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## THE ELEPHANT.

THE Elephant is supposed to be the largest of any quadruped in the known world; and seems to be the wisest also. The observation is Cicero's, whose words (De Nat. Deor. 1.) are Elephantu belluarum nulla providentior. At figura quæ vultus? All the amiable and all the furious passions, are to be found in this animal; and its docility is wonderful; for, when properly tamed, he is capable of being instructed and disciplined into a vast variety of entertaining and useful qualifications.

Do him a material injury, and he will act as if he had been tortured by the late lord Chesterfield; i. e. if it be in his power, he will immediately revenge the affront; but if restrained for the present, either by motives of prudence, or by inability to wreak his resentment, he will retain the offence in his memory for years together, and take care to repay it with interest the first favourable opportunity. I have heard or read of a boy, who wantonly struck the proboscis, or trunk of an Elephant; and then courageously secured himself, by running away. Seven years afterwards the lad was playing near the side of a river; and had probably forgot his past misdemeanor. But the Elephant had a better memory, and making up to the young delinquent, grasped him with his trunk, and very sedately carried the sprawling captive to the water, where he ducked him once or twice over head and ears, and then quietly setting him down again on terra firma, permitted him to walk off without further hurt.

It is said that in those countries where Elephants abound, such of them as are tame, go about the streets, like any other domestic animal; and it is common for people to give them fruit as they pass.—In time they commence absolute beggars, and will put in the extremity of their trunks at doors and windows, in hope of receiving the little benevolences which custom has inured them to expect. After waiting a short while, if nothing is given them, they withdraw their trunks, & pass on to the next accessible house. It is related that some taylor's were at work on a board within a window, whose casement stood open. A passing Elephant stopped and put in his trunk. One of the men, instead of conferring a doocur, gave the animal's trunk a scratch with his needle. The injured party took no present notice of the provocation, but patiently walked away. He repaired to a neighbouring stream; and having filled his capacious trunk with a large quantity of water, returned to the window where he coolly avenged himself, by spouting the fluid artillery on the aggressor and his comrades, for their late breach of hospitality. If we do not relieve the indigent, they at least have a right not to be insulted. And very frequently the meanest are able sooner or later, to retaliate with usury the contempt they undeservedly receive.

Every beggar is not honest. Nor are all Elephants actuated by a strict sense of moral delicacy. Their smell is very acute; and if a person has any fruit or cake about him, they shew, by the quick and judicious application of their trunks to the proper part of his dress, that they are adepts in the art of picking pockets, with excellent dexterity.

Elephants, like men, have (if I may be allowed the expression) their virtues and their vices; though to the honor of the former, be it observed, the vices of the Elephant bear but small proportion to his virtues. There have been instances of these creatures, who, in the first hurry of rage for ill treatment, have killed their keepers. But their subsequent remorse has been so insupportably keen, that they have refused to take any sustenance, and literally starved themselves to death. A lesson to persons of violent passions; who, if hurried away by the impetuous torrent either of excessive and unguarded anger, or of headstrong or irregular desire, are liable to the commission of irreparable evil, and may, in a single moment, lay the foundation of irremediable ruin. I have read of an heathen, who, when he found himself unduly fermented by wrath, would never utter a single word, until he had first deliberately run over in his mind all the letters of the alphabet. I have read of a Christian, who, when endangered by similar temptations, would not suffer himself to speak a syllable, until he had silently repeated the Lord's Prayer.

Elephants are singularly grateful, and have a very deep sense of friendship.—

They have been known to lay the death of a brother Elephant, so much to heart, as to pine away from that time forward.

In some countries, we are told, Elephants supply the place of executioners. They are trained, at a given signal, to lay hold of the criminal with their trunks, by a strong suction; and either dash him violently against the ground, or toss him aloft in the air, until repeated contusions put a period to his life. Mankind are very prone to value themselves on their supposed civilization; and yet, by artful practising on the ferocity of inferior animals, they sometimes teach brutes themselves to be still more brutal.

Clumsy as Elephants are, they may be taught to dance, both singly and in companies; and they move, on these occasions, with singular exactness and order. They are not insensible to the harmony of music; and if properly inured keep time with their feet, in a manner which discovers great power of judgment. If I rightly remember, Bishop Burnet informs us in his travels, that he saw an Elephant play at ball, with all the ease and exactness of a man. But Plutarch, in his life of Pyrrhus, mentions a much nobler instance of Elephantine understanding and adroitness; accompanied by such magnanimous courage and fidelity, as would have redounded to the honor of a Scythian, or of an Alexander. When Pyrrhus stormed the town of Argos, a number of accoutred Elephants, according to the custom of those times, formed a part of his military apparatus. One of these creatures, perceiving that his rider was fallen, invited him by every effort in his power, to remount. But finding soon after, he (the rider) was dead of the wounds he had received; the animal in a transport of grief and rage, rushed furiously on friends & foes without distinction; and taking up the body with his trunk, made good his retreat and rescued the remains of his breathless master from further violation, by faithfully and heroically conveying them from the scene of action.

The method by which wild Elephants are taken, deserves to be noticed. A narrow inclosure is made; one end of which is left open for entrance; and at the extremity of the other, several tame female Elephants are placed. Between both (i. e. between the extremity where the females are fixed) a large pit is dug, whose surface is lined with a slishbridge work so neatly turfed, that it has all the appearance of firm ground. Allured by the females, the male Elephants make towards the place, but are suddenly intercepted by the unsuspected snare. Proper persons who are stationed to watch the event, start from their concealments; and with exulting shouts mock the indignant distress of unwieldy prisoners.

Elephants are tamed chiefly by hunger and by blows; they are said to be extremely fond of pomp, and to receive very pleasurable ideas from the exhibitions of splendor. Hence, the natives of East India, who hold the doctrine of transmigration, imagine, that these animals are animated by the souls of departed princes. For this reason they are treated, especially in the Kingdom of Siam, with distinguished respect; and some of the handomed are decorated with rich ornaments, and even dignified with titles of honor. An Elephant of quality is known by the rings of gold, silver or copper, with which his tusks are adorned. There is something very humiliating to the pride of human reason, in conduct so extravagantly absurd as this.

Elephants are extremely long lived. It is affirmed that they will reach to one, two, or even three hundred years of age. If this be fact, and it rests on very respectable testimonies, it is probably true of those Elephants only, which are permitted to live according to nature, unspoiled by the artifice and false refinements of our management. It will admit of little doubt that on the sum total, those beasts are happier, who have the least connection with man. Not a single brute, from an Elephant to an animated speck, but is eventually the worse, if it fall within the circuit of human government. Let us endeavour to make our mal-administration as easy and as little mischievous to them as we can.

UNTIL the Presidential Election next fall, it is to be expected that the Federalists will keep up the fire of opposition with all their personal and party zeal. After that event, it is to be hoped their rage will abate, their calumnies cease, and the nation be suffered to enjoy a republican system of government in tranquility and peace.—San.

## LOUISIANA REMONSTRANCE.

TO THE  
CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES,  
IN SENATE AND  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
CONVENED.

WE the subscribers, planters, merchants, and other inhabitants of Louisiana, respectfully approach the legislature of the United States, with a memorial of our rights, a remonstrance against certain laws which contravene them, and a petition for that redress to which the laws of nature, sanctioned by positive stipulations, have entitled us.

Without any agency in the events which have annexed our country to the U. States, we yet considered them as fortunate, and thought our liberties secured, even before we knew the terms of the cession. Persuaded that a free people would acquire territory only to extend the blessings of freedom—that an enlightened nation would never destroy those principles on which its government was founded—and that their representatives would disdain to become the instruments of oppression, we calculated with certainty, that their first act of sovereignty would be a communication of all the blessings they enjoyed, and were the less anxious to know on what particular terms we were received. It was early understood that we were to be American citizens, this satisfied our wishes, it implied every thing we could desire, and filled us with that happiness which arises from the anticipated enjoyment of a right long withheld. We knew that it was impossible to be citizens of the United States, without enjoying personal freedom, protection of property, and above all, the privileges of a free representative government, and did not, therefore, imagine that we could be deprived of these rights, even if there should have existed no promise to impart them; yet it was with some satisfaction we found these objects secured to us by the stipulation of a treaty; and the faith of congress pledged to us for their uninterrupted enjoyment: we expected them from your magnanimity, but were not displeased to see them secured to us as a right, and guaranteed by solemn engagements.

