



Poetical.

SEA SONG.—POEM BY LOVE.

WHEN whistling winds are heard to roar,
And rain falls pouring from above;
On tender thoughts we dwell no more,
For duty drowns the voice of love!

A fair vendor of Garters in New-York, hands the following ingenious verses to all who purchase her manufactures. We have seen it no where but in her own hand-bills: and to amuse our readers we present it here.

A WIDOW LADY

Reduce my misfortune, bidding Garters for her friends.
COME aid me cito, to pay my quarters,
And treat your pretty legs with garters,
You cannot think how well they'll fit 'em,
Why 'tis for pretty legs I knit 'em!
Like gun elastic, throats of beagles,
On your own purse when stung with eagles,
They'll stretch or shrink, distend or close,
Hold high and smooth your silken hose,
Leave the tight knot to do its duty,
And bend to every blooming beauty.

Political.

CONGRESSIONAL NOMINATIONS.

Extracted from an address of the New-York Committee of Correspondence in support of the nomination of De Witt Clinton to the Presidency of the United States.

We have said that the state of New-York has entered its protest against congressional nominations. In doing so it has acted wisely. The nomination of a candidate for the presidency of the United States, by an association of members of congress, exercised at the seat of government, is hostile to the spirit of the federal constitution, dangerous to the rights of the people, and to the freedom of election.

Whoever examines that constitution with attention, will perceive that the election of the president is intended to be made, not by the people of the United States, in the sense in which they may be said to choose the members of the house of representatives; but by the states composing the union, in their separate sovereign capacities, each state voting in the ratio of its population.

The unbridled exercise of this invaluable right of the sovereignty has been guarded in this instrument with jealous care. "No senator or representative, or person holding an office of trust or profit, under the U. States, shall be appointed an elector." Even a state, in delegating its own sovereign right, is restrained from confiding its power to any person connected with the congress or the general government.

Permit us now to ask, did this pointed exclusion of the individuals composing congress, or interested in the general government, from participating in the election of president, merely contemplate the avoiding of corrupt influence? Even if that were its only object, no evasion of it should be tolerated; but we believe it further and more particularly aimed at maintaining the authority and rights of the individual states; and we are confirmed in that opinion by observing that where the members of the house of representatives are, from necessity, permitted to interfere in the election, they are compelled to vote by states. The constitution thus, in every case, maintaining the principle that the chief magistrate is to be chosen by the states, in their separate, sovereign capacities.

It is perfectly manifest, therefore, that those who compose a congressional caucus are, except in one event, and that in the last extremity, excluded by the express words of the constitution, from intermeddling in the election of a president. Can their attempt then in the first instance, to nominate the candidate for that office, be consistent with its spirit? Who should nominate? Some among the states which enjoy the constitutional right to elect. Surely none of those persons, whose interference is cautiously prohibited as tending with danger, and who are therefore made subject to an incapacity imposed upon no other citizen; and yet, these prohibited and disqualified cha-

acters, are to stand forth and designate the president with an authority so conclusive, that it differs from theirs, and exercise an independent right, agreeably to the letter and spirit of the constitution, is stigmatized as nothing short of political heresy!

The very power possessed by congress of selecting among the different candidates, where a choice has failed through a division of the electoral votes although it may be, and we believe has been, the motive and ground-work of congressional nominations, ought, in all delicacy and fairness, to be an insuperable bar against them. The bias of that nomination is certain of influencing the result of that election. The connexion between a nomination originated through members of congress, and an eventual choice by them conformably thereto, is obvious, and has, we fear, been contemplated. But is it consistent with the spirit of the constitution, or the principles of justice, that those should decide in the last appeal, who had made themselves partisans in the first resort, and had committed themselves by previous engagements?

We are aware of the distinction taken by the members of congress. When making those nominations, they affect to act only in the capacity of private citizens. Is it possible that the good sense of the community can be deceived by such a shallow artifice? If in good faith they mean to act only as private citizens, let them do so in their respective states, to which the right of nomination belong. There (if any where) their influence would be correctly exercised. But at the very seat of government, on forbidden ground, that almost all the disqualified persons in the union should assemble and designate a presidential candidate, seems to us something like an indecent infringement of the rights of the states, and an open contempt of the provisions of the constitution. If the members of the house of representatives were to assemble, and point out to the president and senate a foreign ambassador or a judge, would it not be considered as monstrous arrogance? How then are we to characterize the act of the same men, and of the senate, who, notwithstanding their personal disabilities, presume to nominate to the respective states the officer whom they are required to choose? Suppose the two houses, by a concurrent resolution, recommended a candidate for the chief magistracy; who would hesitate to say it was a violation of the constitution? If, then, such an act by them in the forenoon, would be a violation, is not the very same act, by the very same men in the afternoon, at least an evasion of the constitution? Are not the mischiefs to which we have alluded, and those we are about to suggest, as likely to result from their vote in caucus, as from their vote in congress? Indeed of two evils, let us choose the least. If they are to interfere, let them do it in such a way as that their conduct may be fairly cognizable by their constituents. If they must act, let them act at least under their official responsibility.

If we are not much mistaken, we have demonstrated that a nomination to the presidency, by members of congress, is repugnant to the constitution; we shall now vindicate that instrument, by showing that the measure, if it shall grow into usage, will also be dangerous to the rights of the people, and to the purity and freedom of election. "If it shall grow into usage;" and has it not already grown into usage? Is it not ingrafting itself upon our institutions, and acquiring strength after the manner of all other successful usurpations? Even now, acquiescence in the regular nomination at Washington, is by many considered as the touchstone of republicanism. The individuals, or the state that dare to exercise the right of independent choice, are denounced as schismatics and factionists; and, if already an innovation so recent, and so flagrant, be called the regular nomination, what will be its influence, should time and repetition give it additional sanction? Let the encroachments of constituted authorities, upon every free government that has been undermined, furnish the answer. Should the practice become inveterate, we do not hesitate to say, that to promulgate a nomination will be to decree the election. The congress will appoint the president and the constitutional electors will be mere officers, to register its edicts.

Would this change in our system produce beneficial results? At best it would endanger the independence of the executive, by giving to congress an influence over the measures of government, never contemplated by the constitution, and calculated to diminish the responsibility of the president, the people's only security for his faithful conduct in office. The chief magistrate of the union would owe his elevation and continuance in office to a junctio of congressmen, and not to the nation. A sovereign right of the states would be absorbed in congressional influence, or sacrificed to executive patronage; and an insupportable control, provided by the constitution over the measures of the federal administration, and vested in the states, would be thus defeated and destroyed. But in truth, the general government would be made to depend upon itself, and upon its skill in generating a cabal through the intrigue, and intriguing through a cabal.

If the heads of department, their clerks, and the other persons who hold trust and profit under the Union, were to assemble in their individual capacities at the capital at Washington, and designate a candidate, would you not be shocked? and yet do you they are passive spectators of a regular caucus

nomination? Mark the danger at least, that on some future occasions, men whose station and standing, say, whose very bread may depend upon the continuance of the same administration, will cultivate the opportunities of private friendship, official intercourse, of familiar hospitality, of public magnificence; will labour the understandings, engage the hearts, work upon the weaknesses, and perhaps tamper with the purity of your representatives, collected as they will be in the very focus of executive influence; and having made them fitting instruments, will remain in the background, but in fact promulgate the nomination of their own peculiar patron and protector, or perpetuate the succession, if not in the same family, at least in the same dynasty!

How far the germ of these evils is already observable, we do not wish to inquire; but rather proceed to indicate another danger which would grow out of this change of system, and become daily more imminent from the increasing importance of this country. As yet, we hope, no foreign power has attempted to influence the elections of our chief magistrate. The thing is impossible, so long as the provisions of the constitution are observed in spirit as well as letter. While the choice of that officer is in truth made by the states, no foreign agents can approach them, or bias their suffrages; and thus a calamity that has harassed Poland, Venice, Genoa, the Papal See, almost every other people having an elective executive, is effectually guarded against. But as we rise in the scale of nations, should we concentrate the real electors (or at least those whose nomination is to be received at the first regular step to an election) in the one place, and that too the residence of a foreign minister, whose diplomatic office it often is to conciliate and corrupt, can we be so foolish as to suppose, that the opportunity would be neglected by them of obtaining a hold in our councils, and a control over our government.

Characters. JAMES MADISON.

Men of great minds, when they enter into public life, bargain for the calumnies of demagogues. The purest morality, the greatest benevolence, and the most brilliant understanding, are no assurance of exemption from detraction. The poison of envy, the sly implacability of malice, and the loud and hateful howl of disappointed ambition, are always visible and audible in the sphere of a great political luminary. JAMES MADISON has been for thirty years a statesman, an honour to his country and an ornament to the human race. He was introduced into public life in the memorable year of 1776. At that period he was a member of the Virginia Convention; in 1779 a member of Congress; in 1784 a member of the Virginia Assembly; 1785 a delegate in the same body by re-election; subsequently a member of the illustrious convention that framed our constitution; re-elected a member of the old Congress; a member of the Virginia convention that ratified the constitution; a member of the first House of Representatives under the new constitution; again a member of the Virginia Assembly; next a secretary of state; and finally President of the United States. Such is the man who is attempted to be shorn of his beams of glory by Mr. Randolph, a pigmy in politics, whose capacity is declamation, whose energy is passion, whose patriotism is discord, and whose soul is convulsed like the bowels of Vesuvius: Mr. Randolph, an individual who assumes perfection, spurns all auxiliary aid, and swelling in political arithmetic, would persuade us that he is the unit, and the ten, and the hundred, and the thousand, and the tens of thousands! There is no boundary to the vanity of egotism when the nerves of the brain are too feeble for the pulsations of the heart; when human pride is too potent for human reason, the mind of man becomes the organ of a thousand wild and extravagant notes. Happy would it be were they always as harmless as those of Ophelia with her rue. In the case of Mr. Randolph the discord of harsh sounds betrays his intellectual approximation to total distraction.—Extremely plain in his costume, frugal in his mode of living, with a heart in which the thirst of power never created a pang, and verging to the wane of life, Mr. Madison has been accused of being under a bias towards the policy of the emperor of the French. His accusers are mad, or they are knaves.—What has been the glory of Madison's life? To have eminently assisted in forming and establishing a free constitution of government; to have spoken and written ably and successfully in defence of republican institutions; to have been placed, by the unbought suffrages of a free and enlightened people, at the head of the executive department. What could induce him to obscure the lustre of his honest fame? Neither Dukedom, nor Princedom, nor royal crown, nor imperial flattery, nor imperial power, could, for an instant, sway him from the honorable career of his youth, nor from that devotion to liberty which is dear and precious to his heart. Let us then scatter contempt over the creatures who burn to destroy the man whose virtues render more conspicuous and odious the scandalous vices of his calumniators. P. Arris.

ALEXANDER HAMILTON

Lived long enough to be disgusted with the treacherous ingratitude of his party, and had he existed at this day he would either have remained neutral on that very account, or judging from the natural bent of his active and en-

terprising mind, he would have volun- tarily sold in array against his political associates. A considerable time before he gave his marked disapprobation of the proceedings of his party, and a certain speedy conversion to the republican cause when unfortunately he offered himself a victim to a barbarous prejudice; and fell a sacrifice to the unprincipled policy of his pretended friends. We are induced to make these observations from the manner in which his memory has been toasted by the federal party throughout the various parts of the union, at the late celebration of American Independence.

As to the talents, the abilities, and the usefulness of Hamilton too much cannot be said; neither England nor America ever witnessed his equal; he gave to the party to which he was attached a character for talents, which, as a body distinct from their great master and leader they never possessed, they were merely submissively moved and guided by the matchless powers of his mind, but at length the charm by which he held them together, the spell by which he bound them to himself, was dissolved by the superior address of Burr, the cunning, the crafty, the insidious Burr. From that moment Hamilton, deserted by his party seemed to have given himself up as lost, but he advised, he admonished and he threatened them with the consequences which would ensue from their blind support and adherence to the views of a man whom he ever considered dangerous to the liberties of his country, but his advice, his admonitions and his threats were unavailing, they rushed madly on and were defeated.—Burr laid the charge of that defeat, (though erroneously) to the efforts of Hamilton in denigrating the affection of the federal party from his views; and it is well known that his spirit of restless ambition was only satisfied by the immolation of his rival.—N. T. Journal.

Religious.

THE BIBLE.

After all, the Bible, the Sabbath and the Pulpit, are the best means of intellectual and moral improvement. He who knows and understands the Bible will possess a vast system of history, moral knowledge and divine truth.—The sabbath is a seventh of our time devoted to improvement, and if there be any such thing as improvement in man, must when well employed, produce it. The pulpit teaches in the name of God what God has revealed—that is, whatever is most necessary to the present and future happiness of man.

The real friends of the bible, the sabbath and the pulpit, that is, they who are meek and liberal, upright and benevolent, are therefore, the best of patriots, and true friends to mankind.

SCIENCE AND RELIGION.

From history and daily observation we are reminded, that our prosperity and national glory, will rise and fall in proportion to the attention paid to our youth. The sacred proverb given us by the inspired Solomon, is no less important now, than when first uttered, "Train up a child in the way he should go, and when he is old he will not depart from it."—The names of sensualists and misers will perish, with their vile bodies, and the glory of heroes and splendid conquerors will fade away. But generations unborn will rise up to speak the praises of those who lend their aid to the cause of Science and Religion.

TO PROFANE SWEARERS.

There is a certain habit universally prevalent, a habit exceeded by no other in vulgarity, wickedness and depravity—that of profane swearing. Indeed few evil habits are of more pernicious consequence, or overcome with more difficulty, than this very odious one. A vice, so wanton, and yet so wicked, cannot perhaps be found on the catalogue. In itself it is a practice manifestly low, ridiculous, savage, impudent and highly blasphemous, and an intended, palpable outrage of God's repeated, positive and awful command.

We read of Heathens who never mention the name of a Supreme Being, but with most profane marks of solemnity, solemnity and reverence. But cast a view over the generality of men, in our days; cast a view over those who are distinguished from Heathens by that important name, Christians!

You will then see numbers in all classes, in all the articles of amusement and business, in the continual habit of the worst profanity, utterly insensible to shame and remorse; you will see the blotted vocabulary of oaths ransacked for the most blasphemous. This daring defiance, of not only Divine, but human authority, develops a feature in their character at which humanity shudders! Yes, it develops an expressive feature, presenting a horrid page of their destiny. "But," say many, "almost every gentleman swears"—Infatuated wretches! Is profane swearing the criterion of a gentleman? Do you style that man "a gentleman," who is guilty of this vice? Observe, and you will see, that the meanness of a gentleman is addicted to profane swearing. Heat of passion too is used as a defence, and thus the commission of one crime is made use of to cover the guilt of another. Inconsistent, and anger and weak and odious pretences.—The man of sense disdains them.

All ye profane swearers! What pleasure, or prospect of future advantage, can you boast of? You cannot even say, you feel any satisfaction, or hope to meet with any benefit from this foolish habit—desist then, from the detestable habit of swearing, and "be not deceived: God will not be mocked: whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap."