hearts, the manners, and the habits of man from every civilized society, and every church. Let us calmly revise the facts, which relate to our settlements, and to our constant accessions of people from abroad.

The establishment of stations for settlement and commerce was commenced by the French in the provinces of Canada and Acadia or Nova Scotia in 1605 and 1611. The discovery of Louisiana in 1541, was followed at later periods by considerable French migrations. These two colonial establishments of France became incorporated with the American states of our late empire by the treaty of Paris in 1763. Many of the Acadians were transferred by England into our provinces. At the peace of 1788, Canadians came into our country as permanent citizens, and Americans passed over set into the two Canadas. The French revocation of their edict of Nantes had scattered the followers of Calvin, under the name of Huguenots over the face of our country. The names of Jay, Boudinot and Laurens, clearly descended from that stock, will be found on the short list of our Presidents of Congress in the first ten years of our revolutionary history. The names of Jay, Galliard, Bowdoin, de Lancey and others, are on the list of the governors in the times of the provinces and of the commonwealths. They appear often as members of our legislatures, and as ministers and officers of various religious societies and guardians of our seminaries of learning in many of the states. As the French have always rejected the preference of the eldest son in the disposition of intestate property, as these French sought this country to preserve the rights of conscience, as they introduced a number of valuable books, and their modes of business, education and worship, it cannot be supposed that they have not contributed to form the actual character of the existing American people. In the rejection of all things, which interfere with the rights of conscience, in the rejection of the rights of primogeniture, and in the rejection of the commerce in the human species, the descendants of the French in united America have manifested the general characteristics of our free nation.

The Swedish and Danish blended settlements within our present dominions were early and considerable for that time. They purchased of the Indians all the country, on both sides of the Delaware, calling it the *New Sweden* and *New Denmark*, and made settlements on both shores of that river and of its extensive bay. They scattered themselves on the various streams which the Delaware receives. The states of New Jersey, Pennsylvania and Delaware, contain a number of Swedish churches, with ministers derived from that of episcopacy, at this day. They are very similar to the other members of the Lutheran church in these states. The ground plan of the city and liberties of Philadelphia were compromised in part, with the Swedish settlers by William Penn. The ancient town of New-Castle on Delaware was founded by the Swedes more than fifty years before the grant of Pennsylvania, and was then called *Stockholm*. The *Christiana* creek, in the county of New-Castle, was called after the queen of Sweden. The settlements of that nation on the waters of the Delaware, at the time that the Dutch acquired them, were greater than any other colony of the Swedish nation. Except indeed the purchased island of Saint Bartholomew, it is not remembered that they have had any other permanent colonial establishment. The civil law which prevailed in Sweden and the principles of which were highly influential in Denmark, did not favor the idea of any right from primogeniture, the prevailing spirit of the American law of descents. Having no sugar colonies at the time of their settlements adjacent to the Delaware, the Swedes and Danes had little information or practice in the slave trade, and have contributed probably to facilitate the early and known opposition to that trade, which arose in the middle states.

The enterprize, the wealth, the freedom, the sobriety and the religion of the Dutch render their early and prosperous settlements in this part of America particularly worthy of consideration. Their farms and markets extended from the western bank of Connecticut river, and the city of Albany to Hoar kiln or Lewis town, near the southern cape of Delaware bay. They had acquired the town of New-Castle or *Stockholm*, from the Swedes, and called it *New Amsterdam*. Their settlers had extended in New York, Connecticut, east New Jersey, west New Jersey, Delaware, the south western

corner of Pennsylvania, and the eastern shore of Maryland, when their whole possessions in our middle states, called the *New Netherlands*, were conquered by Great Britain in 1764, and were divided under charters to the American provinces of Connecticut, New-York, New-Jersey, Pennsylvania and the lower territory of York and Penn. known at present as the Delaware state. The influence of the Dutch, after this conquest, continued to be such that there were seven governors of New-York of that stock, and one of New-Jersey. There are at this time not less than eighty Dutch Calvinistic churches in the United States. They are as zealous friends of religious liberty as the rest of the Americans, and the New-York and New-Jersey legislatures in which they are most numerous, corrected the English law of descents, as soon as the separation from Great Britain enabled them to give to the laws the proper spirit of our nation.

