
ON THE VANITY OF YOUTHFUL HOPES.

In life's gay morn, what vivid hues
Adorn the animating views,
By flattering fancy drawn?
No Rurms with gloomy aspect rise,
To cloud the azure of the skies,
No mists obscure the dawn.

With looks invariably gay,
Young Expectation points the way
To every blissful shade,
Where odors, faint the breath of morn,
Where roses bloom without a thorn,
And music fills the glades.

Ere partur'd with the distant view,
Youth thinks its fictitious beauties true,
And springs the prize to gain;
His grasp the gay illusion flies:
Experience thus the cheat declares,
And proves his hopes were vain.

The path of life, tho' flowers adorn,
Yet often with the rugged thorn,
Amidst the flowers, arise;
Expect not then on earth to share,
Enjoyment unallay'd by care,
But seek it in the skies.

BORROWING.—Where is the person who has not borrowed, in one instance or another? Even suppose we say it was only a flat iron of his neighbour's wife, her under-boss, or washing-tub, with the usual observation—I will repay or return it again to-morrow. This verifies an old proverb—"Tis better to borrow than to steal." But in general the greatest offender is the firm to turn evidence. I here give you an instance:—A black man in Jamaica, some time ago was taken up by his matter or buying goods knowing them to have been stolen. He was tried, found guilty, and sentence passed upon him. The Judge pronounced—"Take and flog the black rascal." The prisoner begged to be heard, which was granted. Says he, "If white man buy stolen goods, will you order white rascal a flog? (Yes, to be sure, said the Judge.) Here is my Malle, he buy stolen goods, he know I was stolen when he bought me; hold him fast."

WASHINGTON CITY, Nov. 19.
The cause of the fire in the War office has not been yet fully ascertained; but there is the best reason to believe that it arose from the inattention of some person in the adjacent building, the owner of which had died that day. His corpse still remained in the house, in which a fire was kept up. From this house it is supposed to have been conducted into the private office of the Secretary at War by some pieces of joist that communicated from one building to the other.

Among the citizens, who first reached the building, was Mr. Wolcott, who hesitated for a moment whether he should burst open the door of the apartment, which was in flames, or attempt in the first instance, the removal of the papers in the adjacent rooms. He, however, thought it best to force his way into the apartment, in hopes of extracting some of the papers, and accordingly did so. The act was not followed by the hoped for effect, as the flames had already consumed every thing in the room. They extended themselves with rapidity to the other parts of the building, which were soon in a general blaze.

Fortunately all the papers of the accountants were saved, so that little, if any derangement will take place in the accounts of the War department.

A very valuable library of books that treated chiefly of tactics were entirely consumed. This loss is the greater, as many of the best works cannot be replaced.

It is also stated, that the papers, in relation to the disposition of lands, are among those burned.

The most active exertions were made to subdue the flames. But they proved unavailing from the want of water.—Among those who distinguished themselves most, we mention with pleasure Mr. Wolcott.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE.

Washington, 30th Oct. 1800.

SIR,
I ENCLOSE a list of men, who allege they are American citizens, born in the State of Maryland, and who are detained on board of British ships of war, for want of proof of their being such. I request you therefore to take such measures as you may deem most practicable and effectual to discover their relations or friends; and, in communicating to them respectively, the cause of the detention of the men, to acquaint them, that this Department will receive the proofs of their being citizens, and pursue the means proper to produce their liberation. Proof of citizenship should be in every case, accompanied with a description of a man's person to whom it relates.

I am, Sir,
Very respectfully,
Your most obedient servant.
(Signed) JOHN MARSHALL.

To the Collector of the Customs of Baltimore.

STATE OF MARYLAND.

Names.	Places of nativity.
John Davis,	Baltimore, (F. P.)
William Floyd,	do.
Richard Walker,	do.
Andrew Craig,	do.
Archibald Hunt,	Cæsar county,
John Stafford,	Baltimore, (O. T.)
William Moore,	Eastern Shore,
James Smith,	Baltimore,
William Ford,	Unknown,
Henry Clay,	Baltimore,
John Shields,	Suffex county,
John Somers,	Dorset county,
John Simmonds,	Unknown,
Thomas Butters,	Baltimore,
James Cooper,	do.
William Hulson,	do.
Edward Carter,	do.
Benjamin Harris,	do.
Barney Gale,	do.
Henry Long,	do.
William S. revern,	Queen Ann's county,
John Herner,	Unknown,
George Ramfey,	do.
James McLinnan,	do.
James M'Loring,	do.
Horatio Gates,	do.
William Sandford,	Caroline county,
John M'Donald,	Unknown,
Henry Clay,	Harford county.

From the AURORA.

