

consumption, however, was connected with sailing & praying, the Carolina rice trade affords an argument in favor of the inter, as well as that of the cod fishery; and these does not appear to be an objection at democracy in Mr. Jefferson, which should render him a this day a partisan against the interests of his native territory, or the Pope.

We do not find any material public measure to be noticed concerning the present worthy object of our consideration from the year 1786 to 1789. Mr. Jefferson formed, it seems, during that period, several interesting literary acquaintances in France, to an intercourse with whom he chiefly devoted the leisure with which he was saddled by the growing dissensions of the country.

Jefferson returned from France, and the pacific revolution, or rather reformation, of that period, having taken place by unanimous consent and approbation of the several sovereign states, Mr. Jefferson was appointed secretary of state to the federal government.

In this eminent capacity, he was called on to perform many arduous duties of office; and the difficulty of performing these in a safe and satisfactory manner, was greatly enhanced by the consideration of pursuing an untried path in the organization of a new-born system. In whatsoever he undertook, however, he succeeded to the public satisfaction and displayed unequal talents and application.

On the 15th January, 1790, the house of representatives referred to him, as secretary of state, a report on the plan or plans which might be most proper for reducing the currency, weights and measures of the United States to an uniform standard. In considering this question, he gave ample proofs of his mathematical abilities; but, what adds to the perfection of this report, is, the conciseness of method, the spirit of natural philosophy, the fidelity of research, the discriminating precision, and the profundity of judgment with which it is every way replete.

On the 1st February, 1791, Mr. Jefferson reported, in his official capacity, the state of the cod and whale fisheries, which had, in like manner, been referred to him by the house of representatives.

It could scarcely be supposed that it was a favorite topic with a man who had been bred in the mountains, a native of Virginia, where no such fisheries exist; or that he could be any more at home to the fisherman's habits and personal interests, than a farmer would be on board a frigate at sea. Mr. Jefferson, however, had placed his mind with his house, on an elevated scene, from whence he might contemplate the universe; and we find him equally attentive to the more remote interests of his country, as to those of his immediate neighborhood. One might conceive him, indeed, from this document, to have been a regular bred Boston merchant, who had accumulated a fortune in the traffic of spermaceti; but we must admit him to be a merchant of superior information to the plunders of pounds, shillings and pence, and recommend his report to the perusal of that in mediating class who would facilitate the great interests of commerce without preying upon the public faith or the vitals of trade.

In this report, Mr. Jefferson recurs back to the earliest periods, and takes a copious view of the subject without prolixity; as an historian, he conveys abundant information; as a politician, he dives to the bottom of causes and effects; as a calculator he shows himself skilled in arithmetic; as an American he counts the advantages and inconveniences which relate to his country; and as a statesman, he develops the detail of every political disease with an ability that is only equalled by the excellence of his remedy, which is very far above the latitude of a governing party policy.

We come now to one of the most important periods in the history of commerce; the period at which the ambassador of the king of England became a resident at the court of America, and the citizen minister of the French republic, assailed the firmness of her neutral principles. In this precarious state of her political existence, the burden of the day fell on the shoulders of Mr. Jefferson; we need not say with what ability he sustained the shock; on this head the duke de Liancourt has left us nothing to communicate. Over the unpleasant occurrences of that trying period the two governments have wisely drawn a veil, and it shall not be our work to rend or to remove it.

Suffice it to say that with both nations the correspondence was voluminous and intimate; it is apprehended to be, nevertheless, impartial on the side of Mr. Jefferson, and is somewhat important on the side of truth, against that insidious intrigue which dares impute to him an unworthy attachment.

In his letter of the 15th May, 1793, addressed to the predecessor of Mr. Goetz, (Mr. Ternant) he defines the law of nations with perspicuity, and determines on an impartial observance of it; say more, he abandons the citizens of America to the consequences of infraction, if on the other side, they depart from neutrality.

* Report on weights, measures and coins, 14th April, 1790.
* Chastelloux's remarks on this gentleman.
† Mr. Hammond, & Genl.

On a complaint from a British subject, stated in this same letter, that the consul of France residing at Charleston, in S. Carolina, had condemned there a British vessel captured by a French frigate, Mr. Jefferson remonstrated in the following words: "we have not full evidence that the case has happened; but on such an hypothesis, while we should be disposed to view it in this instance, as an error in judgment in the particular officer, we should rely, sir, that you would interpose efficaciously to prevent a repetition of the insults of your nation."

On another complaint of the same nature, which states that privateers had been fitted out from American ports, and manned, in part, by American seamen, to cruise against the ships of Great Britain, Mr. Jefferson makes the following observation to the minister of France: "without taking all these facts for granted, we have no hesitation to express our highest disapprobation of the conduct of any of our citizens, who may personally engage in committing hostilities at sea, against any of the nations who are parties of the present war; to declare that, if the case has happened, or that should it happen, we will exert all the authority with which the laws & constitution have armed us, to discover such offenders, and to bring them to condign punishment."