With a firm persuasion that these engagements would be sacredly fulfilled, we passed under your jurisdiction, with a joy bordering on enthusiasm, submitted to the inconveniences of an intermediate dominion without a murmur, and saw the last tie that attached us to our mother country, severed without regret. Even the evils of a military and absolute authority were acquiesced in, because it indicated an eagerness to complete the transfer, and place beyond the reach of accident the union we mutually desired. A single magistrate vested with civil and military, with executive and judiciary powers, upon whose laws we had no check, over whose acts we had no controul, and from whose decrees there is no appeal, the sudden suspension of all those forms, to which we had been accustomed, the total want of any permanent system to replace them, the introduction of a new language into the administration of justice, the perplexing necessity of using an interpreter for every communication with the officers placed over us, the involuntary errors of necessity committed by judges, uncertain by what code they are to decide, wavering between the civil and the common law, between the forms of the French, Spanish and American jurisprudence, and with the best intentions unable to expound laws of which they are ignorant, or to acquire them in a language they do not understand—these were not slight inconveniences, nor was this a state of things calculated to give favorable impressions, or realise the hopes we entertained. But we submitted with resignation because we thought it the effect of necessity. We submitted with patience tho' its duration was longer than we had been taught to expect; we submitted ever with cheerfulness while we supposed your honorable body was employed in reducing this chaos to order, and by your legislative fiat, calling a system of harmony from the depth of this confused discordant mass. But we cannot conceal, we ought not to dissemble, that the last project presented for the government of this country, tended to lessen the enthusiasm which, until that period, had been universal; and to fix our attention on present evils, while it rendered us less sanguine as to the future; still, however, we wished to persuade ourselves, that further enquiry would produce better information; that discussion would establish our rights, and time destroy every prejudice that might oppose them. We could not bring ourselves to believe that we had so far mistaken the stipulations in our favour, or that congress could so little regard them, and we waited the result, with an anxiety which distance only prevented our expressing before the passage of the bill. After a suspense which continued to the last moment of the session; after debates which only tended to shew how little our true situation was known; after the rejection of every amendment declaratory of our rights, it at length became a law, and before this petition can be presented

will take effect in our country. Disavowing any language but that of respectful remonstrance, disdaining any other but that which befits a manly assertion of our rights, we pray leave to examine the law "erecting Louisiana into two territories, and providing for the temporary government thereof," to compare its provisions with our rights, and its whole scope with the letter and spirit of the treaty which binds us to the United States.

The first section erects the country south of the 33d degree, into a territory of the United States, by the name of the Territory of Orleans.

The second gives us a governor, appointed for three years by the President of the United States, the 4th vests in him and in a council also chosen by the president, all legislative power subject to the revision of Congress—especially guarding against any interference with public property either by taxation or sale. And the fifth establishes a judiciary to consist of a supreme court having exclusive criminal and original jurisdiction without appeal for all causes above the value of 100 dollars; and such inferior courts as the legislature of the territory may establish; the judges of the superior court are appointed by the President to continue in office four years. This is the summary of our constitution. This is the accomplishment of a treaty engagement to "incorporate us into the union, and to admit us to all the rights, advantages, and immunities of American citizens." And thus is the promise performed which was made by our first magistrate in your name, that you would "receive us as brothers, and hasten to extend to us a participation in those invaluable rights, which had formed the basis of your unexampled prosperity."

Ignorant as we have been represented of our natural rights, shall we be called on to shew that this government is inconsistent with every principle of civil liberty.

Uninformed as we are supposed to be of our acquired rights, is it necessary for us to demonstrate that this act does not "incorporate us into the union," that it vests us with none of the "rights," gives us no "advantages," and deprives us of all the "immunities" of American citizens.

If this should be required we think neither task will be difficult.

On the first point we need only appeal to your declaration of independence, to your constitution, to your different state governments, to the writings of your revolutionary patriots, and statesmen, to your own professions and public acts, and finally, legislators, to your own hearts, on which the love of civil liberty and its principles are we trust too deeply engrained to be ever totally effaced.

A governor is to be placed over us, whom we have not chosen, whom we do not even know, who may be ignorant of our language, uninformed of our institutions, and who may have no connections with our country nor interest in its welfare.

This governor is vested with all executive and almost unlimited legislative power, for the law declares, that "by and with the advice and consent of the legislative body, he may change, modify, and repeal the laws," &c. but this advice and consent will no doubt in all cases be easily procured, from the majority of a council, selected by the president or governor, and dependent on him for their appointment and continuance in office; or if they should prove refractory, the power of prorogation frees him from any troublesome interference, until a more prudent selection at the end of the year, shall give him a council better suited to his views; the true legislative power then is vested in the governor alone, the council operates as a cloak to conceal the extent of his authority, to screen him from the odium of all unpopular acts; to avoid all responsibility, and give us the faint semblance of a representative assembly, with so few of its distinguishing features, that unless the name were inscribed on the picture, it would be difficult to discover the object for which it was intended.

Taxation without representation, an obligation to obey laws, without any voice in their formation, the undue influence of the executive upon legislative proceedings, a dependent judiciary, formed, we believe, very prominent articles in the list of grievances complained of by the U. States at the commencement of their glorious contest for freedom; the opposition to them, even by force was deemed meritorious and patriotic, and the rights on which that opposition was founded, were termed fundamental, indefeasible, self-evident and eternal; they formed as your country then unanimously asserted, the only rational basis on which government could rest; they were so plain, it was added, as to be understood by the weakest understanding; not capable of alienation, they might always be reclaimed; unsusceptible of change, they were the same at all times, in all climates, and under all circumstances; and the fairest inheritance for our posterity, they should never—it was firmly asserted—they should never be abandoned but with life.

These were the sentiments of your prede-