It is reported and believed, that the object of Mr. Thomas Cooper's late journey to New-York, was to prosecute Alexander Hamilton for his highly seditious and incendiary libel against the President of the United States. If the fact is true, and we have reason to believe that it is, we hope that Mr. Cooper will have succeeded in instituting, or at least in organizing a prosecution against the libeller. The seditious law will then, like Phalaris's Bull, become the instrument of the punishment of its own inventors; and we shall see the figure which Mr. Hamilton will make in the posture of a culprit at the bar of his injured country. He, of all others, has the least reason to complain of this proceeding, he who with unbounded rage prosecuted the wretched Frothingham, for having written a libel against himself, who not furnished with the verdict of the jury, which to a man of humanity would have been a sufficient triumph, had the inhumanity to suffer the poor helpless man to be torn from his wife and children, and confined for several months in a loathsome goal, when a single word from the mouth of this relentless persecutor would have released him.

What means Mr. Cooper may have taken to institute the prosecution, we do not know. In the case of Frothingham, Hamilton had nothing to do but to write a mandatory letter to the attorney-general of New-York, as though he himself had been the supreme authority of the State, the attorney-general obeyed, and Mr. Hamilton had not even the trouble of attending before the court as a witness, or to interfere in any other manner than by issuing the supreme command. Mr. Cooper may, with equal propriety, have issued a similar mandate to the district attorney of New-York, but we fear not with the same success.

No doubt the great interest which the culprit had with certain persons, will under the prosecution of Mr. Hamilton, rather be an uphill work, be it undertaken by whom it may. Some of the printer's devils might perhaps be offered as a propitiatory sacrifice, they are the ignoble vulgar, and then they might cry out that justice is dealt out equally to all. But that is not the object, Hamilton must be prosecuted, convicted and punished, or else the world will be convinced that the seditious law, was merely intended to protect the President of a party, and that it has no force to protect the President of the United States. It is known that several of the prosecutions under the seditious law have been ordered by the executive authority; the president must therefore order Alexander Hamilton to be prosecuted. The district attorney is bound to prosecute him in office. If they do not do their duty respectively, the world will draw their own inferences.

At the same time the republicans must not wait for the tardy interference of authority. Any independent man may commence a prosecution, and carry it on with effect; the temple of justice is, or ought to be open to every one. Those whose duty it is to enforce the laws, will not dare to refuse the exercise of their ministry. We hope that Mr. Cooper has taken the necessary measures to bring about this necessary work; if the absence of Mr. Hamilton from New-York, or the short stay which he made there have prevented him from doing it, it may be done by others. The party are by this time sufficiently sick of their seditious law; but they must swallow the cup which they have administered to others. They must swallow it to the very dregs. It will cure them, we hope, for ever, of the use of mixing such deleterious compositions, and so ill suited to the American palate. Let the law be what it will, it must be equal, or we are not free.

Thanks are due to the respectable and much injured Thomas Cooper, for the noble and spirited firmness which he displayed on this occasion.

In our paper of the 21st October, we gave

a general statement, that Pickering recalled Mr. Pintard, our Consul, at Madeira, upon his own authority.

Upon a further investigation it appears that the facts are much worse than we then stated. Mr. Pintard had in several instances effectually registered the impressment of British vessels at Madeira, and by an undaunted discharge of his duty to his country, highly offended the British Naval Officers on that station. It is pretty accurately ascertained, that intimations were made to the ex secretary by a certain noted diplomatic character, that the removal of Mr. Pintard would be a desirable event to his Court, and more especially to Lord St. Vincent, who it seems, was highly offended that a Yankee should dare to obstruct the execution of his orders.

Our ex secretary on his own authority, and with the most culpable condescension gave Mr. Liston assurances that Mr. Pintard should be recalled! This shameful transaction getting to the knowledge of Mr. Pintard and perceiving that he was likely to be sacrificed at the shrine of British influence, he lost no time in returning home, and confronting his calumniators. Mr. Pickering having gone out too far in his unauthorized promises to Mr. Liston, did not wish to recede!—A representation of the transaction was therefore made to the President, who it is said, was surprised at Mr. Pickering's conduct—and who confirmed Mr. Pintard in his appointment, to the great mortification of the quondam Secretary and his friend Mr. Liston.—These facts do great honor to Mr. Adams, and we are always ready to do justice where it is due.

No doubt the appointment of a Scotchman as Consul at Madeira, would have been a very agreeable thing to Mr. Liston, and in which perhaps an ex secretary would have been very happy to oblige him!!

From a late LONDON PAPER.

NEUTRAL VESSELS.

The decision upon the American ship Pigeon, which was ordered to be restored with costs, shews that a greater degree of system has been established by the New Council of Prizes at Paris with respect to neutral vessels, than the loose and frequently unjust principle upon which the Directory acted. The following is the decision of the Council in another case, the case of the Statira.—

The Statira, capt. Seaward, an American ship, had been captured by an English vessel, and re-captured by the French privateer the Hazard.

The first point which the commissary considers is, the effect which the Statira having been in the possession of the English ought to have.

He observes, that if the vessel captured and recovered had been French, and re-captured by a national vessel, there would have been nothing due to the recaptor, because this is only the exercise of that protection which the State owes to all its subjects in all circumstances. If it had been recovered by a French privateer, the French regulation gives the property of the vessel to the recaptor, on account of the risk and danger of privateering. It might be an act of generosity to restore the vessel to the original owner, but it is not of right that it should.