Thus it is to be discovered (in the direct secretarial act of Mr. Jefferson, wherein, in the infancy of this contest, the head of this department has been less guided by a formal submission to the president, than by the rectitude of a heart, & the wisdom of a head, in which the supreme chief of the union had an abundant confidence, that here is nothing in Mr. Jefferson's principles which should attach him to the factions of France, or any act which may be deemed incompatible with the duties of neutrality. If we were to follow him thro' the subsequent labyrinth of diplomatic intrigue, wherein he then existing rulers of France had employed their chosen corps in arming American citizens, in disorganizing the government of the United States, and in endeavors to involve her in the war, we shall find him equally vigilant and impartial; where then, may we ask, is the evidence of Gallic partiality which Englishmen have ascribed to him? or what are his principles? The failure of affirmative innocence, but is doubtless from a further disapprobation.

As we now approach the period of Mr. Jefferson's retirement, for a short interval, to his domestic concerns, and afterwards to the less active though highly dignified office of vice president, we shall only add one more notice of his official acts in the employment of secretary of state; he was called on by a resolution of the house of representatives, dated February the 23d 1791, to report on the privileges and restrictions of commercial intercourse; but the weighty concerns of organization, the ordinary cares of his official duties, and the cabals of foreign ministers, had occupied so much of his time, that he had not leisure to make this report till the 16th December, 1793; and even then found it proper to confine it to the summer of 1792, (when he had been called off from it by extraneous concerns) that he might be thereby enabled to speak with a greater certainty at a settled point of time.

Doubtless such a review of such an extensive commerce, as that of America, must have been a work of immense labour; and one which demanded the intervention of commercial knowledge in the voluminous details with which it is connected. The difficulty however, is not merely of the extent of these various items, could no be accommodated by the help of clerks and transcribers; but it required the abilities of a Jefferson to compress the view, and combine a picture of the whole, which might be comprehended by the ordinary capacity of a popular representation. In this Mr. Jefferson seems to have succeeded with his accustomed facility; for he has comprehended a summary of the whole in the space of 29 octavo pages; and yet he has given the most satisfactory statements of the trade with Great Britain, France, Spain, Portugal, Denmark, Sweden, and the United Netherlands, comprehending their respective privileges and restrictions with an able summary of inconveniences and remedies.

Shortly after this one of his late secretarial transactions, Mr. Jefferson retired to his seat at Montecello in Virginia. In addition to the ties of parental care and the claims of domestic happiness, Mr. Jefferson is somewhat induced to his derelictory measure, by the persuasion of a decided party overbalancing his opinions in the presidential decisions. "Immediately after this step," says the duke de Liancourt,

"Mr. Jefferson was considered by the ruling party as the leader of opposition; he was suspected of revolutionary views; he was accused of an intention to overturn the constitution of the United States, of being the enemy of his country, and of a wish to become a tribune of the people. It is sufficient to know that Mr. Jefferson is a man of sense, to feel the absurdity of these scandalous imputations; and whoever is acquainted with his virtue, must be astonished at his having been preferred against him. His speeches are those of a man firmly attached to the maintenance of the union, of the present constitution, and of the independence of

the United States. He is the declared enemy of every new system, the introduction of which might be attempted, but he is a greater enemy of a kingly form of government than of any other. He is clearly of opinion, that the present constitution should be carefully preserved and defended against all infringements arising from the stretch of executive power. It was framed and accepted on republican principles, and it is his wish that it should remain a republican constitution.

"On several occasions," says the duke, "I have heard him speak with great respect of the virtues of the president, and in terms of esteem of his sound and unerring judgment."

"But," continues the duke, "the spirit of party is carried to excess in America: men who embrace the opinion of Mr. Jefferson, attack their opponents with imputations, no doubt equally unfounded. In all party proceedings, neither reason nor justice can be expected from either side, and very seldom strict morality, with respect to the means employed to serve the favorite cause; one cause alone appears good; every thing besides is deemed bad, nay criminal, and probity itself serves to mislead probity. Personal resentments assume the color of public spirit, and frequently, when the most odious acts of injustice have been committed, and the most atrocious calumnies spread; but few members of the party are in the secret, and know that they are the effusions of injustice and false representation. The truth of these observations being evident to all men who have lived amidst parties, should lead to mutual toleration and forbearance."

"In private life Mr. Jefferson displays a mild, easy, and obliging temper, though he is somewhat cold and reserved. His conversation is of the most agreeable kind, and he possesses a stock of information not inferior to that of any other man. In Europe he would hold a distinguished rank among men of letters; and as such he has already appeared there; at present he is employed with activity and perseverance in the management of his farms and buildings; and he orders, directs & pursues in the minutest detail, every branch of business relating to them. The author of this sketch found him in the midst of harvest, from which the scorching heat of the sun does not prevent his attendance. His negroes are nourished, clothed, and treated as well as white servants could be. As he cannot expect any assistance from the two neighboring towns, every article is made on his farm; his negroes are cabinet-makers, carpenters, masons, bricklayers, smiths, &c. The children he employs in a nail-manufactory which yields already a considerable profit. The young and old negroes spin for the clothing of the self. He animates them by rewards and distinctions; in fine, his superior mind directs the management of his domestic concerns, with the same abilities, activity, and regularity, he evinces in the conduct of the public affairs, and in which he is calculated to display in every situation of life."