The German people, having little concern in navigation, there has not been, at any time, a commencement of a separate German colony within our present dominions. But great numbers of the natives of the protestant and catholic states of that immense concentered empire have migrated hither in search of liberty of conscience, and establishment in life. William Penn made an early visit to the continent of Europe, with a view to inform the German people of his new and liberal establishment. The agitations of Europe in consequence of the struggles of the followers of John Hus, Luther, Calvin, Menno and others of less note in the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries, and of the counter exertions of the church of Rome and its powerful supporters, rendered even the wilds of America more lovely than the most cultivated scenes of persecuting Europe. In regard to the prospects of a comfortable establishment, fair accounts of this country seemed to render it a *second land of promise*. The vast number of German emigrants which have resorted to our shores in a term of more than one hundred and twenty years, has exhibited the persons, the language, the habits, the churches, and some of the spirit of the laws of that great and ancient empire. It is not ascertained whether the wise and excellent founder of Pennsylvania derived from his own wisdom and virtue his celebrated modification of the law of descents, or whether his respect for the law of Moses or his visit to Germany, where he found the great opposition between the English law and the Justinian system in that respect, occasioned him to adopt the idea. Certain it is that in this respect, as well as in their pursuit of religious liberty, the migrators from Germany must have attached themselves to these two objects, which are so conspicuous and influential in our national character. The Germans, like the Swedes, had no participation in sugar colonies, were consequently free from interest and practice in the slave trade, and were ready to co-operate in its decided abolition. From this stock, we have had an illustrious President of our Philosophical Society, eminent professors in the medical department of one of our Universities, ministers of nearly two hundred churches of the Lutherans, Calvinists, Roman Catholics, Mennonites, Moravians, Tunkers, and some other religious societies. A governor and a vice-president of a state, many generals of the militia, speakers of the national and state legislatures, and other members have also been drawn from the natives of Germany or their numerous descendants. The theology, the language, the arts, the manufactures and the typography of the Germans are very conspicuous and widely extended in the United States of America.

COLUMBIANUS.

From the BOSTON CHRONICLE.

"Our convenience must yield, to Britain's right to exist."—See the *Repository* of the 6th inst.

The English, in all their impositions upon America, whether it relates to the attacking of our vessels and murdering their crews, or to the destruction of our commerce, have invariably found encouragement and support from certain federal editors in the United States. As soon as they have committed an outrage, they have only to refer to particular newspapers printed in the United States, not only for an entire justification, but for proof that they were entitled to our gratitude for not proceeding to greater extremities! It seems that these men have been informed by their *British Correspondents*, that England will shortly issue a new edition of the *Orders in Council*, corrected and improved, by their authors, with great additions, alterations, &c. In other words, that the *Orders in Council*, annihilating the commerce of the U. States, are shortly to be followed by others, for the indiscriminate seizure and plunder of American property wherever they take it.—No sooner do these receive this information, than they immediately commence the degrading task of defending it, and of endeavoring to reconcile the merchants of the U. States to the loss of their property.—They advance, in support of their doctrine, the following unprecedented and inadmissible position.

"Self preservation, with nations as with individuals, takes precedence of every other principle of natural law. It will justify any thing that becomes necessary to that object. A nation's rights raise as her danger increases. If from the unproductiveness or the devastations of an ene-

my, I derive, and have no other means of supplying myself, I have a right to demand what is necessary, of him who possesses it. If he will accept any thing I can spare in exchange, it is well. If he will not, I am justified in using superior force, if I possess it, to obtain relief. His convenience must yield to my right to exist. The law of nature goes one step further. In the last extremity before I perish, I have a right to use my force—and if resisted, to destroy him who withholds from me what is necessary to my existence."