In the next place, he considers the case of a neutral recaptured from an enemy. If really neutral, he says, the vessel must be released. The ground of this higher degree of favour for a neutral lies in the fact, that the French vessel would have been lost to the country. But it is not certain that the neutral captured by an enemy may not be released by the admiralty courts of the enemy. The mere capture does not vest the property immediately in the recaptor, so as to make it transferable to the recaptor. The commissary considers the property not vested in the recaptor till sentence of condemnation.

We believe this is much milder, and more favourable for neutrals than our practice. They being a certain time in the enemy's custody, or *intra Mœnia*, transfers the property to the recaptor, so as to make it vest in the recaptor. This was held in the late well known case of the Spanish prize, captured by the French and recaptured by the English. It is to be observed, however, that a principle of reciprocity is pursued, and that we give the indulgence to the neutral which he would have given us in a similar case.

Having proved that the Statira was not liable to confiscation, on the ground of her being in the hands of an enemy, the commissary considers whether her cargo was a ground of confiscation.

Upon this point he considers two questions, 1st, Whether in point of law, the character of the vessel, neutral or not, should be determined by the nature of the cargo? 2^d, Whether the cargo consisted of contraband?

He then reviews all the laws, upon this head—He shows that till the decree of the 29th Nivose, (year 6,) the regulation of the 26th July, 1778, was the guide. This regulation states, "His Majesty prohibits all privateers to stop and bring into the ports of the kingdom, the ships of neutral

vessels, even though coming from or bound to the ports of the enemy, with the exception of those carrying supplies to places blockaded, invested or besieged. With regard to the ships of neutral States, laden with contraband commodities for the enemy, they may be stopped, and the said commodities shall be seized and confiscated, but the vessels and the residue of their cargo shall be restored, unless the said contraband commodities constituted three fourths of the value of the cargo, in which case the ship and cargo shall be wholly confiscated." His Majesty however, reserves the right of revoking the privileges above granted, if the enemy do not grant a reciprocal indulgence in the course of six months from the date hereof.

The law of the 29th Nivose (year 6,) overruled all this system, and enacted, "That the State of ships in regard to their being neutral or hostile, should be determined by their cargo, and accordingly every vessel found at sea, laden in whole or in part with commodities coming from England or its possessions, should be declared good prize, whoever might be the owners of their articles and commodities."

The severity of this regulation the commissary condemns, but as the Statira was captured while it was in force, the captor was entitled to have the capture tried by it. He examines next how the regulation applies, promising his opinion that such regulations are in properly framed laws, and that they are essentially various, *protempore et casibus*, that they should always be tempered by wisdom and equity. He adverts to the words *in whole or in part*. By the whole, he says, ought to be understood a great part, because according to the judicial maxim *pro nihilo habetur*. Upon this principle then he is of opinion that a ship ought not to be subject to confiscation even under the law of the 29th Nivose, unless such a part of the cargo comes under the description of what is there made contraband, as ought to excite a presumption of fraud against the rest. What that part should be is not capable of definition, but should be left to the enlightened equity and sound discretion of the Judge.

The Statira had on board 60 barrels of turpentine, and 40 barrels of pitch. The captor contended that these were contraband; the captured said, that by the treaty of 1778 with the Americans, they were not enumerated as contraband.

But the commissary shews, that the Americans, by that treaty, were bound to admit the French to all the advantages of the most favored nations—that having in a subsequent treaty with England made pitch contraband, with respect to the latter, necessarily it became contraband with regard to France.

The learned commissary, however, thinks that even upon the principle of the law of the 29th Nivose, the quantity of pitch was too small to justify confiscation.

In the next place, the captor alleged, that 291 pieces of tampechy wood, part of the cargo of the Statira, was the produce of English possessions.

This point, however, had not been regularly ascertained, as the report on the subject was made without the capture being called as a party.

The commissary states, however, strong circumstances of suspicion on this head. The captured had not appealed against the confiscation of the cargo. The only cause came under the consideration of the court on the appeal of the captor, who wanted to get both ship and cargo.

The commissary therefore saw no reason for condemning the ship, which was clearly neutral; but on account of the suspicion against the character of the cargo, he thought no indemnification whatever, due to the captured.

Judgment was pronounced accordingly. The Piratical Decree of the 10th Nivose (year 6,) mentioned above with its severity by Portalis, has been repealed, things have been placed upon the footing of the regulation of 1778; that is, French are to treat neutrals in regard to contraband, in the same way in which they are treated by us; they will not allow the Americans to carry into England a commodity which the English would seize as contraband going into the ports of France.

We understand that maj. gen. Knox is appointed to be the governor, general of Jamaica; and that he is immediately to set out to the West-Indies.

A new subsidiary treaty between the British government and his highness the Nizam, was ratified at Colcoadah on the 26th of Dec.

NOTICE.
THE Copartnership between Richard Langdon & William Giles, and the firm of Langdon & Giles, was this day dissolved by mutual consent.
RICHARD LANGDON,
WILLIAM GILES.
Wilmington, Oct. 21, 1800.

Blank Entries,
For sale at this Office.

Stat per cor