

my answer of December, 1861, I expressed these dispositions candidly to the President; but assured him, that if it was believed I could be more useful in the administration of the government, I would sacrifice my own inclinations without hesitation, and repair to that destination; this I left to his decision. I arrived at Monticello, on the 24th of December, where I received a second letter from the President expressing his continued wish, that I should take my station there, but leaving me still at liberty to continue in my former office if I could not reconcile myself to that now proposed. This silenced my reluctance, and I accepted the new appointment.

In the interval of my stay at home, my oldest daughter had been happily married to the eldest son of the Tuckahoe branch of Randolphs, a young gentleman of genius, science and honorable mind, who afterwards filled a distinguished station in the General Government, and the most dignified in his own State. I left Monticello, on the 1st of March, 1790, for New York. At Philadelphia I called on the venerable and beloved Franklin. He was then on the bed of sickness, from which he never rose. My recent return from a country in which he had left so many friends, and the perils of the sea to which he had been exposed revived all his anxieties to know what part they had taken, what had been their course and what their fate. He went over all in succession, with a rapidity and animation, almost too much for his strength. When all his enquiries were satisfied, and a pause took place, I told him I had learned with much pleasure that since his return to America, he had been occupied in preparing for the world, the history of his own life. I cannot say much of that, said he; but I will give you a sample of what I shall leave; and he directed his little grandson (Wm. Bache) who was standing by the bed side, to hand him a paper from the table to which he pointed. He did so; and the Doctor putting it into my hands, desired me to take it and read it at my leisure. It was about a quire of folio paper, written in a large and running hand, very like his own. I looked into it slightly, then shut it, and said I would accept his permission to read, and would carefully return it. He said, 'no, keep it.' Not certain of his meaning, I again looked into it, filled it for my pocket, and said a gain I would certainly return it. 'No,' said he, 'keep it.' I put it into my pocket, and shortly after, took leave of him. He died on the 7th of the ensuing month of April; and as I understood that he had bequeathed all his papers to his grandson, William Temple Franklin, I immediately wrote to Mr. Franklin, to inform him I possessed this paper, which I should consider as his property, and would deliver it to his order. He came on immediately to New York, called on me for it, and I delivered it to him. As he put it into his pocket, he said, carelessly, he had either the original, or another copy of it, I do not recollect which. This last expression struck my attention forcibly, and for the first time suggested to me the thought that Dr. Franklin had meant it as a confidential deposit in my hands, that I had done wrong in parting from it. I have not yet seen the collection he published of Doctor Franklin's works, and therefore, know not if this is among them. I have been told it is not. It contained a narrative of the negotiations between Dr. Franklin and the British ministry, when he was endeavoring to prevent the contest of arms which followed. The negotiation was brought about by the intervention of Lord Howe and his sister, who, I believe, was called Lady Howe, but I may misremember her title. Lord Howe seems to have been friendly to America, and exceedingly anxious to prevent a rupture. His intimacy with Dr. Franklin, and his position with the Ministry induced him to undertake a mediation between them; in which his sister seemed to have been associated. They carried from one to the other, backwards and forwards, the several propositions and answers, which passed, and seconded with their own intercessions the importance of mutual sacrifices, to preserve the peace and connexion of the two countries. I remember that Lord North's answers were dry, unyielding, in the spirit of unconditional submission, and betrayed an absolute indifference to the occurrence of a rupture, and he said to the mediators directly, at last, that a rebellion was not to be deprecated on the part of Great Britain; that the confiscations it would produce, would provide for many of their friends; This expression was reported by the mediators to Doctor Franklin, and indicated so cool and calculated a purpose in the ministry, as to render compromise hopeless, and the negotiation was discontinued. If this is not among the papers published, we ask what has become of it? I delivered it with my own hands, into those of Temple Franklin. It certainly established views so atrocious in the British Government that its suppression would, to them, be worth a great price. But could the grandson of Dr. Franklin be, in such degree, an accomplice in the perdition of the memory of his immortal grandfather? The suspensions for more than twenty years, of the general publication, bequeathed and confided to him, produced for a while, hard suspicions against him, and if, at least, all are not published, a part of those suspicions may remain with some.