Here G. Britain is informed by a publication in one of our most populous seaports, that she has a right to "demand what she wants of us who possess it." That when she meets our vessels on the high seas, if they refuse to resign themselves into her hands quietly, she has a "right to use her superior force to compel it"—And that "if they resist, she has a right to destroy them—and will be justified in doing it." If the writer means that G. Britain will be justified in this conduct by any law either of nations or of nature, it is very much doubted: nor shall we be inclined to believe it, until he produces his authority. But, if he wishes to inform us that he intends to justify it, it will be nothing uncommon or unexpected. No doubt that the men who have heretofore justified the murder of our citizens, who have justified the impressment of seamen and the Orders in Council, will now justify and encourage the English in their contemplated plan of deprecation on American property.

We condemn the Algerines and Tripolitans as pirates, but if this doctrine is correct, could they not plead necessity as an excuse for their depredatory conduct, as well as the English? His Algerine Excellency might say, that from the depredations of his enemies, his funds were greatly reduced, and he was therefore compelled to seize our property to supply himself. If the state of Tunis should be threatened by its foes, the Tunisians might declare, while pouring their broadsides into the American ships, that our "convenience must yield to their right to exist."

What say the merchants to this doctrine? Will they subscribe to its orthodoxy? Is it consonant to their ideas of justice, that when they send out a vessel, the British, or any other nation, have a right to take possession of her for their own use, and that if she resist, they have a right to fire upon and destroy her? Will they continue to encourage a paper which advances tenets so repugnant to every principle of justice, and so hostile to their interests and the interests of the country?

From the Same.

AMERICANS!—Beware of Wolves in Sheep's clothing.

The last *loyal Repository* says, that "from unimpeachable sources of information, it is well known that the Canadian people are perfectly satisfied with the government under which they live; that they know too well how to appreciate the blessings of the *British Constitution*, to be willing to barter their advantages and happiness for any other."

Whether such things as these are written in *New-England*, *Old-England*, or his Majesty's adjacent provinces,* it makes no difference. The intention of the author is evident. But if he wishes to make the people of the United States believe that the *British Constitution* is preferable to the *American*, he may give up his enterprise in the beginning. The American people too well appreciate the blessings which result from their free, Republican Constitutions, to indulge for a moment the most distant idea of exchanging them for *Monarchical* or *Aristocratical* systems.

We recollect the remarks of the *Repository*, upon the Oration of Wm. C. White, Esq. The Constitution of England was then held up to the people, doubtless with the view of exciting their approbation. We were also favored with the promise of some extracts from this *imitable Constitution*—but which, however, have not yet appeared. If the *Repository* expects to convert the partiality of the people of these States for republicanism, into a veneration for monarchical institutions, it has undertaken a Herculean task, in which it will never succeed. Even with all the aid of its *Canadian Correspondents*, (Officers of the Crown, unquestionably) it will fall infinitely short of the contemplated object.

The "Communication" signed "VERAX," in the last *Repository*, is an additional proof of the

* The *Repository*, in the introduction to this *Communication*, unblushingly confesses that it was received from a *Correspondent in Canada*! The people of the United States must feel themselves under infinite obligations to his Majesty's officers in the neighbouring provinces for their great kindness in sending *political communications* to their agents in the United States for publication! In this communication, the Constitution of the United States, the friends of their country and its government, are stigmatized as "demoralizing demagogues," a deceptive epithet, which they learnt from their Juno friends in this quarter. The *British Constitution* is held up as the model of all that is perfect in the science of government—and much abuse is lavished upon the *Chronicle*.

close connection between your country and the agents and officers of England in Canada. It goes strongly to prove, that the *Northern Confederacy*, (composed of English agents in Canada, and Anglo-Americans in the Northern States,) is still in existence. Their cloven foot was discoverable, when they took advantage of the embargo, and threatened (what their weakness alone prevented them from executing) a separation of the states:

From the BOSTON PATRIOT.

THE BAIT.

[If we are to judge from outward appearances, the "Copenhagen Jackson," will be as civil and pacific as a fish-hook. We do not pretend to judge whether the following is extraordinary, or the ordinary recommendation of diplomatic characters. If, however, this kind of court plaiter do not prove that Mr. Jackson, or his master thought him a subject of suspicion, it ought perhaps to induce us to suspect that either or both wish to play upon our credulity. It is sufficient that Mr. J.'s business lies between himself and our executive, in whom we have full confidence, and that such are the impressions on the public mind, that he will find it too late to open a separate negotiation with the people of America in any section of the union—even should his majesty's papers in New-England become again the engines of correspondence for the ministers and their minions.]

EXTRACT OF A LETTER

From a distinguished character of the Society of Quakers, in England, to his friend in Cambridge, (Mass.) dated July 5th, 1809.

"Although some years have elapsed since our last meeting at my house in *Clopham*, yet in hope that those agreeable days of old are not entirely forgotten, I beg leave to introduce my respectable friend FRANCIS J. JACKSON, recently chosen to be our Minister Extraordinary to the United States, as a gentleman of high character and talents, with whose family I have been long acquainted. Believing as I do, that he comes to you in the "spirit of peace," and so confident in the hopes of applying an healing plaster to the recent wound, that he takes over his wife and children; I cannot but wish well to such a mission of peace. It has ever been my fervent wish to witness a perfect harmony between the two nations, founded on a reciprocity of interests. I have therefore given him letters to my friend GORE, and to such others whom I most esteem in New-York and Philadelphia."

"Ere this, the public prints have probably informed you of the decease of my beloved and venerable uncle DAVID BARCLAY, a loss irreparable to his family and numerous connections to whom he afforded the highest example of human perfection. He closed his long, honorable and useful life in as sudden and easy a manner as could be wished; his illness not lasting an hour, when he ceased to live without sigh or struggle. His plans were congenial with those of thy invaluable relation Dr. Pothergill, especially in that of living rather than dying rich, and in being his own executor."

"Is it probable that a man, like the writer of the above, distinguished not merely for opulence, but weighty, and worthy, and venerated in point of character, would have spoken thus of 'Copenhagen JACKSON,' if he did not know him to be a man whom a Quaker of the first rank would not fear to recommend. Centinel.]

From the Democratic Press.

The "distinguished character" who is the author of the above letter, is Mr. David Barclay, a brewer in London. One of the most devoted tools of William Pitt when living, and now equally devoted to Canning and Dundas. He has some influence and it was on account of that influence that Pitt, Dundas and Co. used to visit his brewery, and there eat beefsteaks and drink port wine. The above letter is only one copy of a circular which was sent to a great number of persons in the cities of the United States. From what we have heard on the occasion it is probable that no minister ever brought from the country which sent him, so many letters of introduction to the citizens of the country, to whose government he was accredited as Mr. Jackson. So great has been the number, that Mr. Jackson despaired of ever delivering them in person, and sent them on to the persons to whom they were directed by his servant.—We congratulate governor GORE on this new link in the chain which binds him to the mother country, and stimulates him to the unfurling the banners of the American Republic against those of imperial France.

The Gazette.

Wilmington, October 18, 1809.

MARRIED.

On Thursday evening last, by the Rev. Dr. Read, Mr. HENRY VINING, Printer, to Miss REBECCA LYLE, all of this town.

Same evening, by the Rev. Dr. Read, Mr. GEORGE HANING, to Mrs. KESIAH ARCHER, both of this place.

A late London paper gives a detailed statement of the French naval force, from which it appears that France has yet, notwithstanding its diminution by capture, a formidable navy, consisting of six vessels of 120 guns, sixty one sail of the line, and forty eight frigates; and even this estimate is supposed to be under rated.