

Ode to Jefferson.

Paraphrased from "THE DAUPHIN," For July 4, 1803.

I. Ye free born Whigs attend, Round Freedom's standard throng; Catch the prolific flame, And join the festive song...

A patriot guides, let cannons loud The spacious concave rend, Long life to Jefferson, Columbia's faithful friend.

II. See from yon opening skies The guardian choir descend, Of hero-forms who fell, Our birth-right to defend...

III. Hark, hark, with new delight, The rippling states rejoice, And shouting millions hail The ruler of their choice...

IV. To bless her sov'reign soil Still Independence deigns, The flame of sov'reignty burns lively in our veins...

V. The constitution reigns, With equal laws combin'd, Wisdom o'er all presides, With equal justice join'd...

CHARACTER OF THOMAS JEFFERSON, PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES. By ALLAN B. MAGRUDER, OF Lexington, Kentucky.

THE superior distinction which Mr. Jefferson has acquired, in the political world, was founded upon the alliance of virtue and fortune. Great events give birth to great talents. It is not difficult to say, however, that had the revolution in America never taken place, he would have arisen to considerable fame, in the republics of letters and philosophy.

have pursued him, through every department, in which fortune or accident may have placed him. An understanding clear and sagacious, integrity unpolled by public reproach or private malice, and principles whose soundness and moderation are the best testimonials of their sincerity, were qualifications that called him to the highest departments of state.

If I may be permitted to give an opinion of the political principles of Mr. Jefferson, it will be drawn from the aggregate qualifications, of his character. This mode, however, may be a very fallible one in forming the judgment; because the most manly virtues, and the most brilliant intellects, are, too frequently, in conflict with the latent feelings of the heart. But it would be uncharitable in the present instance, to conceive of a desparity, which nothing confirms and every thing refutes. It would be barbarous to violate the sentiments of benevolence—and to reproach the judgment with a defect, without the evidence of truth and reason. It is difficult to make the progress of personal interest in the actions of a man, every part of whose conduct has been connected together by a chain of uniform morality, whose tone is decisive, whose style and language clear and nervous, whose principles convey the reality of justice, and the convictions of experience and reflection.

The political principles of Mr. Jefferson, are drawn from an expanded intellect, that consults the oracles of nature and reason as its only guide—Born at a period when the whole universe was convulsed by the conflicting passions of mankind, his study is to reconcile the jarring elements and to extract felicity and order from misery and confusion. Experience and observation have pointed out to him the wrecks of ambition, and the despotism of error and prejudice. They have conveyed his mind through the various regions of society, familiarized it with the melancholly exhibitions of lost dignity, of injured innocence, of polluted virtue: and left it in the awful contemplation of scenes at which, his humanity shudders. It is no wonder therefore that his opinions are the pious innovations of the philosopher, who wishes to repair the injuries which an unjust policy has occasioned in the world—that he cherishes them as a peculiar tribute to his own feelings, which the understanding confirms and the heart ratifies. Upon this liberal plan of philanthropy, Mr. Jefferson is the citizen of the world.—Like Cato he feels an attachment for his country, but like Socrates, his affections embrace the universe.

It will be difficult to reconcile the principles of such a character, with the views and inclinations that govern the parasite of despotism. The first are founded upon a basis, whose truth is irrefragable—whose origin is nature—whose attribute, morality—whose essence, reason. The last sets nature at defiance, considers morality as mockery and reason as a fool. If therefore, Mr. Jefferson differs in opinion with many of his countrymen, it is because he differs in the degree of estimation, in which these things are mutually held. He considers nature the source of every human right, morality the basis, and reason the unerring guide of every human action. Of course he perceives no grades in society, no partial distinction; considers the people as the source of all power and the peculiar guardians of their own rights: He makes allowances for the particular situation in which he has found mankind. He endeavours to reconcile their different interests by institutions that are calculated to produce the most extensive and complete felicity. Consulting nature, his maxims of government are simple and refined. They do not partake too much of that overstrained energy, which borders on oppression, or of that loose, licentious fanaticism, which is connected with the subversion of all order and security in government. They point eventually to a reform of abuses, which have constituted the greatest share of misery in society; which he considers the excrement of state, and the germ of despotism.

It is said that Mr. Jefferson is a philosopher; that consequently he possesses a peculiar cast of mind, that unites him to the duties of a statesman. Let this objection rest in the bosom of the illiberal parasite of power, who sits at the foot-stool of despotism & dreads the influence of a single qualification, that might soften the afflictions of a single nation. For my part, I perceive not the incompatibility complained of.—The philosopher is nothing more than a being, whose morality is elevated; whose opinions are drawn from the convictions of truth and reason; whose enlarged intellect disdains the shackles of prejudice, & whose soul looks with complacency upon the errors and fallibilities of mankind.—The reverse of these qualifications, constitutes the features of

tyranny, whenever it is blended with extensive power. There is an invisible chain which connects immorality with a contempt for truth; a contempt for truth with the delusions of error, and the delusions of error with the most brutal tyranny.—Hence the licentiousness of courts; and the patriotic crimes of ambition; hence that cold philosophy which chills the warmth of benevolence, and sacrifices, on the polluted order of despotism, the felicity of millions.

Disdaining the character of the courtier, where pusillanimity and flattery are the steps by which, the obsequious arise to fame and distinction, Mr. Jefferson has filled the highest office of government, by his own intrinsic merit. The simplicity of his manners and the reservedness of his temper, are the characteristics of a vigorous mind, which grasps at higher objects, than the mere arts of pleasing.—Yet there is no man, in private life more amiable, none more dignified, and none whose manners, possess, in a higher degree, the incomparable felicity of inspiring the combined emotions of attachment and respect.

He has contemplated men & things in the different lights, in which they are, and in which, they should be. His reflections on this subject, are the sources of his humanity and forbearance; qualifications which travel, business and books have matured into practice, and given to his mind a degree of philosophical tranquillity, infinitely superior to most of his contemporaries. Let not this placidity of temper be mistaken for coldness and apprehension. He does not possess an understanding, incapable of being inspired with intrepidity, when great objects demand its energy. The American declaration of independence, his negotiations in several of the most subtle cabinets of Europe, and his communications with the intriguing ministers of France and England, whilst secretary of state, will remain the durable memorials of combining the various qualifications of energy, deliberate coolness and penetration.

The candor of amicable negotiation, is too frequently the victim of court intrigue and of diplomatic ceremony. There was no cabinet that afforded more pretensions for both, than the court of Louis the 16th. To mislead, to bribe, and to corrupt, by all the arts of efficacy and deceit, constituted the peculiar skill of every minister, and were the preliminaries of every negotiation. When Mr. Jefferson went to France he carried with him the friendly views, of a people whose simplicity had not been corrupted, & whose manners, founded upon that candour which flows from an elevated freedom, disdained the licentiousness of a court, that was calculated to embarrass and betray. Arrived there, it was very reasonable to suppose, that the recent dismemberment of the American colonies from Great-Britain, and the natural inveteracy which had for ages, existed between the cabinets of France and England, would have been the means of depreciating the popularity of our negotiator. Mr. Jefferson at an early period of his residence at the court of the former, fore-saw, with the intuitive eye of sagacity, what he might reasonably expect from the opposition of the latter. His unshaken integrity, however, his candour and impartiality, were the grounds, for fair dealings from all parties. They not only inspired the friendship and confidence of the Count de Montmorin, the vernal minister of a corrupted court, but of that party, who from sentiment, felt favorably disposed towards the American revolution. This could only be the result of a principle, which with courts as well as with individuals gives to character the impulse of voluntary respect, when it is found to be invulnerable to unjust calumination and reproach. Were the views of the French cabinet disclosed? Mr. Jefferson studied them. The first cause and the probable effect, were the direct objects of investigation. Were they hid from his immediate inspection? He assumed the powers and the language of prophecy; predicted with the sagacity of an ingenious mind, and unfolded, as far as the comprehension and the nature of things, would permit. Accustomed to judge of men, more by their actions than their professions, and constantly in the habit of regulating himself by the former, the courtly language of dissimulation, made no impression on him.—It was by a display of those qualifications, so little looked for, in the ambassador of a rustic people, that he preserved his own, and the dignity of the nation, he represented. Recalled to fill the department of state, he left France after having rendered to his country, as much service by his abilities, as he had bestowed honour on himself, by the combination of the various qualities, of integrity, sagacity and prudence. He quit it, leaving on the mind of the nation, these sen-

timents of veneration and respect, which have not been erased by the recent convulsions of state.

There was no character perhaps, in America, more eminently calculated to fill the department of state, than Mr. Jefferson. Few men who have travelled at all have travelled with more advantage; and had a greater capacity of receiving improvement, from this mode of it, than him. The genius of each nation, its particular customs and manners, and the great relative interests which regulated the policy of courts, were subjects, with which, he was acquainted; and eminently fitted him, to fill a department, the peculiar organ of their communications. Controversy, which so frequently betrays the fallibility of the understanding, because it begets intemperance, never makes him a victim to the designs of his opponent. He listens to his arguments with scrupulous attention; draws new sources of information from conflicting principles; and if he is animated at all, it is with the discovery of a new truth. There are, perhaps, few men better calculated always to triumph and always to leave upon the mind, at least the most favourable impressions, if not the most decisive conviction. This is not difficult to account for, when applied to Mr. Jefferson; because few men, like him, deserve the application. He never hazards an opinion without the authority of experience, and the conviction of reason. Travel and observation have matured one, and extensive application and reflection, have invigorated the other. His principles, therefore, convey the strongest impressions; which he enforces by logical deduction & mathematical precision, drawn from an expanded intellect, that separates with infinite facility, the purity of truth, from the grosser materials of error.

When Citizen Genet, the ex-minister of Robespierian fanaticism, appeared in America, he attempted to impose his new philosophy of light and liberty upon the government. He had nothing to boast of, on the score of superior diplomatic skill. His communications to the secretary of state, were evidently of the tampering kind. They were impressed with all the marks of that enthusiastic insanity, which regulated the councils of the faction; and which, were calculated to mistake their object, by disguising their intended victims. The mind of Mr. Jefferson, discovered itself in an early period of his correspondence with the French minister. The communications of Genet were decorated with all the flowers of eloquence, without the force and conviction of rhetorical energy. Accustomed to diplomatic calculation, and intimately combining cause with effect, Mr. Jefferson apprehended the subject, with strength and decision; considered it; developed it; viewed it on all sides; listened to every appeal, and attended to every charge; and in every communication, burst forth with a strength of refutation, that at once detected and embarrassed, the disappointed minister of wily and frantic faction.

It is, in most instances, useless to oppose enthusiasm with the deliberate coolness of reason and argument. They are the antipodes of each other; and of that imperious nature, which mutually solicit triumph and disdain reconciliation. The tyranny of the Robespierian principles, were calculated to inveigle within the vortex of European politics, the American government and people. The coolness and sagacity of the secretary of state, composed their defence and protection. The appeal was mutually made to the government; and it is a fortunate circumstance, that there existed this tribunal to appraise the measures of the secretary, and to silence forever, the declamatory oracle of an insidious faction. Checked and defeated on all sides, his doctrines stripped of their visionary principles, and himself betrayed into the labyrinth of diplomatic mystery, their ex-divinity, shrunk into the silence of contempt; declaring with his last breath, that Mr. Jefferson was the only man in America, whose talents he highly respected.

The diplomatic contest with Genet, was not the only one, which drew forth into action, the splendid abilities of Mr. Jefferson. The American world was for some time, amused, with the communications of the English minister, Hammond. Their object is too well known, to require delineation. It was a contest between the antiquated principles of a rotten monarchy, deluded by the fallacious idea of effecting a triumph, and the newly-acquired maxims, of the republican philosophy. The communications of Hammond, were stamped with the original dullness and stupidity of their author. Incapable of convicting by the energy of argument, the importance of the minister was maintained, by the length and number of his letters; and by that rigid per-

severance, which was calculated to irritate and disgust. Tired with the correspondence, the secretary of state appears to have collected together the united energies of his mind, in a single letter, of considerable length, wherein he combines with infinite skill, the erudition of the counsellor, the wisdom of the politician, and the sagacity of diplomatic ingenuity. No longer deluded by the dreams of triumph, Hammond in a short time went home, to kiss the aristocratical hand, that makes him a slave; and Mr. Jefferson, to seek that repose in retirement, which his laborious attention, to the duties of his office seemed to demand.

Mr. Jefferson appears from the incomparable felicity of his temper, to have arrived at the most elevated height of philosophy. He has not escaped the misfortune if it is one, of having enemies, to depreciate his virtues and calumniate his principles. These virtues have frequently furnished pretences for the bitterest calumny. The equanimity of his temper, however never fell a victim, to the unmanly provocatives, which so often disturb little minds. His contempt for unjust censure, his dignified reserve, beneath the insolence of ministerial loquacity and his unshaken serenity, whilst the whole political world is moving around him, marks a soul capable of holding calmity in defiance. Viewing mankind as they really are, biassed by passion, swayed by prejudice, and with ears continually open to the invocations of individual interest, he stands aloof in the tenement of his own exalted mind, and, like Jupiter from Olympus, surveys with serenity and silence the fate of empires. It is well known however, that his enemies eye of that obsequious tribe of court parasites, who move in the inferior circles of respectability, and feel the influence of talents, which they seek to decry by the arts of petulance and loquacity.

He has sufficient knowledge of human nature, to know that this is the involuntary tribute of envy, and is consoled; that it is the medium for the inculcation of truth; & is satisfied that he is not deserving of reproach; and is silent. Surely the man who can preserve such equanimity of temper, who can maintain the composure of his mind, and listen to unmerited reproach, without the consciousness of deserving it, surely such a man is entitled to the first place in our esteem. They are attributes, which few men possess; are the productions of the most difficult of all attainments, the knowledge and esteem of ourselves, and flow from an elevated philosophy, that seeks tranquility, in conscious rectitude; which teaches forbearance, whilst it refines our knowledge of human nature, and views the conflicting passions of mankind, connected with the destiny of social life. To descend from this dignified sphere of human reason, like the pagan Gods from Olympus, to participate in the conflicts of an inferior order of beings, would be doing violence to the sanctuary of philosophy. His enemies may desire it; and seek an occasion for that triumph which pertinacious mediocrity sometimes acquires, over the sublimity of genius.

He feels the most complete security in the celestial sanctuary of self-applause in the steady discharge of the duties committed to his care; in an inflexibility to all, and in the obstinacy of justice. The arts of malice and the rude voice of faction assail him in vain. The senseless clamours of his enemies make no impression on him. He appears invulnerable to the shafts of malignity which fall every where around him, blunted by the invincible dignity of his character and the respectability of his talents.

Marshal's Sales.

On Monday the first day of August next, will be sold at the Court House in Wilmington, for gold or silver coin, BETWEEN thirty and forty Negroes, and other personal property, together with several lots of ground in said town, with the improvements thereon; and between two and three thousand acres of land, lying in the county of Brunswick, between town creek and Eagle's mill creek, on which there are an excellent set of Mills, and a considerable quantity of Rice land, well reclaimed. The above property has been levied on, and will be sold to satisfy sundry executions on judgments obtained by the United States, against sundry inhabitants of the town of Wilmington, and its vicinity, which will be more particularly described on the day of sale. JOHN S. WEST, Marshal N. C. D. June 16