I arrived in New York on the 21st of March when Congress was in session.

We observe, in a country paper, several songs, set to music, advertised, and amongst them is the following: "Softly wait ye southern breeches."

FROM THE NEW-YORK JOURNAL OF COMMERCE.

THE DESIGNS OF RUSSIA.

There is a numerous party in Great Britain, who would rejoice to see that country enter its solemn protest against the war now raging between Russia and Turkey. Whatever might be the ostensible cause of this war, they regard it as having originated in the instable ambition of Russia, which will never be satisfied till it grasps within its power all Europe and the world. They maintain that the veto of England would be sufficient to arrest the progress of invasion, and that such a stand once taken, other Powers would immediately concur, and thus the disastrous war be terminated. We doubt the correctness of the last opinion, and should much sooner expect that the interference of England would result in a general war throughout Europe. The following remarks are extracted from a late number of the London Times.

The war undertaken by Russia against Turkey is not a subject on which we rejoice to meditate, but its importance forces it on the attention of most Englishmen, and the perverse notions entertained by some people, with regard to its bearing upon the interests of the country and of Europe, requires to be watched, if they cannot be corrected. No man at all acquainted with Russian history or policy doubts that Constantinople has long been marked by the statesmen of St. Petersburg for their prey. This desire has grown out of previous aggrandizements achieved by Russia during little more than half a century, and every step of her armies southward has but served to stimulate and encourage her to the enterprise. Fresh argument springs conveniently out of recent conquest. As Russia has extended her frontier south towards the Euxine, and westward along the shores of that sea towards the Danube, the freedom of one, and the command of the other, become objects of "just anxiety" with a Power which, had she been forced to remain at a distance from them, would have had no pretence for acting on any such "anxiety." The "freedom" of the Euxine—which means, in certain quarters, its independence of all control but that of Russia—requires that the Bosphorus, the Sea of Marmora, and the Dardanelles, should have the enjoyment of equal "freedom;" for they are so many padlocks on the Euxine trade. But of these various locks the master-key is Constantinople. So we are told with great frankness by a Russian general Officer, it is impossible to keep a safe hold of Constantinople, without occupying Asia Minor also. Thus by unwarrantable logic has it been proved to us, that to secure a free vent for the exports of Odessa, Smyrna and Rhodes must be held by Muscovite garrisons! Now it is not by any means criminal in Russia to feel the above craving for maritime conquest, nor would it be an offence against the laws of nations in Great Britain to wish for the possession of Copenhagen, the Belt, and the Sound. But suppose that, on one plea or another, she had transported her whole army to Hanover, & then moved it across the Elbe into Holstein, and issued a manifesto declaring that she would have "securities" from the King of Denmark for the "freedom" of the Baltic, and indemnities for her expense in supporting the said demand of securities by an army which threatened Denmark with destruction. What, we ask, would be the course of Russia under such circumstances? Would she listen to the following argument for preferring peace to an armed vindication of her own interests, and of those of all the north of Europe?

"If the trade of the two countries (England and Denmark) with Russia be compared, that of England is of much greater importance to Russia than is that of Denmark." Therefore by all means let England subjugate Denmark, "because it never can be worth the while of Russians to interrupt our peace with England, for the sake of averting some possible danger to our intercourse with Denmark."

A ludicrous disparagement of the effect upon Great Britain, arising out of a conquest of Turkey by the Russians, and in the precise terms we have used above, has been employed to dissuade the British Government from being more than speculators of this portentous war. The whole conflict, with its incalculable results, is looked at in no other light but a possible preliminary towards interrupting for a time our commercial intercourse with Turkey in Europe. The command over the whole eastern portion of the Mediterranean is nothing—the addition of so much coast of a maritime position and depot so impregnable as that which embraces the entire Euxine to the mouth of the Dardanelles, is nothing—the consequent ascendancy over Egypt, nothing—the general aggrandizement and preponderance nothing—with Greece too, in that case, a Russian province! Why then it is needless to urge one objection against any system of conquest by any Power, the most emulous, under any condition or circumstance of human affairs; and the whole policy of Europe for centuries has been childlike, when it referred to the usefulness of some sort of balance between States. It is truly said that England incurs a less prominent obligation than many of the continental powers, in resisting the designs of Russia. England is nearer to the scene of action than any of them. Part of her colonial empire is close at hand. Her commerce is present on the very scene, and what is England herself but English commercial industry? We affirm that if England but says preemptorily to Russia, you must not extend your frontier one inch beyond its present limit on the side of Turkey, other States, now passive or silent will be ready to echo and to support us. Insist on justice

from Turkey to the Czar, defend the real freedom of his flag and merchandise from Odessa to where they launch into the Mediterranean. Let us defend with equal vigor the integrity of Turkey and the independence and sovereignty of the Porte.

BRITISH COLONIAL SYSTEM.

The British West India colonies are highly valuable countries in themselves, and yield products of the first importance. Their distress, however, is such as imperiously to demand the attention of that government. Property in Antigua which once brought its proprietor £20,000 a year has, for the last four or five years, yielded not a single shilling, & many who were once in affluence, have been reduced to absolute poverty. The remedy proposed is a reduction of the duty on the staple commodities of sugar and rum. The evil, in other words, is that which is at the bottom of most or all of the distresses of England,—excessive taxation. Without this reduction, it has been declared that the whole of the West India colonies must be inevitably ruined.

While such is the result to the Colonies of the relations between them & their mother country, the latter is thought by one class of political economist to be so little benefited in return, that it has been argued she would be better without them altogether.—They assert that it had been better to trust all along to chance for the trade of these countries, than to encounter the expense of their protection. Such have been the actual results of the British colonial system, that it is no wonder such an opinion should have arisen. Meantime, however, the great machine continues and even extends its operations, and new plans of colonization are earnestly contemplated. The British laws the British tastes and habits are transplanted into all regions and it is contended that this circumstance must unavoidably extend the use of British manufactures, and bind these widely scattered possessions into one great commercial community, whose parts will be of reciprocal advantage to each other.

This ought to be the result: that it is not, must be owing to the want of a just policy in the parent country. The advantages which England has derived from her colonies have never borne any just proportion to her expenses in defending them; but it has been her own fault. No system which contemplates advantage to one party only, can long endure even to the benefit of that party. If the oppressed do not rebel against this course, they at length are ruined by it. England may one day be brought to view her colonial system in this light, and to understand the benefits of reciprocity without any negotiation on our part. By screwing up and confining her bantlings, she may certainly direct their motions as she pleases, as long as they have any motion; but this sort of discipline is not the most favorable to their development, or even to their existence. Already, it seems, more liberal views begin to be entertained. Even the Quarterly, the last citadel of prejudice, takes a rational tone, and shows clearly its recent conviction that England cannot be the only monopolist in the world, and that colonies have some rights beyond that of filling the treasury, or encouraging the manufactures of the mother country. We consider this actually a new era.—*Balt. Amcr.*

Boston, June 20.

John Quincy Adams, late President of the United States, arrived at the patriarchal seat in Quincy on Thursday evening, where he will spend the summer. Mr. Adams' health is much improved since his last visit.

In the progress of Mr. Adams' unostentatious journey homeward, during which he studiously avoided all public demonstrations of respect, especially on account of his recent severe family affliction, he was nevertheless visited in some of the principal cities by large numbers of his friends and fellow citizens, desirous of manifesting towards him their respect and esteem. He has now returned to his native State, where there are but few who do not highly respect and value his public services and private virtues.

Richmond, Va. June 24, 1829.

The new crop of wheat is represented to be a good average one in both quantity and quality. We have taken some pains to ascertain the opening price here, and from the information obtained, believe that \$1.20 may be obtained for red, and \$1.25 for white, deliverable by the 15th or 20th of July. A crop was contracted for by a miller yesterday, at that price, who had within three days contracted for two other crops, one at that price, and the other (half white and half red) at \$1.16, all deliverable by the 20th July. Looking at the acknowledged scarcity in France and England, and the possibility of the Powers in the West of the Europe, engaging in the war which rages in the Eastern parts of that Continent, we do not think that millers ought to hesitate in opening the market at \$1.25.

The James River and neighboring high-land crop, is represented as unusually large and fine, from one end of the River to the other. So is the valley crop. Getting into market sooner than any other growers of wheat, the Virginia farmers have an advantage which they ought to turn to more profitably raising as much forward wheat as possible. *W. Mag.*

On the 6th inst. the Court House in Burlington, Vt. was reduced to ashes.—The building was insured for \$1000. Two years ago it was repaired at an expense of \$2600; and is considered to have been the most elegant building of the kind in the State.

WHEELING COMPILER.

WEDNESDAY, JULY 15, 1829.

The River is 21.2 feet above low water mark. There have been four Steamboat arrivals from below and three departures downwards, since our last. Keel boats make regular trips between Wheeling and Pittsburgh; but Steam boats go no higher than this place, in the present stage of the water.

THE PITTSBURGH CONFERENCE of the Methodist Episcopal Church, commences its session in this place to-morrow. Bishop McKendree arrived here on Saturday; and at this time the Preachers are nearly all in town.

NEW CONSTITUTION.

We have received a communication from our friend JUSTICE, on the subject of a "New Constitution." Our correspondent celebrated the Fourth of July by thinking upon political principles, while others were engaged in the more common practice of drinking on similar topics. His article is a long one, but quite interesting. We intend to insert it entire in our next.

The friends of the Convention appear to be contented with the progress which they have made towards reforming the state government, and are calmly waiting for the meeting of the Delegates, to whom they have assigned the important task of revising the Constitution. The temper which prevails, is favourable to a discreet and satisfactory performance of the high duties of the Convention. We have no ardent contests for particular theories, or provisions, to awaken prejudices against important principles, or to obscure the mental vision of any portion of the community. A confident reliance upon the good sense of the Convention, seems to be every where indulged. For surely we cannot impute to indifference the fact, that in no part of the state does there appear any discussion upon constitutional topics. The Convention is to assemble on the first Monday of October,—within three months—and yet, since the result of the elections has been ascertained, the whole subject seems to be banished from the Journals of Virginia. With the political atmosphere

..... "So cool, so calm, so bright," a hallowed introduction may be expected to the deliberations of the Convention. An able and liberal investigation of the elements of civil society, and the proper distribution of political powers, will naturally follow; and the most beneficial results may be anticipated. Intelligence and enterprise will be advanced to an equality with succession to property. A new and powerful impulse will be given to the prosperity of the state, in the improvement of its mental and physical capacities.

KENTUCKY TURNPIKE.

On the 4th inst. the labour was commenced on the turnpike road, which is to be constructed from Maysville to Washington, in Kentucky. The road is to be graded and stoned on the McAdams plan, under the direction of Mr. Williams, late Assistant Superintendent on the National Road in Ohio.

WICKLIFFE'S CASE.

C. Wickliffe, of Lexington, Ky. indicted for the killing of Mr. Benning, Editor of the Kentucky Gazette, has been acquitted by the traverse jury. It was proved on the trial, that Benning was the assailant, and Wickliffe shot him in self defence.

In the Field.—The Hon. Martin Van Buren has been nominated in Alabama, for the office of President of the United States, to succeed Gen. Jackson. The Scioto Gazette of the 8th inst. states that materials have been received at Columbus, from New-York, for printing a newspaper to advocate the pretensions of Mr. Van Buren in Ohio.

