

W. Stanley

# THE STAR,

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BY THOMAS HENDERSON, JUN.

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### AGRICULTURAL.

FOR THE STAR.

**Mr. Henderson**—In travelling through your county, I could not help saying to myself, these farmers are more nice than wise. I find that they, having plenty of land, but not of the best quality, clear and destroy it as fast as they can; as if they thought themselves rich in proportion to the poverty of their lands. Their plan of destruction appears to be this: grub and cut down as large a piece of land as possible during the winter; & in the spring, not only heap and burn all the large wood, but rake or sweep together all the leaves, sticks, and whatever litter is on the ground, and burn that also. So that, in the very commencement of the cultivation the whole of the earth's food, that might have been sufficient to sustain its life for two or three years is at once taken away and destroyed. After this robbery is committed it is an easy matter to effect their favourite object by killing their lands by work. Upon the same plan, if they wanted to make themselves rich by working their horses to death, the first step, no doubt, would be to withhold their daily food. There would then be no difficulty in effecting the object. Now, if I were a farmer I should pursue an opposite course, viz: When I had cut down a piece of ground, I would prefer to let the trees, brush, leaves, &c. remain on the ground, one, two, or more years—then cut and burn the wood, leaving a large quantity of litter, (food I call it) which would support the ground for some years, even upon the starving plan; but with proper management the land would ever after be able to feed and clothe itself; and if I had any land that had already been starved and worked nearly to death, I would commence resting and feeding it, by keeping it enclosed to prevent its being robbed by cattle, &c. who are the mortal enemies of poor land. I would retain every thing on it that it produced without culture, as its just right. But when it became strong enough, by feeding upon the bounty of nature, then I would employ it in my own way, and divide with it, taking away only what might be judged reasonable and just, by any unprejudiced farmer—leaving the rest, viz: the stubble, grass, weeds, and whatever other offal matter it had produced for its own food and clothing. And if this treatment proved insufficient to restore it from its weak and sickly state, to strength and vigor, I would gradually feed it with a rich food, from my farm pens (for I would have such, in which I would, in the fall and winter feed all my stocks and deposit all my corn stalks, as well as all other litter convenient, that would serve for food for those animals, or fit to be converted into manure). I would have no more stocks than I could support in this manner, and all those should be employed in enriching my lands; and my land should, in turn be employed in supporting my stocks.

AN OBSERVER.

### POLITICAL.

From the Virginia Argus.

#### COBBETT'S AMERICAN POLITICAL REGISTER.

The phenomenon of a newspaper published in the United States of America, but edited and controlled by a British subject residing in England, is actually exhibited in New-York. Mr. Cobbett's son and his coadjutor have arrived in that City, and made arrangements for the execution of the grand scheme.

Bonaparte's plan of a *Federative empire* was scarcely more extensive, more grasping than this singular spread of typographic ambition. It reminds us of the Vine which the mother of the Elder Cyrus is related to have seen in a dream, and which extended its branches over Europe, Asia & Africa—*America was not then known*. There is something bold in the conception of such a project; and if its execution should fail it may be said of Mr. Cobbett, as of the presumptuous Youth who attempted to guide the car of the Sun and to illumine the whole world, *magnis tamen excidit ausis!*

On this subject, we are unwilling to say much. Let some Printers concentrate, and others ramify; we have no objection to their schemes, provided the mass of the people be benefited by the result. This is the main point; and of this the people themselves are the only proper judges.—All we have to do, in our editorial capacity, is to warn the people against those delusions which may be intended, and which time alone will fully develope.

And, first, we would ask the republicans, if they can forget the licentious course of unbounded and virulent abuse on whatever they hold dear, venerable, and sacred, pursued by Mr. Cobbett in the early part of his political career, under the name of Peter Porcupine? Can they likewise forget the caresses and rewards bestowed upon him by the British ministers and their friends on his return to England? Those rewards, however, did not satisfy him; for, he soon after enlisted under the banners of the opposition; and he has ever since waged against those ministers an active, obstinate, and deadly war—dragging forth from their secret recesses the hideous monsters of corrup-

tion, venality oppression, machiavelism, and perfidy—and, O inconceivable change! eulogizing, even to satiety, America, American institutions—In such a man, can we rationally place that confidence which arises from a communion of principles, views, and objects? Are our ranks so thin, that we should invite, and, with open arms, receive into them, every specious adventurer? Is our cause so feeble, that it should require such auxiliaries?—No—there is in republicanism an inherent dignity that frowns upon thisameleon-inconsistency—There is, too, a spotless purity, that shrinks from the touch of this pollution—and, Heaven be thanked for it!—America possesses a moral strength of her own to which Mr. Cobbett can add but little.

—non defensoribus istis

Tempus egit—

We are not singular in our opinion of Mr. Cobbett, and his scheme. We find, in the Washington City Weekly Gazette, of May 18, a well written article, which, in our view of men and things, does infinite honour both to the head and to the heart of the author. We regret the impossibility of laying before our Readers the whole of that interesting article. Our limits compel us to confine ourselves to the subjoined extracts:

"If, says the writer, Mr. Cobbett knows facts, which it is of importance for the citizens of the United States to be informed of, why does he not, himself, come among us, and furnish us with all the particulars? On this head, we will venture an opinion, that he finds the business of opposition too profitable in England to be relinquished; but, following the mercantile or commercial course, he can preserve his present custom at home, and set up a house for his son in America. This we consider to be his true aim;—and as to his philanthropic professions, we look upon them as mere hypocritical cant and knavish pretext."

The circumstance of a newspaper published in this country, and edited and controlled by a British subject residing in England, is, in itself, singular; and sufficient to occasion vigilance, if not to awaken suspicion. Suppose Mr. Cobbett (a thing not in the least improbable, considering the suppleness of the man's mind,) should slip into the pay of the English ministry? He might insinuate, through his Register in the U. States, and even do it with an air of patriotism, thoughts extremely noxious to the republican principles of the American people; and thereby serve the cause of royalty more efficiently than if he were the avowed advocate of all its deeds.

In the following strictures, the writer very properly animadvert on the trite nature of the topics, which are likely to constitute the substance and marrow of Mr. Cobbett's valuable communications to the American public. We do not blame Mr. Cobbett for touching strongly and frequently upon those subjects—but it is unquestionably true that those political diatribes produce very little effect, if any. After reading or hearing them, kings and ministers are very apt to say, like the usurer in Gil Blas: "Truly this is a fine sermon; the preacher has performed his task; let us go and perform ours!"—and, like the usurer, they are generally more keen and more ardent in the performance of that task, after the sermon than before.—But to the concluding extract:

"In truth, continues the Gazette, what has Mr. Cobbett to tell us? That, in an old monarchy, corruptions have sprung up? That the people are heavily taxed? That there are royal favorites, and sinecure placemen? That in England there is a stupendous paper system? And that persons in authority trample on the necks of the poorer classes. Are these to be the topics of his communications? It is to be inferred from his intimations, that they are. And are these things new to the American mind? Do we not find the same facts staring us in the face from the days of Nimrod to those of George the third?—from the period of the Assyrian empire to that of the paramount dominion of Great Britain?—from the page of Herodotus to the page of Hume? Surely, it is not necessary for Mr. Cobbett to send his son hither to inform us that vice and misery increase with the populousness of nations; that crimes augment in proportion to the density of communities; that cunning men govern the ignorant; and that established power will preserve itself by strong or vicious means, if it can not do so by weak and virtuous ones.

When Mr. Cobbett has descanted upon all these points, in his prolix manner, in what way are the citizens of the United States to be benefited by his lucubrations? Does he wish the Americans to draw the conclusion, that the English people being in a very wretched condition as he asserts, and their rulers very corrupt, we, in this country, ought to be satisfied and happy? That our happiness is to be measured by contrast with that of a foreign people? And until we reach the alleged miserable condition of that people, that we ought to regard ourselves as the most enlightened, the freest, and the most virtuous inhabitants of this globe?

Now, in our judgment, this would be a very silly conclusion. There are many degrees of sin before a man comes to be as bad as the devil; and many shades of wretchedness before a nation reaches the dark night of despotism. By the way, we by no means consider the British monarchy as a despotism. On the contrary, we believe that, where the crown or the government, is not immediately concerned, there is as much justice, and almost as much freedom of the press, in England as in America. In this respect, we need only appeal to the adjudications of the British

tribunals, forming, in many cases, precedents for our own; and to the many liberal, and even licentious, productions in that kingdom. Witness the republication in that country of Mr. Dallas's pamphlet on the causes of the late war, embracing an enumeration of facts highly inculpatory of the political justice and honor of the British government; witness Mr. Cobbett's own Register, than which there is no publication in the United States more audacious or scurrilous. In reality, it is not essential for us, to know either the vices of the English ministry or the sufferings of the English people, in order to enlighten us, as to our own welfare.—Let us watch our own rulers. Let not our attention be attracted abroad. To have it perpetually rung in our ears that the people of England are slaves and their king a tyrant, is to fall precisely into the error into which the English themselves have, to their cost and sorrow, fallen with respect to France. It was always the artifice of the British government to impress it on the minds of its subjects that they were infinitely more happy than the French, and superior to them; and hence have arisen endless quarrels and wars, repressive of the peace and prosperity of the world and of the progress of the arts and sciences. If we listen to Mr. Cobbett, he will instill the same ideas into our heads, foment discord between the two countries, enrich his family, and laugh at American credulity.

As foreigners emigrating to the United States and devoting themselves to an honest vocation, we have not the least objection to the pursuit of Mr. Cobbett's son and his coadjutor: But it would be a reproach to the national understanding, if we were to suffer ourselves to be cozened by the numerous eulogies bestowed upon the Americans by that writer. For two years past, he has showered upon the people of this country the grossest flatteries. He may play the part of the starveling Spaniard in Gil Blas and expect a good supper; but he may depend on it that our fellow citizens have sense enough not to believe him when he virtually assures them that they are the eighth wonder of the world."

### FOREIGN.

Alexandria, May 22.

Capt. M'Knight, of the schooner Brother's Return, has politely favored us with the following letter, which he received while at Marseilles:

Marseilles, March 8, 1816.

"By the most respectable authority, we have just received the account of the wanton outrage committed by the troops of the Spanish garrison, upon some of the officers and men belonging to the United States fleet, stationed at Port Mahon, Island of Minorca.

"It appears, from the regulations of the Spanish garrison on the Island, that the patrol had orders to take up all seamen who were found in the streets after the beating of the evening retreat. Some of the men belonging to the fleet, that were going down to their boats, had been arrested, and were met by their officers, who solicited the officer of the guard to release them, which he was disposed to do, but his insubordinate men obstinately persisted in retaining them; in the dispute, the sailors attempted to extricate themselves by force, when the guard drew back some paces, and wantonly fired a volley upon the defenceless officers and men, who, in their turn, rushed upon their adversaries, and after a severe conflict, succeeded in disarming part of the guard and putting the rest to flight. Two Lieutenants were killed on the spot, and many others of the American party were wounded.—The wanton cruelty of the act, done by men that never signalized themselves but in the persecution of truth, justice and liberty, naturally incensed the brave bosoms of those who possess those qualities in so eminent a degree, and it is only owing to the prompt and prudent measures of the gallant commodore, that most of the garrison of the Island of Minorca were not numbered with their canonized saints."

### STATE OF FRANCE.

From Paris, March 27.—I submit to you the following facts that the British public, so interested in the affairs of this country, may be duly acquainted with the proceedings of the present ministry, and those of its agents in the departments.

M. Carnot, a nephew of the celebrated patriot and minister of that name, was lately arrested here upon a suspicion of entertaining opinions unfavorable to the present government. A couple of *moutons*\* were successively introduced into the place of his confinement, for the purpose of seducing him into an avowal of his political opinions; but the endeavors of these gentleman proving ineffectual, and the strictest investigation of his conduct not giving rise to the shadow of a charge against him, he was at length, after three weeks imprisonment, set at liberty, at the earnest solicitation of his friends.

A purchaser of national property lately received a visit from a returned emigrant, the original owner of the estate, who, without ceremony, or any offers of indemnity, claimed its restitution: the purchaser resisted the claim, and defied the threats with which it was accompanied, stating that he could no more part with his property, legally and fairly required, and immensely impro-

\* *Moutons* are devoted agents of the police, whose office is, by appearing to participate in the supposed feelings and opinions of the prisoner, to induce a disclosure of his secrets: and to reveal them to their employers.

ved, than he would part with his life. In consequence of this refusal, and the resolute tone in which it was persisted in, the emigrant applied to the minister of police, who by virtue of the *loi des suspects*, immediately issued an order of exile for this refractory purchaser to repair to Verdun, where he is residing at this moment, under the surveillance of the authorities of the place. The parties are Mr. Vidame, now Duc de Vasse, the emigrant, and Gen. Dutertre, the present holder of the estate.

The inhabitants of Vincennes assembled last week to take into consideration the noble conduct of Gen. Dominique, who lately defended the castle of that name with so much bravery and perseverance against the allied troops; they voted him a sword of high value as a token of their gratitude, and agreed to address him a letter expressive of the sense they entertained of his patriotic conduct. This meeting and resolution gave such umbrage to the court, that the notaire of the place, with the mayor and his deputy, were called up but the other day, before the prefect of police, severally reprimanded and deprived of their offices.

On ascending his throne, the present king swore to maintain the Legion of Honour, reserving to himself the choice of a new colour and a new decoration. The red colour, however, has hitherto remained unchanged, the eagle alone being replaced by the portrait of Henry IV. As decisive measures are now deemed seasonable, an ordinance is at this moment preparing to abolish the institution altogether, and to announce the creation of a new order in its stead. None but the pure of the present legion will be admitted into this order, other members being excluded from it, by not receiving notice of a fresh appointment. The colour will be a bright apple green, instead of the red, reserved in future solely for the favourite order of St. Louis.

A law is also in preparation to authorize the seizure of the property of persons included in the proscribed list of the 24th of July. This law may afterwards admit of an extension to that of obnoxious individuals. The word *confiscation* is avoided, that this new infraction of the charter may be less manifest, and seizure may appear in the light of sequestration.

Lyons is not in a state of insurrection; but the minds of the people are in a ferment. This city is described in the French papers as enjoying profound tranquility, it must be admitted that precautions are employed to maintain that tranquility. Several pieces of cannon are placed before the door of the governor's hotel, M. de Damas, and a picket of cavalry is there constantly on duty. It is a singular fact that the tri-coloured flag is found waving every morning instead of the white one, on the town house, without its having been possible hitherto to discover the authors of this provocative to rebellion.

The most remarkable fact attending the disturbances which have lately taken place in different parts of France, is the constant refusal of the national and departmental guards to take any active part in the support of the royal authorities against the people. This refusal lately occurred at Ville Franche, a place in the neighbourhood of Lyons, where the officers of government attempted to arrest two individuals, who having come there upon business, happened to be unprovided with passports. To the great joy and amusement of the people, these two men escaped from the grasp of the gendarmerie, by crossing a river, and from the latter being deprived of all means of pursuit by the interference of the public, and by the refusal of the National Guard to co-operate in quelling the riotous populace.

At Strasburg, the same mortification has been experienced by government. At a late festival, an idle report happened to be spread of Bonaparte's having landed in Holland. The lower orders of the people, who were at that moment collected in different places of entertainment, greeted the intelligence with joy, and were loud and general in their shouts of *vive l'Empereur!* The gendarmerie being insufficient to quell the disturbance, the national guard were called upon, and, as in the former instance, denied their aid for the purpose in question. These are trifling incidents within themselves, but may not be so in their consequences. They serve to shew the disposition of the people, and the policy of the government.

Previous to the intended journey of the princes, emissaries have been sent to explore the state of public opinion in the departments, and to inquire whether the prefects are sufficiently active in pursuing the system of purification, which is deemed necessary to consolidate the new throne.

General Travot, whose trial I announced to you as about to take place at Rennes, received his sentence of death, on Wednesday last. He is said to have obtained a respite. This general who, during the late war, for the third time, pacified La Vendee, has at length fallen a victim to his merciless persecutors. His judges were selected out of his most avowed enemies, count de Viomenil, general Caruel, and M. D'Artichamp, men whom for these last 20 years he has been in the habit of meeting in the field, men whom he had fought, defeated, and more than once saved from the fate of those taken in arms against their country.

The prefects, it must be allowed, vie with each other in zeal and ingenuity, in the discovery and application of means calculated to conciliate popular favour to the restored dynasty. It may be recollected that there were some time since commotions, at Beaune, provoked by the intemperate conduct of the new authorities of that town. M.