

LITERARY.

ESSAY ON THE ELOQUENCE AND CHARACTER OF DEMOSTHENES.

TRANSLATED FROM THE FRENCH OF M. D'ARNOU.

I read the harangues of Demosthenes with all possible pleasure, and his life in pain. I saw in him a man of the greatest abilities, and the finest and most lively eloquence; but I perceived that the qualities of his heart did not answer to those of his understanding. The first time he mounted the rostrum, it was to plead against his guardians; he did not succeed, because he accumulated too many arguments one upon the other; overcharged his pleading with oratorical figures, and had a bad delivery. For my part, I think his cause was not a good one: a young man like Demosthenes ought to have found his judges disposed to hearken to him, when he complained, that advantage had been taken of his weakness to deprive him of his property. It appears that, far from being disheartened by this bad success, Demosthenes took infinite pains to become more able and seducing. Sometime after, not having yet obtained a good delivery, he composed for others; and in a cause wherein the Areopagites were greatly embarrassed, because the pleading on both sides were of equal force, it was discovered, that Demosthenes had drawn up both the one and the other: he was thus an advocate for and against. What opinion can we have of the heart of such an orator! At length he found himself capable of opposing every thing which Phocion proposed, who wanted neither wit nor eloquence, and whose opinions were more just and of greater advantage to the Athenians. Demosthenes had talents still greater than those of Phocion? he got the better of him, and his successes were the cause of the loss of his country. Ought he not to reproach himself with such a triumph? When Demosthenes wanted argument and reason, it frequently happened, that he got rid of his embarrassment by pleasantry. This kind of resource would appear less extraordinary and difficult to the French to make use of, than to other nations.

His advice was to go to war, although the Athenians were not in a situation to do it; it was however resolved upon. Obligated like others to join the army, he was the first who shrunk from his duty and ran away. He had harranged like a bad citizen, and he fought like a cowardly soldier. Nevertheless the Athenians recalled him to the rostrum, they wished to hear again this divine orator. Frivolous people! who admired nothing but the choice of words and turn of phrases, without giving themselves the least trouble about the object of the discourse. It was, however, the welfare of the republic which was in question. Philip being dead, Demosthenes maintained, that nothing was to be feared from the young Alexander; that he was only a foolish boy, (according to the expression of M. de Tourtil.) The wits of the Athens smiled, and gave their applause; it appeared by what followed, how far this judgment of Alexander was founded on truth. The king of Macedonia destroyed Thebes, and forgave Athens, on account only of the arts,—of letters and philosophy; but he required that the orators who had insulted him should be given up. Demosthenes was the most culpable; he was greatly afraid, and did what he could to save himself the trouble of the journey: he invented, and declaimed wonderfully, on the fable of the shepherds, whom the wolves prayed to give up their dogs. Demosthenes was by no means a man precious to his republic, yet he managed so as to prevail upon his countrymen to pay a considerable sum, rather than abandon him to the resentment of the king of Macedonia. Alexander took the money from the Athenians, left them their orator & made a very good bargain.

The conqueror having taken Sardes from the King of Persia, found proofs that Demosthenes was pensioned by the enemies of his country—in a word, a traitor. He made this known to the Athenians, who only laughed at it: in fact, it did not hinder Demosthenes from being the best speaker in Greece; and the Athenians pardoned every thing in favour of wit and abilities.

He was one day to plead against a certain Harpalus whom the Athenians wished to banish from their city, and who fully deserved it: the culprit gave an elegant gold cup to the orator. The next day Demosthenes declared that he had a cold, and could not plead; I believe it, said Phocion, thou hast got in thy throat the cup of Harpalus. This repartee was tho' an excellent one; but it was all that passed upon the subject.

When we read Demosthenes, we are so delighted, that we do not think of weighing his reasons: but on reading history their weakness is seen in putting ourselves in the place of the Athenians. Phocion, on the contrary, spoke rationally, and always to the purpose. Hypetides said to Phocion, when wilt thou then think of going to war? "When those in years answered the Athenian shall know how to command & the young how to obey: when the rich shall be disposed to contribute their property, & the poor their arms. When orators shall no longer display their wit and talents at the expence of the republic!" These are sublime sentiments, and which present once, the evils and their remedies.

Demosthenes, on the contrary, began his harangues, by saying, "Athenians, the Oracle of Delphi, has declared, that there was one man in Athens who was of a different opinion from all the others; are you desirous to know this man?—I am he." This is certainly a fine rhetorical figure; but afterwards, Demosthenes was obliged to use great subtilty, to prove that he was right, in being of an opinion different from that of all his fellow citizens.—How could the Athenians have been so far imposed upon, as to scize that which was false, and never that which was true? It is certain, that Demosthenes deceived them.

I like Cicero much better; every thing in his pleading breathes sentiment, equity, & a justness of mind: his logic is clear, and at the same time pressing. It seems by this manner, as if one honest man was defending another; and nothing proves to us that Cicero strove to deceive the Romans, nor that he supported a bad cause.

The Roman orator had great personal defects; he was weak in council and in government, and gave way to times and circumstances; but he was not strenuous for the bad party, and if he had not the courage to save his country from falling, he did not lead it to the brink of the precipice. He was vain and believed that he had saved Rome, by discovering the conspiracy of Cataline; but if he boasted too much of a trifling service, he had nothing to reproach himself with. Something should be granted in favour of humanity, and several weaknesses ought to be excused on its account.

CERVANTES.

The life of this extraordinary man was but a series of disappointments and misfortunes. But his fortune never forsook him. Three days before his death he wrote the following letter to his patron, the Count de Lemos, who had just returned from Italy. "We have an old Spanish ballad that applies to me but too well. It is that which begins with these words:

Death urges my departure, I go even while writing to you.

This is precisely my situation. Yesterday I received extreme unction. I am dying, and I am grieved at not being able to tell you how much pleasure your arrival in Spain has given me. The joy I have experienced ought to prolong my life, but the will of God be done! Your excellency will know, at least, that my gratitude continued as long as my life. I regret much that I shall not be able to finish certain works which I designed for you, as the "Weeks of the Garden," the "Grand Benard," and the last books of "Galatea," for whom I know you have some friendship.—But this would require a miracle from the Almighty, while I demand nothing of him but to have your Excellency in his holy keeping."

L'homme (says Florian, remarking upon this letter) l'homme qui s'est conduit chez les Algériens comme nous Favons vu, qui a fait Don Quichotte, et qui écrit en mourant la lettre que l'on vient de lire, n'étoit pas un homme ordinaire.

ELOQUENCE.....If ever there was a nation unfortunate throughout every period of its long existence, it is undoubtedly that of the Jews. In order to be convinced of this, it would be only necessary to read the little book that has just been published under the title of "A picture of the misfortunes of the Jewish people," the author of which has designated himself merely by the initials N. R. C. We find, by turns, almost every nation on earth leaguely itself against the Jews, who, indeed, shew themselves to be isolated and intolerant; they are driven from their own country and are held in servitude; they escape, and, in traversing frightful deserts, become the prey of every pain; they are constantly building their temple and cities, which are invariably destroyed without being finished; they recommence the building of their cities and temple, as soon as their enemies, wearied with their slaughter, afford them the respite of a few years. When foreigners do not massacre them by thousands, they destroy one another; tribes arm themselves against tribes, and their kings are more barbarous towards their subjects, than their most cruel enemies. What bloody annals! Each page presents to our view crimes of the blackest die ***** Mr. N. R. C. has not endeavoured to weaken the colours of this repulsive picture. His authorities are Bossuet, and the historian Josephus. He acknowledges in his preface all the quotations he has made from them. In doing this he has only discharged his duty, which he would have done more fully had he marked those quotations in the course of his work.

The picture is, in fact, an imitation of the Discourse upon Universal History. The author avows at the beginning that he is a novice in the art of writing. We perceive it very frequently; his style, however, possesses sprightliness and clearness; but we must perhaps believe, what he himself asserts in his preface, with much more modesty than elegance; the good is from Bossuet and Arnault d'Andilly; the bad belongs to myself. However that may be, we have viewed this picture with much interest; it gives rise to reflection.

But what could have induced the author to add to this small book twelve pages of poetry, indifferent enough, and which have not the least connection with the Picture? Perhaps these are all the works of the author; and he was anxious to empty his port folio at once.—Through regard to his reputation, we could have wished that he had published only his prose.—Anthology.

The Star.

RALEIGH,

THURSDAY, JUNE 29, 1809.

Arrangements have been made for celebrating the 4th of July in this City.

On the 1st of July the Supreme Court of this state will commence its session in Raleigh.

By a vote of the two houses, taken the 22d instant Congress were to have adjourned yesterday.

No foreign news has been received since that brought by the Pacific, of which we last week gave an ample detail.

Capt. Bennet under whose orders a deserter was murdered in Canada has been arrested by col. Simmons, and is to be tried.

We have this moment in the National Intelligencer, for the first time, seen the Secretary of the Navy's Report respecting the Gun-Boats, but not in time for publication or analysis.

The Documents communicated by the President to Congress, explaining the nature and character of the late British Orders, we did not receive until two or three days after our last publication. The good sense of our readers we believe, required nothing but the Orders themselves to give their own explanation. But if any wanted other information or opinions Mr. M'Bryde's letter, published in our last, must have been sufficient. We shall not therefore, at this time obtrude these documents on the patience of our readers.

The reference in the 1st paragraph of the Review of "Neef's Plan of Education" is to an article which

we published in the 60th page of the Star, under the head of "Pessalozzi's plan for quickening the Senses and Maturing the Minds of Children."

The story of the \$40,000 found in a tree in Grayson county, Virginia, is asserted in the Virginia Gazette to be a "palpable falsehood" so far as respects Col. Chiswell; and the whole is supposed to be a kind of *Dove Story*, without any foundation in truth.

"The Age of Chivalry" not "gone."

In the debate which took place in the House of Representatives on the subject of liberating the men captured in Miranda's expedition, Mr. Pearson said that from the reading of Smith and Ogden's trial he had received an impression that our government must have had knowledge of Miranda's designs.—Mr. J. G. Jackson threatened Mr. P. with being called to the bar of the House on account of his expressions. Mr. P. replied that he was ready to attend any call the gentleman might please to make. Mr. J. then said "I am responsible out of the House for what I say in it."

Mr. Randolph on a late occasion, said the rights of the States had been prostrated by the majority. Mr. J. Montgomery declared he would vindicate himself and friends from that imputation in or out of the House. Mr. R. explained, but said he did not do it to prevent the gentleman from asserting his rights here or elsewhere. Mr. M. replied "that if Mr. Randolph had any rights to enforce he was ready to meet him;" and so the matter ended.

The Legislature of Maryland adjourned without appointing a Senator. The two houses could not agree on the mode of choosing; the Senate being in favour of a joint ballot, and the Delegates in favour of a concurrent vote. Gen. Smith has left Congress, and Gov. Wright has retired, much dissatisfied, to enjoy the honours of his late administration in private life.

TO WILLIAM PEACE, Esq.

Captain of the Raleigh Independent Light Infantry, and the Company under his command.

GENTLEMEN—Emulated by the recent patriotism of our sister Students, and desirous to evince our esteem for you and your company, we here with bring you a standard wrought for the purpose. To advise you as to its use would be to arrogate to ourselves a skill in military science which we do not possess; we, however, repose it in your hands, confident it will never be unfurled but on the side of your country. We congratulate you on the symptoms of approaching peace—may her mild beams be extended to all nations of the earth, and mankind have war no more.

Accept, gentlemen, the assurances of our esteem. ELIZA HAYWOOD, ELIZA WHITE, HARRIET CASSO, ANNE LANE.

June 23, 1809.

To Misses Eliza Haywood, Harriet Casso, Eliza White, and Anne Lane.

YOUNG LADIES—The spirit which prompts you to emulate your sister Students in their recent act of patriotism, is worthy of the American Fair. The honour conferred upon us by the very elegant stand of colours which you have presented, is held in high regard, and we request you to accept our thanks for it. That modesty which constitutes the pride and glory of your sex forbade you to advise us to its use, but a recollection of the act and the source from which it flows will ever speak with the force of a Washington's authority. Your confidence is well founded that it will never be unfurled but on the side of your country, and while we reciprocate your congratulations on the prospects of approaching peace, and fervently join in the humane wish that her mild beams may be extended to all nations; yet, if we should unhappily be engaged in war, we shall look to your banner in our appeal to holy justice and right, and consider it as the sure pledge of victory.

June 23, 1809.

WM. PEACE.

MORGANTON, June 10th, 1809.

This being the day of the renewal of intercourse with England, it was celebrated by the citizens of this place with marks of joy and patriotism. A procession was formed, conducted by a gentleman of high respectability, formerly an officer in the regular army, accompanied with a great variety of music. A halt was made on the public square near the court house, and seventeen rounds were fired by platoons, for the seventeen states.

The procession then continued through the principal part of the town, and each house was saluted with a fire. As they passed the church every head was bare through respect to the sacred place of devotion; after which the band halted under the sign of General Washington, when their commander delivered an impressive and elegant address, urging the example of the illustrious hero whose representation was in view. The company then retired to other amusements and repast. All was transacted with the utmost harmony and cheerfulness.

[The excellent, patriotic, and conciliatory toasts given at this celebration, we are compelled to exclude. They, however, breathe the same sentiments and spirit which we are pleased to see at this time generally pervades our country.]

Extract from the Speech of Christopher Gore, Esquire, Governor of Massachusetts, to the Legislature of that State, delivered on the 7th instant.

"To adopt a rule, that no man is to be selected for office, unless he be of the particular sect or party of those who administer the government, or subscribe to their political creed, is to establish a principle, not only not recognized by, but directly repugnant to the constitution. It is moreover highly unjust to the people, as it narrows the choice for office, and may frequently exclude from their service the purest integrity, the highest capacities, and best dispositions. It is considering government as instituted, not for the common good, but for the exclusive advantage of an association or party of men.

Should they, to whom is deputed the authority of the Commonwealth, surrender themselves to such motives, they would descend from the distinguished elevation of rulers of a free people, to the level of a faction, disposing of the honours and employments of the public as bribes to augment their party, and perpetuate their power. When creeds and opinions, unknown to the constitution, are rendered necessary to employment, they very soon become the only qualification required, and supply the place, not only of talents, for the performance of the highest duties, but even of common honesty, necessary to the discharge of all. Already we have but too

much reason to deplore the violence and intemperance of party spirit. It has gone far to destroy social intercourse, and all the cheering charities of life, between ancient friends and neighbours, and to substitute political opinions for virtue, intelligence, and patriotism. Already the wise and good of all parties entertain apprehensions, lest the interests of the people and the duties of government might be forgotten in the solicitude for party power, and the hatred of political opponents. They see and lament not only the evils at present experienced, but they have a dread of evils still greater, even the destruction of our free government, as a necessary consequence of party passion, unless assuaged by a temper of conciliation, of mutual forbearance, of candour, and respect for each other, and by the unqualified surrender of every interest and every desire, to the pre-eminent claim of country, in those who have been selected by the citizens to guard their rights and advance their prosperity."

Aaron Burr and Miranda.—The Spanish junta ambassador at London (Adaloca) having made representations to the British minister for foreign affairs, that several persons were in London who had in hand an enterprise against the Spanish colonies in South America, Miranda and Burr were particularly named; the former however contrived to obtain a passage in a vessel bound for St. Christophers, for which place it is said he departed; Aaron Burr who was also summoned to appear, did not make his escape, but presented himself according to the summons; and was notified that he must depart from England; he disclaimed all connection or participation with any design against the Spanish colonies, and claimed as a British subject, under magna charta, to remain unmolested in the country, to which he owed and avowed allegiance!

Upon its being urged that he was an American citizen, and that he had held a station there, which put his character of an American beyond question; he disclaimed the character of an American citizen, and asserted that he was entitled to protection by his birth under the British government, long before the independence of America; and that although the British government might connive at it, he maintained, that the principles of British law and policy never admitted of expatriation; and could not refuse to recognise the right of any subject born within the realm or its colonies.

He was nevertheless advised that he must depart the realm. He thereupon signified that it was out of his power, that he was destitute of the funds requisite to defray the expenses of his removal, or to discharge the obligations which he had already incurred.

Whether the funds were advanced or not, we have not learnt—but he was accompanied to one of the ports on the north sea, and shipped for the continent.

We heard several weeks ago that he had taken his passage for the island of St. Christophers, and was destined for Trinidad.—Bell's Messenger.

It is found that the insect called the *Cochineal*, is a native of South-Carolina, and that the plant on which it feeds also grows there. This discovery is very auspicious to our manufactures, as it will render us independent in that important article of colouring.

A powder is said to have been invented 100 times stronger than Gun-powder. If this be so, we may expect hereafter wars will be as short as ternils.

Rev. Stanley Griswold, has been appointed by the Governour of Ohio senator to Congress in place of Dr. Tiffin resigned, and has taken his seat.

TO CORRESPONDENTS.

"PHILOLETES," on the Wheel, shall appear in our next.

Our Correspondent in Chatham is informed, that the rules which govern the conduct of this paper, excludes from it Religious Controversy. His Communication cannot, therefore, have a place. We shall ever rejoice in any opportunity our vocation affords us of promoting real Religion, and in our opinion that is best done by illustrating its excellence, and offering it to view in those engaging forms which will recommend it to general esteem. The essentials of Religion in this enlightened age are precepts for practice and very seldom subjects for controversy.

"The Observer" has chosen his subjects well, but his essays are more prolix than suits the respect due to other subjects which have strong claims to a place in the Star. If there should be a paucity of interesting matter, we shall bring out from our bureau the papers of "The Observer."

When facts are communicated we wish them authenticated by the real name of our correspondents. In all other communications we repeat our request that the name of the author may be withheld.

No Letters to the Editors will be taken out of the post-office, unless the postage is paid, or they are franked by a post-master.



DIED.

In this City on the 27th inst. Mrs. Martha Hill, late of Franklin county, relict of Mr. Bennet Hill, at an advanced age, after a severe indisposition of nearly four years, which she bore with truly christian fortitude, looking calmly forward to the period of dissolution with an undoubting hope that she should then exchange a life of pain for an eternity of bliss.

In Granville county, not long since, Mr. Isaac Butler, an old and very respectable inhabitant of that county.

In the same county, a few days ago, Mr. Samuel Clay, for many years a very worthy citizen of that county.

On Tuesday, the 20th inst. at his seat in Fayetteville, John Hay, Esq. Attorney at Law, in the 52nd year of his age, for many years a distinguished and highly respectable man.

Mr. Hay was a native of Belfast, in the kingdom of Ireland; a man of strong mind, of liberal education, and extensive reading, and learning. As an orator, he was much admired for the purity and elegance of his language, and few men surpassed him in logical and argumentative powers.