

drunken squabble, yet I went on with a high hand with my geometry; till the sun entered Virgo, a month which is always a carnival in my bosom...

Like Proserpine gathering flowers, Herself a fairer flower...

It was in vain to think of doing any more good at school. The remaining week I staid I did nothing but craze the faculties of my soul about her...

I returned home very considerably improved. My reading was enlarged with the very important addition of Thompson's and Shennstone's Works; I had seen human nature in a new phasis; and I engaged several of my school-fellows to keep up a literary correspondence with me...

My life flowed on much in the same course till my twenty-third year. Vive l'amour et vive la bagatelle, were my sole principles of action. The addition of two more authors to my library gave me great pleasure; Sterne and M'Kenzie... Iristram Shandy and The Man of Feeling were my bosom favourites...

My twenty-third year was to me an important era. Partly through whim, and partly that I wished to set about doing something in life, I joined a flax-dresser in a neighbouring town, (Irvin) to learn his trade. This was an unlucky affair. My...

I was obliged to give up this scheme; the clouds of misfortune were gathering thick round my father's head; and what was worst of all, he was visibly far gone in a consumption; and to crown my distresses, a belle fille, whom I adored, and who had pledged her soul to meet in the field of matrimony...

From this adventure I learned something of a town life; but the principal thing which gave my mind a turn, was a friendship I formed with a young fellow, a very noble character, but a hapless son of misfortune. He was the son of a simple mechanic; but a great man in the neighbourhood taking him under his patronage, gave him a genteel education...

His mind was fraught with independence, magnanimity, and every manly virtue. I loved and admired him to a degree of enthusiasm, and of course strove to imitate him. In some measure I succeeded: I had pride before, but he taught it to flow in proper channels. His knowledge of the world was vastly superior to mine, and I was all attention to learn...

I entered on this farm with a full resolution, come, go to, I will be wise! I read farming books, I calculated crops; I attended markets; and in short, in spite of the devil, and the world, and the flesh, I believe I should have been a wise man; but the first year, from unfortunately buying bad seed, the second from a late harvest, we lost half our crops...

I now began to be known in the neighbourhood as a maker of rhymes. The first of my poetic offspring that saw the light, was a burlesque lamentation on a quarrel between two reverend Calvinists, both of them dramatic personæ in my Holy Fair. I had a notion myself that the piece had some merit; but to prevent the worst, I gave a copy of it to a friend who was very fond of such things, and told him that I could not guess who was the author of it,

but that I thought it pretty clever. With a certain description of the clergy, as well as laity, it met with a roar of applause. Holy Willies Prayer next made its appearance, and alarmed the kirk-session so much, that they held several meetings, to look over their spiritual artillery, if haply any of it might be pointed against profane rhymers. Unluckily for me, my wanderings led me on another side, within point blank shot of their heaviest metal. This is the unfortunate story that gave rise to my printed poem, The Lament. This was a most melancholy affair, which I cannot yet bear to reflect on, and had very nearly given me one or two of the principal qualifications for a place among those who have lost the chart, and mistaken the reckoning of Rationality. I gave up my part of the farm to my brother; in truth it was only nominally mine; and made what little preparation was in my power for Jamaica. But, before leaving my native country for ever, I resolved to publish my poems. I weighed my productions as impartially as was in my power; I thought they had merit, and it was a delicious idea that I should be called a clever fellow, even though it should never reach my ears—a poor negro-driver—or perhaps a victim to that inhospitable clime, and gone to the world of spirits! I can truly say, that pauvre inconnu as I then was, I had pretty nearly as high an idea of myself and of my works, as I have at this moment, when the public has decided in their favour. It ever was my opinion, that the mistakes and blunders both in a rational and religious point of view, of which we see thousands daily guilty, are owing to their ignorance of themselves. To know myself had been all along my constant study. I weighed myself alone; I balanced myself with others; I watched every means of information, to see how much ground I occupied as a man and as a poet; I studied assiduously nature's design in my formation; where the lights and shades in my character were intended. I was pretty confident my poems would meet with some applause; but at the worst, the roar of the Atlantic would deafen the voice of censure, and the novelty of West-Indian scenes make me forget neglect. I threw off six hundred copies, of which I had got subscriptions for about three hundred and fifty. My vanity was highly gratified by the reception I met with from the public; and besides, I pocketed, all expenses deducted, nearly twenty pounds. This sum came very seasonably, as I was thinking of indenting myself for want of money to procure my passage. As soon as I was master of nine guineas, the price of waiting me to the torrid zone, I took a steerage passage in the first ship that was to sail from the Clyde, for,