Such is the character of this great and good member of society; and it would be highly criminal to wish him separated from the bosom of his amiable family, to any other end than those important services to his fellow creatures, for the performance whereof nature has bestowed on him such an exalted capacity.

* Applied to the United States; he meddles not with kingdoms elsewhere, and pays due respect to those in authority.
† The late general Washington.
* June 1795.

Late European News,
Received by the ship John, capt. Lowe, 43 days from Gravesend
PETERSBURGH, April 1.
Hitherto the embargo has not been taken off the English ships: it is necessary that the English government should set at liberty the ships of the Neutral Powers detained in England, before a similar measure is adopted by our emperor.

STOCKHOLM, April 3.
Our fleet of galleys, fifty strong, sailed this morning with a favourable wind. It has on board, besides sailers, and artillery, the regiments of Upland and Sudermania.

VENICE, April 10.
By accounts from Ancona, of yesterday's date, the French have embarked 6000 Cisalpine troops for Egypt, on board 6 small barks, (crabocoli). Admiral Warren's squadron is now cruising off Palermo.

ELSINEUR, April 18.
The greater part of admiral Parker's fleet has actually passed through Drogden for the Baltic. It sailing through, two English ships got aground, and the commanders wished to persuade the master of a Dantzic vessel to take some guns on board from the heaviest of their ships and to convey them through Drogden, on being paid for it, which he refused; upon which the English made themselves masters of the ship, which the captain

immediately quitted and went on shore. It is supposed this business will be arranged by ministerial negotiation.

LONDON, April 18.
We yesterday received Paris journals to the 22d inclusive. No further accounts have been received from Egypt. The Ottoman Porte has returned to its alliance with France. A letter from the frontiers of Turkey, dated March 15, reports from Constantinople, that the British minister having been prohibited by the grand Signior to hold any communication with the divan, was about to leave Constantinople. It is added that a Russian fleet, of sixteen ships of war, had arrived in the Dardanelles, and that though at first refused a free passage, the straits had been opened to all Russian vessels on the express application of the Russian ambassador.

The position which, by the French accounts, sir, R. Abercrombie assumed, after his landing, was precisely that which it was previously decided he should take. It was by establishing himself in this spot, and placing a corps of observation at the walls of Caytas, between Alexandria and Damahour, that Buonaparte prevented the junction of the Turks and Mamelukes, and defeated them in consequence of their division.

Previous to the debarkations of our troops, Turkish and British agents had been sent amongst the Beheran Arabs, bordering on Alexandria, and had formed arrangements for supplies of horses and buffaloes, besides provisions.

The report of the suppression of the French paper, the Journals des Debats, seems to be unfounded. We yesterday received sets of that paper down to the latest date of the rest, without any interruption.

Letters from Constantinople speak of a horrible outrage having been committed on some Russian officers who gave a ball in that city. In the midst of the entertainment, a body of inhabitants entered the house where they were assembled, and proceeded to the greatest excesses. A detachment of Russian failers marched to the relief of their officers, an engagement ensued; it is said that upwards of four hundred Russians were killed in the affray. It is added, that the Grand Signior has made application to the Russian ambassador, not to transmit an immediate account of this to his Court, promising at the same time to inflict the most signal punishment on those guilty of the outrage.

April 29.
It has been reported, but we know not with what truth, that some misunderstanding with respect to signals in the late naval engagement, will be the subject of inquiry.

Yesterday a messenger arrived with dispatches from lord Elgin, at Constantinople, with the intelligence which his lordship had received from Lord Keith. The substance of the information received was published in the Gazette.

The accounts from lord Keith do not reach beyond the 14th, consequently are not so late by two days as the letter of Le Roy, in the French papers. So far as they go they perfectly agree with the French statements, but they give no particulars.

The Messenger too, it is said, brings accounts that the Grand Vizier had marched from Jaffa with a well appointed army, but where he got such an army does not appear. Nothing is stated that can lead us to suppose that sir Ralph had divided his forces.

People here talk very freely of differences which unfortunately have arisen between the superior officers respecting the conduct of the Baltic fleet. It is reported that admiral Parker is coming home immediately.

It is mentioned, but not confidently, that the Swedish and Russian fleets have joined. There is even a report that an action had taken place between our fleet and the combined Swedish and Russian squadrons. The letter seems entitled to little credit. The preparation of the Swedes are carried on with unremitting activity.

It is reported here that an action has already taken place between the English and Swedish fleets; but this requires confirmation.

April 30.
A messenger arrived yesterday with most important government dispatches from Berlin and Copenhagen. The substance of which was immediately notified to the public by the following letter, addressed to the lord mayor: