

THE THEFT.

AS Chloe, the fair, in the heat of the day,
Beneath the cool shade lay asleep,
The roguish young zephyrs, in frolicksome play,
Fann'd the lawn from her bosom to peep.
Young Damon, whom long the coy maid
had despis'd,
Arriv'd and stood gazing in bliss;
Then love tapp'd his shoulder and boldly
advis'd,
To steal (with sweet rudeness) a kiss;
The shepherd obey'd; with such ardor he
pres'd,
That he broke the fair maiden's repose—
She starts, and the robe quickly draws o'er
her breast,
While with shame and resentment it glows.
Nay, prithee, dear maid, thy brow now
unbend,
Archly smiling, reply'd the young swain,
"If, by stealing a kiss, I my fair one offend,
She is welcome to take it again."
Well pleas'd with his boldness, fair Chloe
reply'd,
"Reparation should always be free;
Then if you no longer would have me to
chide,
Yourself must return it to me."
Enraptur'd, the theft he with int'rest repaid,
While love thrill'd with transport each
vein;
Since which, when he e'er steals a kiss, it is
said,
Chloe makes him return it again.

ESSAY ON WOMEN.

[Continued.]

—The conversation of men to awaken their vivacity and draw them from a negligence, into which, if they were not stimulated by a desire of pleasing, they would certainly fall. That desire produces the allurements of the face, the grace of air, and sweetness of voice; for whether they speak, move, or smile, they think of rendering themselves agreeable; whence we may conclude that it is the men who, in some degree, give charms to the women, who without them would fall into a sour or indolent temper. Besides female minds, overwhelmed by trifles, would languish in ignorance, if men, recalling them to more elevated objects, did not communicate dignity and vigour.

'Tis thus that the two sexes ought to be perfected by each other. The manly courage of the one is tempered by the softness of the other, which, in its turn, borrows from the same courage. The one acquires in women's company, a milder tincture, while the other loses their female levity. Their different qualities balance each other; and it is from that mixture the happy accord arises, which renders them both more accomplished. The variety of minds may be compared to that of voices, which would rather form an agreeable concert, than a grating discord. If men are of a stronger form, it is the more effectually to contribute to the happiness of those who are more weak: one sex was not designed to be the oppressor of the other; the intimate connexion between them is for general advantage, and those ridiculous debates of superiority are an insult to nature, and an ingratitude for her benefits.

We are born women's friends not their rivals, much less their tyrants; and that strength which was given us for their defence is abused, when thereby we enslave them; and to banish from society its sweetest charm, that part of the human species which is most proper to animate it, would render it quite insipid.

The truth of this has been proved by the people of the East, who joining together a sense of their own weakness and a brutal passion, have regarded women as dangerous companions, against whom they must be on their guard; therefore they have enslaved that sex, to avoid being enslaved by them, and have thought too much love, gave them a title to misuse them: but these tyrannic masters have been the first victims of their tyrannic jealousy. Devoted to a lonely melancholy life, they have sought for tender sensations in vain amidst their fair slaves. Sensibility, with the delicacy ever its companion, is only to be found in the reign of freedom, since they both necessarily shun a society void of those springs whence they

might grow. These, and such like people, seek to recompense themselves for a lost sensibility and delicacy, by a brutish voluptuousness, which only serves to numb their senses and brutalize their souls.

AMICUS.

Legislature of Massachusetts.

January 27.

Precisely at 12 o'clock, his Excellency the Governor, met the two branches of the Legislature, and delivered the following

ADDRESS:

Friends and Fellow-Citizens,

SINCE your last adjournment the President of the United States has officially announced to the Legislature of the Union, his determination to retire from the cares of public life.—When a citizen so distinguished by his country, withdraws himself from the Councils of the Nation, and retires to peaceful repose; it must afford very pleasurable feelings in his own mind, to be conscious of the good will of the people towards him—how much more consoling must his feelings be, in reflecting that he has served them many years with purity of intention and disinterested zeal.—We sincerely wish him tranquility in his retirement, and strong consolation in the latter stage of life.

In pursuance of the provision in the constitution, the people have lately exercised their own sovereign power in the election of another President. Elections to offices, even in the smallest corporations, are and ought to be deemed highly important; of how much more importance is it that elections to the highest offices in our extensive Republic, should be conducted in a manner and with a spirit becoming a free, virtuous, and enlightened people, who justly estimate the value of their sacred rights. In the late elections, the people have turned their attention to several citizens, who have rendered eminent services to our federal Commonwealth in exalted stations. Upon which ever of the candidates the lot may have fallen, the people have reason to expect, that his administration will be strictly conformable to the letter and true intent of the Constitution, that it may long continue to be the guarantee of our freely elective Republican government. On fair and uncontroled elections, depend under God, the whole superstructure of our government.—Should corruption ever insert itself in our elections, there would be great danger of corruption in our governments.—Although it is not long since the subject of elections was under the consideration of the Legislature, and a law passed for the purpose of further security to the people in the free exercise of this invaluable right; yet give me leave to suggest for your consideration, whether still further securities may not be provided, so that the rightful electors may not be frustrated in their honest intentions. That elections may not be contaminated by strangers, or unqualified persons, may it not be necessary, that every man may be known, as far as possible, when he presents himself to give in his vote; this may be more especially important in our seaports and other populous towns, in which many foreigners of all sorts frequently reside.—I would be far from dictating to you, but I would submit to your judgment whether, considering the liberality of this country to foreigners, and the frequency of their naturalizations, it may not be eligible that such foreigners should be required when they offer their votes to the selectmen of the towns, to produce authentic certificates from the courts, by which they were endowed with so high a privilege, as a test of their citizenship.

As piety, religion and morality have a happy influence on the minds of men, in their public as well as private transactions you will not think it unseasonable, although I have frequently heretofore done it, to bring to your remembrance the great importance of encouraging our University, town-schools and other seminaries of education, that our children and youth while they are engaged in the pursuit of useful science, may have their minds impressed with a strong sense of the duties they owe to their God, their instructors, and each other, so that when they arrive to a state of manhood and take a part in any public transactions, their hearts having been deeply impressed in the course of their education with the moral feelings—such feelings may continue and have their due weight through the whole of their future lives.

Permit me to call your attention to the subject of the militia of the commonwealth. A well regulated militia "held in exact su-

bordination to the civil authority and governed by it" is the most safe defence of a Republic.—In our Declaration of rights, which expresses the sentiments of the people, the people have a right to keep and bear arms for the common defence.—The more generally therefore they are called out to be disciplined, the stronger is our security. No man, I should think, who possesses a true republican spirit, would decline to rank with his fellow citizens on the fancied idea of a superiority of circumstances: This might tend to introduce fatal distinctions in our country. We can all remember the time when our militia, far from being disciplined, as they are at present, kept a well appointed hostile army for a considerable time confined to the capital; and when they ventured out, indeed they took possession of the ground they aimed at, yet they ventured to their cost, and never forgot the battle of Bunker Hill. The same undisciplined militia under the command and good conduct of General Washington, continued that army confined in or near the capital, until they thought proper to change their position and retreated with haste to Halifax.—If the militia of the commonwealth can be made still more effective, I am confident you will not delay a measure of so great magnitude. I beg leave to refer you to the seventeenth article in our Declaration of Rights, which respects the danger of standing armies in time of peace. I hope we shall ever have virtue enough to guard against their introduction.—But may we not hazard the safety of our republic would we ever constitute, under the name of a select militia, a small body to be disciplined in a camp with all the pomp and splendor of a regular army? Would such an institution be likely to be much less dangerous to our free government and to the morals of our youth than if they were actually enlisted for permanent service? And would they not as usual in standing armies, feel a distinct interest from that of our fellow-citizens at large? The great principles of our present militia system are undoubtedly good, constituting one simple body and embracing so great a proportion of the citizens as will prevent a separate interest among them, inconsistent with the welfare of the whole.—Those principles, however, I conceive, should equally apply to all the active citizens, within the age prescribed by law.—All are deeply interested in the general security; and where there are no invidious exemptions, partial distinctions or privileged bands, every man, it is presumed, would pride himself in the right of bearing arms, and afford his personal appearance in common with his fellow-citizens. If upon examination you shall find, that the duties incident to our present system bear harder on one class of citizens, than on another, you will undoubtedly endeavour, as far as is possible, to equalize its burthens.

Friends and Fellow-Citizens,

I think it a duty incumbent upon me to acquaint you, and our fellow-citizens at large, that having arrived to a stage of life, marked in holy writ, and verified by constant experience, as a time of labour and sorrow; it is highly proper, both upon my own account, as well as that of the public, to decline the future suffrages of my fellow-citizens for the office I have now the honor to sustain. I have had this in contemplation near a twelve month past. The infirmities of age render me an unfit person in my own opinion, and very probable in the opinion of others, to continue in this station; and I mention it now, that those of the electors who may probably be too warmly attached to me, may not nullify their own votes by giving them for me. I have always been convinced that many others might have been found to fill my place, with greater advantage to the commonwealth than is now or ever has been in my power.—In the Civil department during the times of war and of peace. I have served her in various stations to the best of my ability and I hope with general approbation; and I can say with truth that I have not enriched myself in her service. My warmest thanks are justly due to my constituents for the confidence they have repeatedly placed in me. When I shall be released from the burthens of my public station, I shall not forget my country.—Her welfare and happiness, her peace and prosperity, her liberty and independence will always have a great share in the best wishes of my heart.

I will endeavour to consider the business you may lay before me with fidelity and dispatch.

SAMUEL ADAMS.

Boston, January 27, 1797.