Campbell's American Argus.—We have received three numbers of this paper—a paper useful to every man of business, no matter how limited, but invaluable to every one who is in the habit of passing much distant bank paper through his hands. It is published weekly, in the city of New York, on a sheet of the largest size, each sheet containing a comprehensive Price Current of the N. York, Philadelphia, Baltimore, and Boston markets—a list of all the Banking institutions in the U. S., with the value of the notes on each, at the above places—an extensive list of counterfeits and altered Bank Notes, including all known to be in circulation throughout the Union, as also a list of all the broken Banks in the U. S. The price is six dollars per annum. Three pages of it are devoted to the above and other matters of a commercial nature; a fourth to the most interesting news of the day, miscellaneous readings, poetry, &c. which, being printed with small type, contains as much readable matter as most of our largest weekly publications, which will render the paper generally interesting to every class of readers.

We would in this place beg leave to apprise Mr. Campbell of an error, respecting the title of the Banking institution in this place, which has found its way into his paper. Instead of the "North Western Bank of Virginia," it is there styled the "North Western RESERVE Bank of Virginia."

QUERIES TO THE MEMBERS OF THE CORPORATION.

Why does not the street commissioner keep the side walks, especially on Main-street, clear of boxes, barrels, and other obstructions, placed there by the merchants to attract the attention of passers-by?

Why is there no ordinance passed for establishing an asseiz of bread?

Why is not the plat of the town as made out by the commissioners under an act of the General Assembly, placed on record in the Clerk's Office?

Judgments have been rendered in the General Court, in favour of the State of Virginia, against the securities of Jeremiah Baker, for defalcations as State Treasurer, to the amount of twenty-five thousand dollars.

The effects of proscription.—The National Intelligencer states, that a Postmaster who was a subscriber to that paper, lately requested that it might be discontinued, with symptoms of trepidation which he could not conceal. He was afraid of lying under the suspicion of being suspected.

The Hon. John Catron, one of the Judges of the Supreme Court of Tennessee, proposes to the people of the state that the legislature at their next session pass a law declaring "That no one shall be bound for the debt or default of another by writing or otherwise; provided that the act shall not extend to securityships entered into in the courts of justice.—In other words, that no one shall be bound as security for another in any case by word, bond, note, or endorsement, for an ordinary contract between man and man." This is one of the reforms which the great Brougham has wished to effect in the British laws.

Two large buildings at Norristown, Pa. were struck by lightning during a late storm; but being provided with conductors, the electric fluid was carried off without injuring either property or persons.

American Political History.—Several works are now in preparation, or on the eve of publication, having reference to the formation and administration of our government. Mr. Madison devotes his retirement to a work of this kind. This memoir will not be published till after his death. Mr. Jefferson's *Memoirs and Correspondence* will be published in a few months, in six volumes octavo.—Gen. Washington's *Correspondence, Journals, &c.* are in the hands of Mr. Sparks, who is preparing to publish them. The papers of the late Mr. Adams will no doubt be given to the world by his son, who will also enrich the literature of his country with a memoir of his own life. *The Life and Correspondence of Arthur Lee*, is about to be published at Boston; and the *Memoirs of Major William Jackson*, of Philadelphia, will be put to press shortly.—*Pall.*

Singular Death.—In New-Miford, Mass. the wife of Mr. Tyrus Wheaton, having occasion to go to a neighbour's, left her infant, aged about six months, asleep on the bed. She was absent not more than 15 or 20 minutes, and on her return hastened to look after her babe; when, to her utter astonishment, the child was found suspended, its chin resting on the bedstead, and the back of its head against the wall. It was dead.

The Pittsburgh "Allegheny Democrat" distinguished through the late contest for its violent opposition to the Administration, announces J. C. Calhoun as a candidate for the Presidency in the following language:

"The contest will now be between Clay and Calhoun, between the American and British systems, and the opposing parties will be tariff and anti-tariff."

Much as we dread the result of a contest upon these grounds, with Mr. Calhoun and his host of political allies in this state, still we rejoice to see this explicit declaration, from so high a source.

Uniontown Dem.

The account of the celebration of the late anniversary of our National Independence, by the Mechanics and Manufacturers of Wheeling and vicinity, together with the address of Wm. McCone, Esq. with which we were favored at too late a period for insertion in our last, will be found below.

The party assembled at 10 o'clock, in front of the courthouse; where, being joined by the Committee of arrangement, Orator of the day, Reader of the Declaration of Independence, Marshalls, and a vast concourse of citizens, they set out at 11 o'clock, for the Presbyterian Meetinghouse, accompanied by a band of Music. After their arrival, and the formalities usual on such occasions, were gone through, the company marched from thence to the Rope Walk of Mr. J. W. Berry, at the upper end of the town, where, at 2 P. M. the company, to the number of 2-6 sat down to a sumptuous dinner prepared by Mr. Lloyd Wright, in his usual superior style. Capt. George Duthy acting as President, and Mr. James H. Forsyth as Vice President. After the cloth was removed, the following regular and volunteer toasts were drank:

1. The day we celebrate.—Second in importance to none since the first day of the Christian Era.
2. The Congress of '76—The faithful and patriotic guardians of our Infant Liberty; we venerate the living and revere the dead.
3. The memory of Gen. GEORGE WASHINGTON.—[Drank standing and in silence.]
7. The memory of the greatest Citizen that ever lived.—THOMAS JEFFERSON. [Drank standing and uncovered.]
8. The President of the United States.—In his political Voyage may the Constitution and the laws be his compass, and the good of his country his polar star. *Three guns.*
9. The Heads of Departments.—Good men, but let us try them.
11. The Navy of the United States.—Its prowess best speaks its praise, its glory covers the Ocean.
12. Our Sister Republics of the South.—May anarchy and civil discord cease, civil and religious Liberty take their place, and union and harmony cement them into our great Republic.
13. The late Tariff.—We most heartily approve, we now enjoy the advantages arising from it, and pledge ourselves to support it, and add our thanks to those who adopted it, for if we let trade alone others will soon regulate it to suit themselves, and not us.
14. The Convention to meet in October next.—If wisdom, experience and superlative talents are requisites in deliberating bodies we have the most sanguine hopes of a Constitution worth of the Ancient Dominion.
20. Catholic Emancipation.—Founded in the spirit of toleration, adopted in wisdom, sanctioned by justice; we had with feelings of the purest delight the extension of the principles of Religious Liberty.
21. The American Fair.—The ne plus ultra of all our wishes, the *primum mobile* of all our actions.

VOLUNTEERS.

By J. N. Young, *American Farmer.*—The support of their country, their pride and greatness; Goldsmith might truly say:

"Princes and Lords may flourish, and may fade; A breath can make them, as a breath can make; But a bold peasantry, their country's pride, If once destroyed, can never be supplied."

By J. McPoely. *The Youths of the Town of Wheeling.*—May they transmit to endless ages, the spirit of '76.

By Wm. Irwin, Jr. *May the Chief Magistrate of the United States perform his duty as trustfully as he has been engaged in appointing new officers to high stations they never deserved.*

By J. Dare. *The Editors of the "Free Enquirer."*—May they fight the good fight of faith, until Priestcraft and Superstition is done away.

By the Company. *John W. Berry.*—His kindness in offering his rope walk for our accommodation is only excelled by his public spirit and enterprise.

By A. B. King. *The United States.*—May the blaze of her glory illuminate the world. Many volunteer toasts necessarily omitted.

Mr. Wm. McCone. SIR—I have been appointed a member of the Committee of arrangement to thank you for the address delivered by you on the 4th inst. at the Presbyterian Church, and to request a copy of the same for publication. DAVID WHITE, Wheeling, July 6, 1829.

Mr. David WHITE.—Your note of yesterday, on behalf of the Committee of arrangement, requesting my address delivered on the 4th inst. for publication, is received. I thank you, and through you the committee for their attention, and please to send a copy of the address delivered on the 4th inst. returned to me. I am, yours, &c. Wm. McCONE, Wheeling, July 7, 1829.

AN ORATION.

Announced by Wm. McCONE, at the Presbyterian Church in Wheeling, on the 4th of July, 1829.

FELLOW-CITIZENS:

It is always a grateful spectacle to men, who feel interested in the prospect of their country, assembled together for the purpose of commemorating those and remarkable events, which have distinguished their country. The spirit which brings them together is one that does not rest to the human understanding and to the cause of liberty. The object of such an assembly is to review the achievements of those most immediately connected with the event commemorated; to dwell upon the advantages gained thereby, principles, the moral relation and political situation, which such an event opens to the world; and above all, to express gratitude to the kind author of all our blessings. But it is peculiarly pleasing to that class of citizens, who constitute the support of government in peace, and defence in war, the enterprising mechanic and manufacturer, united in the celebration of this day—the anniversary of that fortunate moment, which delivered them from the thralldom of a foreign power and enabled them to foster and protect the products of their own industry. United as they are by their interests, and with hearts devoted to this cause, no power can withstand the moral force of their unanimity, no scheme however cunningly devised, can thwart success, and no opposition, from whatever source it may proceed, can retard the growth and prosperity of our country. Nothing will so effectually bind the heart and strengthen the sympathy of all classes, and nothing so readily dispel party hatred and political animosities, as the frequent contemplation of the glorious achievements of our ancestors—their sacrifices, their privations and their sufferings—but above all, their unanimity in promoting the interests of their country. In that eventful period, no local distinction, no opposing interests distracted the councils of the masses—all were united, as a band of brothers in opposition to oppression and in support of the rights of man.

The frequent contemplation of these virtues raises the mind above itself, stimulates it to emulate the magnanimity of our departed Fathers and inspires it with the ardor of patriotism. The mind that is elevated by a review of these transactions, is indeed lost to all sensibility. Even the vassals of Europe, upon reading their history, are lost in wonder, that such virtue and such magnanimity should have adorned human nature. And were we still deprived of our dearest rights, and compelled to contribute the produce of our labor to the support of a corrupted government, were we still the subjects of oppression and the slaves of despotic ministers, yet our hearts would throb and our cheeks glow at the recital of these glorious deeds. What then should be our feelings when we recollect, that those sages were endeared to us by the tenderest ties of nature—that their instrumentality, we are surrounded with peace, prosperity and happiness—that we are placed in the possession of liberty and independence, and enjoy all the rights which the God of nature intended to confer on man. Oh! our veneration for those great and exalted men should be immeasurable, and our hearts overflow with gratitude to that Providence who rules and governs the destiny of nations. Revolutions had heretofore been effected, the manacles of despotism severed, and the condition of mankind ameliorated.—Greece has had her struggles—Rome has had her triumphs over oppression—England has been revolutionized, and France convulsed; and perhaps their misfortunes may have enlightened their minds and softened their condition. But it was reserved for the Congress of '76 to break through the prejudices which had heretofore enslaved mankind, to vindicate the dignity of human nature, and to place the rights of humanity upon the footing pointed out by the decrees of a beneficent Providence. It would be useless to attempt to eulogise the wisdom of that august assembly. Their deeds bespeak their best praise, and the happy condition of our country is the greatest monument of their glory. "With them the Republic was every thing; for that alone they consulted; the only faction they formed was against the common enemy; their minds and their bodies were sincerely and nobly exerted, not for personal power, but for the liberties, the honor and glory of their country;" and they were endowed with qualities adequate to the occasion which called forth their energies.

It is true that genius will at all times find a theatre for the display of its powers.—The wants, both natural and artificial of mankind, that restless curiosity so incident to the human mind, their passions, their hopes and their fears, have elicited the highest intellectual efforts. No country has been so barren nor age so benighted, but that the rays of genius and of science have penetrated the gloom and shed a lustre upon the surrounding darkness. But if one time be more propitious to the display of genius than another, it is when some great commotion affects the peace of a civilized country;—when revolutions of