Hungry rum had me in the wind.

I had been for some days skulking from covert to covert, under all the terrors of a jail; as some ill-advised people had uncoupled the merciless pack of the law at my heels. I had taken the last farewell of my few friends; my chest was on the road to Greenock, I had composed the last song I should ever measure in Caledonia. The gloomy night is gathering fast, when a letter from Dr. Blacklock to a friend of mine, overthrew all my schemes, by opening new prospects to my poetic ambition. The doctor belonged to a set of critics, for whose applause I had not dared to hope. His opinion, that I would meet with encouragement in Edinburgh for a second edition, fired me so much, that away I posted for that city, without a single acquaintance, or a single letter of introduction. The baneful star that had so long shed its blasting influence in my zenith, for once made a revolution to the Nadir; and a kind providence placed me under the patronage of one of the noblest of men, the Earl of Glencairn. Oublie moi, grand Dieu, si jamais je l'oubli!

I need relate no farther. At Edinburgh I was in a new world; I mingled among many classes of men, but all of them new to me, and I was all attention to catch the characters and the manners living as they rise. Whether I have profited time will shew.

My most respectful compliments to Miss W. Her very elegant and friendly letter I cannot answer at present, as my presence is requisite in Edinburgh, and I set out to-morrow."



"I from the Orient to the drooping West, Making the Wind my Post-Horse, still unfold The acts commenced on this Ball of earth."

SHAKESPEARE.

FOREIGN.

VERY LATE FROM SPAIN.

Boston April, 27.—The French letter of marquis L'Esperance, captain Deplace, arrived here on Tuesday, in a short passage from Bourdeaux. A French gentleman, a passenger, politely favoured us with a file of French papers to the 19th of last month—and a manuscript copy of a new Imperial Decree. A few translations from the papers and the decree, will be found below.

The accounts from the European continent, in these papers, are nearly a month later than before received.—War between France and Austria had not commenced, though the declaration of it was daily expected. The French Ambassador, and the Ministers of the Confederation of the Rhine, had quitted Vienna; and all the troops in the North, under the control of Bonaparte, were in motion. One hundred thousand of the troops, which were in Spain, had returned into France; and were moving towards Bavaria. The Emperor was in Paris at the last date. We find but little mention made of Russia; and that little did not indicate any thing like her taking a part in the war against Austria. The peace between Turkey and England is attributed in the Paris papers to the interference of Austria.

The tidings from Spain are late. Saragossa surrendered the 24th Feb. after a memorable siege: the particulars of which fill three of the papers.—About 13,000 men of the garrison had passed thro' Bayonne.—The South of Spain had not been over-run, nor had Cadiz been invested. The French had entered Oporto, (Portugal) and were advancing on Lisbon.

The Brest fleet at the latest date remained near Rochefort.

On the subject of American affairs, these papers are wholly silent.—An Imperial Decree, affecting a part of our vessels in France, will be found under the translations. To understand it, it will be recollected, that the French have long detained American vessels under various pretences.—But some time since an embargo was laid on all American vessels in the ports of France. The new decree only affects such as were detained by this general embargo. They are permitted to return direct to the U. States, giving bonds. The others are still detained.

[TRANSLATIONS.]

Vienna, Feb. 23.—The Wurtemberg and Bavarian Ambassadors are about to quit this capital. The different corps of our army are to be commanded by the Archdukes, and

by generals Liechtenstein, Rosenberg, Klenau, Kollowart and Bellegarde.

Paris, Jan. 16.—The Austrian Ambassador, Prince Schwarzenberg, has had his first audience of his Majesty, and had a conference of an hour and an half with him in his closet.

Paris, March 22.—The Vienna Court Gazette continues to give all the absurdities of the English journals.—The manner in which the events in Turkey are recounted, prove evidently that Austria has contributed all in her power to the peace between the Porte and England. Mr. Adair, formerly Ambassador to the Austrian Court, when he left Vienna had letters of recommendation to the Austrian Intendencia at Constantinople.

London, March 7.—We learn that several English men have arrived at Trieste, and shew themselves particularly. A British courier lately departed there, and proceeded hastily to Vienna. For some time, very frequent communications have been made between Austria and England, by way of Trieste.

Burgos, (Spain) March 5.—Gen. Sebastiani pursues his success. Marshals Junot and St. Scyr, are approaching Valencia, which it is expected will not make any defence.

Saragossa surrendered the 19th Feb. to the Duke of Montebello, (Lamés) Such of the garrison as would not swear allegiance to Joseph I, were to be sent prisoners of war into France.

AUSTRIA.

From Vienna, Feb. 22.—The measures which the court of Vienna continues to take, and the movements of the troops in all the provinces, no longer permit us to doubt that war will be decided on and declared in a few days. The best informed persons are convinced of it.

Yesterday we flattered ourselves with preserving peace; which caused the funds to rise; but to day I am informed, from a good source whose information has never deceived me, that the battalions of grenadiers in garrison here, will begin to march the 25th, and the rest of the garrison the 26th, to join the camp assembled near Lantz. I am also assured from the same source, that the Manifesto, a declaration of the war, as well as the proclamation to the army, are already prepared. The Manifesto is conceived in very strong terms against the sovereignty of the confederation; but very flattering to the people of the confederation; whom it calls upon to separate themselves from the alliance of France, and to make common cause with Austria. The proclamation to the army contains new promotions—promises to the troops recompenses of every kind; decorations, advancement, and even gifts of land. When the army shall have passed the frontier, it will be paid in ready money. The horses of the artillery are complete. The army, divided into nine corps, will have 830 cannon and howitzers. A considerable part of the militia will be combined with the troops of the line. All the officers have been obliged to join their corps. They name Klogerfarth, in Cornithia, Crowia, in Galicia, Fas and Wels, in Austria, Colon and Posen, in Bohemia, as the points of junction. The Emperor and Archdukes will quit Vienna in a few days.

March 2.—Many young men of the most noble families have offered to serve as volunteers; and the collegians have demanded to be formed into a battalion.

The emperor is about to undertake a journey. It is not yet agreed whether he is to go; but it is generally believed that it will be to Hungary, for the purpose of accelerating the levy en masse of his subjects.

The numerous assemblages of Austrian troops that have taken place in Bohemia, and appear to menace the Upper Palatinate, have occasioned the putting in motion of part of the garrison of Nuremberg—the remainder will shortly follow.

March 3.—Since the departure of the French Ambassador, this city is no longer cognizable. The entire garrison has gone for Bohemia; the military service of the place being done by the citizens.

A vast number of officers, subjects of the Princes of the Rhenish Confederacy, have positively refused to bear arms against their countrymen.

PARIS, March 16.—The Emperor returned yesterday from Rambouillet.

We understand from different letters, that an increased activity prevails in the ports of Ferrol and Corunna. It is not enough that the Spanish marine corps should have remained faithful to honour during a time of anarchy and rebellion, but it aspires to revenge itself upon England for the evils brought upon the country. It is said that even the Cadiz squadron participate in this sentiment. A great movement is projecting upon the coasts of the ocean, from Holland quite to Spain. The French troops have followed the English to the port of Galicia.—perhaps they may have the happiness to pursue them further. Many means offer for penetrating into Insurgent Ireland, and for seeking the remains of Sir John Moore's army in the county of Kent.—When Carthage carried her arms into Italy, the Romans soon found themselves under her own walls in Africa, and the rival of Rome disappeared!!

An epidemic disease was said, in the French papers, to have broken out at Saragossa, in consequence of the sufferings and hardships endured in the siege, and to have carried off upwards of twenty thousand persons.

MARCH 13.—The late Ambassador, Gen. Adreossi, has returned to Paris from Vienna.

IMPERIAL DECREE, February 25, 1809.

ART. 1. American vessels which have been detained in the ports of the Empire, solely by the (French) Embargo, are permitted to return directly to the United States.—This favour is not extended to such vessels as have been detained on account of irregular papers, or from any other cause.

ART. 2. The vessels, the embargo on which is thus raised, shall be placed in the disposition of M. General Armstrong, Minister Plenipotentiary of the United States, to guarantee their direct return to that country. The bonds given on their departure shall only be cancelled by certificates of our Consuls, &c. in America, that their cargoes were landed therein, and were composed only of the productions or industry of our Empire; and that no part of them was the produce of the soil of the colonies, or of the commerce of England.

[Owing to the ambiguity with which the late Imperial Decree is worded, we are at loss for a definition of its precise import, in relation to the American property at present jeopardized in France. The phrase "par suite de l'embargo," (in consequence of the Embargo) might seem to imply in a more extended sense, that all American vessels complying with the specified provisions of the Arret, and which had been embargoed in consequence of their papers not being conformable to the restrictions of the Berlin and Milan decrees, were liberated; while in a more limited view, it may be construed to apply only to such vessels, as had been declared in a state of sequestration, in consequence of leaving the United States after the passing of the American Embargo laws, which it will be recollected, the Emperor undertook to enforce. And this latter construction, while in its consequence and tendency, it has, (owing to the small number of vessels that were detained under this act) a much less auspicious aspect to the commerce of the United States than could be wished. This opinion we are sorry to say, is but too well warranted, from some of the late proceedings of the French Prize Courts.]

MADRID, January 23.

The public entry of the King our Sovereign into this city, was announced yesterday, the 22d, at the break of day, by a salute of a hundred cannons.

His Majesty, entering by the gate of Atocha, traversed the Prado, proceeded through the street of Alcalá, the gate of the Sun, the street of Las Carretas, of Atocha, and of Toledo, to the Church of St. Isidore. The crowd was immense throughout, and manifested its joy by continual acclamations.

The Suffragan Bishop addressed His Majesty in an excellent discourse, worthy of his character, and proper for the day, the place and the event.

His Majesty spoke in these words: "Before rendering thanks to the Supreme Arbitrer of Destinies, for my return to

the capital of this Kingdom entrusted to my care, I beg to reply to the affectionate reception of its inhabitants, declaring my secret thoughts in the presence of the Holy God!! who has just received your oath of fidelity to my person.

"I protest then, before God, who knows the secrets of all hearts, that it is my duty and my conscience only which induce me to mount the throne. AND NOT MY OWN AMBITION OR INCLINATION!! I am willing to sacrifice my own happiness, because I think you have need of me for the establishment of yours."

"The unity of our holy religion, the independence of the monarchy, the integrity, and the liberty of its provinces, are the conditions of the oath which I have taken on receiving the crown. It will not be disgraced upon my head; and if, as I have no doubt, the desires of the nation support the efforts of its king, I shall soon be the more happy of all, because you through me will be happy."

Feb. 3.—A St. Croix account says that a French force of seven to eleven line of battle ships, with several frigates, have arrived and taken Marigalante, a small island in the Leagues to windward of Gaudaloupe, taken from the French by the English about a year ago.) It is expected their intention is to visit several other islands.

SARAGOSSA.

It appears that Saragossa was not wholly subdued, until after the garrison had sustained 150 attacks, which were made night and day without intermission, for 43 days. In this memorable siege, the French are presumed to have lost nearly 30,000 men; and to have encountered from the unexampled bravery of the inhabitants, every kind of opposition which human ingenuity, stimulated by patriotism and the thirst of vengeance, could devise. After the first breach was made, which was about 50 days before its final subduction, the assailants were so powerfully opposed in the streets, and from the houses, as to defeat the execution of any immediate surrender of the place—they were compelled to conquer street by street, and house by house—for every house was a fortress, and was defended until blown up. The details of this siege are highly interesting, presenting a daily journal of operations for 30 days, in which the French were unremittingly engaged in fighting the inhabitants, and destroying their dwellings, one by one. Such unexampled heroism is without precedent in the annals of history.

POLITICAL.

OPINIONS RESPECTING BRITISH RELATIONS AND THE MEASURES OF OUR GOVERNMENT.

Though the following extracts are all from Republican papers, yet they are sufficiently variant to give that entire view of the subject which is required by the impartiality we endeavour to observe.

We are willing to meet the great body of the federalists, (whom we sincerely & cheerfully recognize as friends,) and reciprocate our congratulations, on account of the partial adjustment of our difficulties with great Britain, by which so much is already done, and so much more seems to be anticipated, for the honour and interest of both nations. To the following paragraph, in yesterday's Repertory, we subscribe without reserve.

"There is not an individual in the United States more solicitous to maintain the honour of the American government than ourselves. But we know that in the present enlightened state of society, it cannot be done by imposition or hypocrisy, nor maintained on false grounds. Mr. Madison has done well; we feel a sincere pleasure in ascribing to him the praise he deserves, but we can neither forget nor justify the errors which have retarded the happy event now announced, to this time, and subjected our country to unprecedented distress, with the total and irrevocable sacrifice of many millions of property."

But we differ from those who have been the "leading men of the federal party," in many important points, which we think both the interest and honour of America requires us to keep in constant view.

We shall make no question upon mere points of honour and forms of etiquette, if unconnected with our indisputable rights and our substantial interest.

We have ever considered the aggression on the Chesapeake as the mere excrement growing out of a radical disease. The war has disappeared. Quacks may pronounce this a cure. Something more efficacious than Rosewater is found necessary. We are glad to see so good an understanding between the physician and the patient. It has done a little, and promises much. The cancer is yet to be eradicated. The invidious Orders in Council are to be removed. We rejoice in this. We go farther. We have the charity to hope we shall not be told, that this is a relaxation from British Justice in favour of Americans. But we fear that the repeal of these Orders, which were evidently calculated to annul the charter of our independence, will not be accompanied with those strong and sincere pledges, which are necessary for a permanent good understanding between two nations—one adhering at all times to the impartial maxims of public law, and even in cases of extremity, sacrificing her temporary interests for permanent reputation; the other measuring her necessities by the extent of her means, and when the projects of her ambition fail, relying on her justice in—the last resort.—Boston Patriot.

The British having greatly aggravated the insult and wrong done to the U.S. in the attack on the Chesapeake, by hanging one of the men taken from her; (at Halifax,) great dissatisfaction is conceived by many persons at the slackness evinced by Mr. Madison towards the aggressors. Will that unparalleled aggression, which electrified a nation, be passed over so lightly after all our resolutions & high sounding threats? The offer too, of the English government to pension the families of the murdered, is thought an insult, which ought to have been repelled. If we do not insist on blood for blood, let us not barter American blood for gold.—We do but justice to public feeling in publishing this, as a hint to Mr. Madison and Mr. Smith.—All the American people do not consider a little paltry trade, as the summum bonum. Some of them regard national honour.—Baltimore Whig.

Orders in Council and Embargo off.

Two years ago (Dec. 1807) a commercial treaty was made by Messrs. Monroe and Pinkney on the