

# THE STAR,

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BY THOMAS HENDERSON, JUN.

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### MISCELLANY.

Society has been established in Massachusetts, by some christian philanthropists, to discourage war. Whatever opinion may be entertained of the utility of this institution, no doubt can exist about the purity of the motives of the respectable individuals who compose it. One of the strongest arguments for war in Europe, a crowded population, cannot be found in this country for a long period of time. The following letters were received by the founder of this society, in answer to an application to the writers for their support of its views. Any letters coming from such eminent men as Mr. Adams and Mr. Jefferson, must be interesting; but these are highly characteristic. We copy them from the 4th number of "the Friend of Peace," a work published under the auspices of this society.

MR. JEFFERSON'S ANSWER.

Monticello, January 29, 1816.

SIR—Your letter, bearing date October 18, 1815, came only to hand the day before yesterday which is mentioned to explain the date of mine. I have to thank you for the pamphlets accompanying it, to wit, the Solemn Review, the Friend of Peace or Special Interview, and the Friend of Peace, No. 2. The first of these I had received through another channel some months ago, have not read the two last steadily through, because where one assents to propositions as soon as announced, it is loss of time to read the arguments in support of them. These numbers discuss the first branch of the causes of war, that is, wars undertaken for the point of honour, which you aptly analogize with the act of duelling between individuals, and reason with justice from one to the other. Undoubtedly this class of wars is, in the general, what you state them to be, needless, unjust and inhuman, as well as anti-Christian.

The second branch of this subject, to wit, wars undertaken on account of wrong done, and which may be likened to the act of robbery in private life, I presume will be treated of in your future numbers. I observe this class mentioned in the Solemn Review, p. 10, and the question asked, "Is it common for a nation to obtain a redress of wrongs by war?" The answer to this question you will of course draw from history; in the mean time, reason will answer it on grounds of probability, that where the wrong has been done by a weaker nation, the stronger one has generally been able to enforce redress; but where by a stronger nation, redress by war has been neither obtained nor expected by the weaker—on the contrary, the loss has been increased by the expenses of the war, in blood and treasure; yet it may have obtained another object, equally securing itself from future wrong. It may have retaliated on the aggressor, losses of blood and treasure, far beyond the value to him, of the wrong he had committed, and thus have made the advantage of that who bear a purchase in future; in this way, the loss by the war, may have secured the weaker nation from loss by future wrong.

The case you state of two boxers, both of whom were "terribly bruised," is apposite to this; he, of the two who committed the aggression on the other, although victor in the scuffle, yet probably finds the aggression not worth the bruising it cost him. To explain this by numbers it is alleged, that Great Britain took from us, before the late war, near 1000 vessels, and that during the war, we took 1400; that before the war, she seized and made slaves of 6000 of our citizens, and that in the war we killed more than 6000 of her subjects, and caused her to expend such a sum as amounted to 4 or 5000 guineas a head for every slave she made. She might have purchased 1000 vessels she took for less than the value of those she lost, and have used the 6000 of her men killed for the purposes to which she applied ours, and have saved the 4 or 5000 guineas a head, and obtained a character of justice which is as valuable to a nation as an individual. These considerations leave her without inducement to plunder our property and take men in future on such dear terms. I neither affirm nor deny the truth of these allegations, nor is their truth material to the question; they are possible, and therefore present a case to your consideration, in a discussion of the general question: Whether any degree of injury can render a recourse to war expedient? Still less do I propose, to draw to myself any part in this discussion.

Age, and its effects both on body and mind, have weaned my attentions from public subjects, and left me unequal to the labors of correspondence, beyond the limits of my personal concerns. I retire, therefore, from the question, with a sincere wish, that your writings may have the effect in lessening this greatest of human evils, and that you may retain life and health to enjoy the contemplation of this happy spectacle; and that you be assured of my great respect.

THOMAS JEFFERSON.

MR. ADAMS'S ANSWER.

Quincy, Feb. 6, 1816.

SIR—I have received your kind letter

of the 25d of January, and I thank you for the pamphlets enclosed with it.

It is very true, as my excellent friend, Mr. Norton, has informed you that I have read many of your publications with pleasure.

I have also read, almost all the days of my life, the solemn reasonings and pathetic declamations of Erasmus, of Fenelon, of St. Pierre, and many others against war, and in favor of peace. My understanding and my heart, accorded with them, at first blush. But alas! a longer and more extensive experience has convinced me, that wars are as necessary and as inevitable, in our systems, as hurricanes, earthquakes and volcanoes.

Our beloved country, sir, is surrounded by enemies, of the most dangerous, because the most powerful and most unprincipled character. Objections of national interest, of commercial and manufacturing rivalries, are multiplying around us. Instead of discouraging a martial spirit, in my opinion, it ought to be excited.—We have not enough of it to defend us by sea or land.

Universal and perpetual peace appears to me, no more nor less than everlasting passive obedience, and non-resistance. The human flock would soon be fleeced and butchered by one or a few.

I cannot therefore, sir, be a subscriber or a member of your society.

I do, sir, most humbly supplicate the theologians, the philosophers, and politicians, to let me die in peace—I seek only repose.

With the most cordial esteem, however, I am, sir, your friend and servant.

JOHN ADAMS.

### ASBESTOS.

The following article is copied from a Richmond paper.

"A Newburyport paper states, that Mr. Bole has found near Parker's river, in Newbury, a piece of mineral substance, which appears by experiment, from its durability in fire, to be the genuine asbestos." The editor of this paper (V. P.) well recollects, in 1793, seeing several large pieces of asbestos on an island in Parker's river, called, he believes, Kent Island, (persons of that name then living on the island,) the filaments of some of which were nearly three inches in length. It was then said, that the island then contained large quantities. In 1800, about fifteen miles from Baltimore, asbestos was found, some of which were nearly 4 inches in length. It was used for the wick of a lamp; but, though unconsumed, the flame was much more dim than that from a cotton wick. Pliny says, that the cloth made of it was used by the ancients for a shroud to the ashes of the dead. A napkin twenty four inches square costs in China one hundred and seventy dollars. The Royal Society in England has a piece of this cloth, 12 inches by 6, which has been washed by burning it red hot. It lost in thus burning three grains each time."

Virg. Pat.

"Asbestos, a sort of native fossil stone, which may be split into threads from one to ten inches long, very fine, silky, and of a grayish colour. It is endowed with the wonderful property of being unconsumable by fire."

### NATURAL HISTORY.

There is now to be seen in this town the singular curiosity, of a young living alligator. The egg from which it was hatched was brought by a sailor from South America to Greenock, and the person who now exhibits it procured it when it was so small that it could be easily held in a person's hand.—Not knowing how to treat it, he kept it without food for about six months, during which period it must have procured nourishment from the water with which it was supplied. As soon as it was advertised in Edinburgh it attracted considerable attention, and, among others it was visited by an eminent Naturalist, who suggested a different, and, as it appears, a most successful mode of treating it. Since that period its growth has been rapid; its length at present is above three feet, and every day makes a visible difference in its size. It is thought that it will grow to the size of 20 feet, and still remain tame. It feeds upon herrings, oysters, or generally on any kind of flesh, and is kept either in the water, or in a sort of box with a glass top, near the fire. It is remarkable for its sagacity, and if through the night it wants water, it will leave its couch and make its way to the keeper's bed, when it will moan, and if by this means the keeper is not awakened, it will strike him with its tail until he attends to his wants. In like manner when it grows cold from the fire going out, it makes its way to the keepers bed, and putting aside the bed clothes, lies down beside him in order to procure heat. (New Castle Paper.)

### Gazettes or Newspapers.

Monsieur de Saintfoix, in his Historical Essays on Paris, gives this account of their introduction:

Theophrastus Renaudot, a physician of Paris, picked up news from all quarters, to amuse his patients; he presently became more in request than any of his brethren; but as a whole city is not ill, or at least do not imagine itself so, he began to reflect at the end of some years that he might gain a more considerable income by giving a paper ever week, containing the news of different countries. A permission was necessary; he obtained it with an exclusive privilege, in 1632.—such papers had been in use a considerable time at Venice and were called Gazettes, because a small piece of money, called Gazetta, was paid

for reading them. This is the origin of our Gazette and its name. About ten years afterwards, they were common in England by the name of Mercuries.

### FOREIGN.

New-York July 15,

INTERESTING CORRESPONDENCE.—The two following letters, will be read with peculiar interest.—Letter from Wm. Lee, Esq. Consul of the United States at Bordeaux, to Dr. Mitchell of this city.

DEAR SIR—I beg leave to inclose you a letter from Mr. Gard professor at the deaf and dumb college in this city.—He is considered, in this country, a phenomenon; for, though deaf and dumb, he is familiar with every branch of literature and science. He wrote the enclosed himself, and brought it to me to correct, but I thought it best to make no alteration in it. I can assure you he is considered far superior to the Abbe Sicard, who has acquired so much celebrity in Europe for instructing the deaf and dumb. Being, but twenty eight years of age, and of excellent constitution, he has a large margin for improvement, and would probably live to see his proposed institution carried to the highest perfection. I have the honor, &c.

WM. LEE.

F. Gard, of Bordeaux, to Samuel L. Mitchell, of New-York.

Bordeaux, April 6, 1816.

SIR—You will, perhaps, be surprized at a liberty I take in addressing you; but being governed by motives of humanity, and encouraged in my design by some military gentlemen and merchants of the United States, now in this place, I beg leave to call your attention, for a moment, to the situation of the unhappy persons in your country who have the misfortune to be deaf and dumb. Afflicted myself with these infirmities, and feeling, with great sensibility, for all those in the same situation, I have enquired of the American Gentlemen, who have visited our institution, in Bordeaux, for the instruction, of the deaf and dumb, whether there existed any similar establishment in the United States.—Being informed that no such school had been established with you, and learning, that, among your deaf and dumb, all those who have not the means of coming to Europe were deprived of instruction, I feel an ardent desire to devote my labours and existence to procure for them the inestimable blessing of the education of which their organization is susceptible, and which is so indispensable, both for their own happiness, and to render them useful members of society.

I was educated myself in the institution of the deaf and dumb, in this city, and having acquired by long application, a perfect knowledge of the most approved method of instructing this unfortunate portion of society; I have, for these eight years, exercised the functions of teacher; I have also acquired a tolerable knowledge of the English language. If the American government or benevolent individuals of your country are disposed to favour an institution in the United States, I would willingly go there for that purpose. I can procure satisfactory testimonials of my moral character, and of my capacity for teaching the deaf and dumb, from respectable military and commercial gentlemen of the United States, who honor me with their friendship and esteem. I shall entirely depend upon the wisdom and judgment of the American government, or of the individuals who undertake to assist me, in the present establishment, to fix the mode and plan of its organization.

Our institution here is calculated for sixty poor students, at the expence of the government, which pays for each 600 francs (about \$114) per annum, and 24,000 (less than 5,000) for professors, and sundry other charges, to which is to be added the expence of a suitable building, beds, linens, &c. making the aggregate expence about 1000 francs annually (\$190) for each individual. The rich pay the expence of their children—and if, as I have been told, a considerable portion of the deaf and dumb in the United States have the means of paying for these instructions, the expence to the government or a private society would be inconsiderable; for myself, I do not claim great emoluments, my desire and object is to serve an afflicted portion of humanity; my ambition is to secure a comfortable subsistence for my family.

I have the honor to be, with high respect, sir, your humble serv't,  
F. GARD.  
Professor of the Royal School of Deaf and Dumb, at Bordeaux.

Important to Mariners.—The following communication arrived on Saturday from Ostend, respecting a new arrangement of the lights on that port:—"A light has been for some time preparing in the Downs, to the east of that port, in a south eastern direction from that which already exists on the point of the Jettee, and is to be in use from the 1st of June. These lights by bringing both into one, are meant to point out the best channel for entering the harbour, a circumstance of some importance to seamen who navigate to this port. The lights in question will, of course, only burn during the period of the side that the harbour is practicable.

Lady Hester Stanhope.—Lady Hester Stanhope, who belongs to one of the first families in England, merits a place among the most celebrated and intrepid travellers of the present age.—

This Lady, the niece, the friend, and intimate companion of Mr. Pitt, was not less attached to him by conformity of mind than by the ties of blood. She enjoys a pension from her country, Pitt, who, as is known, died without fortune, left to his nieces, poor as himself, a few lines in which he recommended them to the generosity of the people of England. After the death of her uncle, Lady Hester formed the project of travelling in the Levant. She first repaired to Malta, and from thence proceeded to Constantinople.—Wishing afterwards to make a pilgrimage to Palestine. She sailed for the Holy Land, but had the misfortune to be shipwrecked off the Isle of Rhodes. Cast on a barren rock she seemed destined to perish by hunger, but an English ship, which appeared on the following day, took her on board, and conveyed her to Syria.— There she travelled in all directions, accompanied by Mr. Bruce, who has just been tried for the part he took in the escape of Lavalette.—She spent many years wandering among the ruins of Palmyra and Hierapolis, and exploring the vallies of Mount Lebanon; Living for whole months on rice and water, and accustomed to the frugality of Oriental habits, from being feeble and debilitated, she became a strong and vigorous Amazon. According to letters which she has addressed to her family in England, she is now at the head of the three tribes of Bedou in Arabia who regard her as a being of a superior order.—She has had several children, whom she was fond of, brought to her from England; and she declares, that she never will forsake that Land of the Sun, to breathe the humid and cloudy atmosphere of Great Britain.—French Paper.

Latest from France.—By the arrival this day of the brig *Did*, Capt. Meldrum, in 33 days from Bordeaux, we have received Paris papers to the 3d of June inclusive. Extracts follow:—

Paris, June 1.

Prince Talleyrand has returned to Paris. The Marechal-du-Champ Grayer has been condemned to death at Stratsbourg, for having joined the Usurper at the period of his landing in France.

The court of Russia has gone into mourning for two months, on account of the death of the Empress of Austria.

The report of Lord Whitmouth having been appointed Ambassador to this Court is wholly destitute of foundation.

We hear from Rome, that the murderer of Cardinal Dori's Chaplain has been found and executed. His death was shocking, he was beaten dead with Clubs, and afterwards quartered.

The Duke Ferdinand, brother to the King of Wirtemberg, has been appointed by the Emperor of Austria Governor of Vienna, and of Upper and Lower Austria.

Marshal Grouchy is under trial (par contumace).

Paris, June 3.

Marshal Augereau, duke Castiglione died a few days ago of a dropsy in his chest at one of his estates.

His serene Highness the Duke of Orleans is expected at Paris on the 10th or 15th of this month.

Torture at Madrid.—Vicente Richard, a despicable enthusiast, suspected of plotting to produce a counter revolution in Spain, was seized and imprisoned in Madrid on the 19th of February. On the rack, he accused as his accomplices the Ex-General Renavales, Don Ramon Calatrava, Don Juan O'Donoju, and Don Juan Antonia Yandiola, Calatrava and Renavales fled, but Yandiola and O'Donoju, unsuspecting of an accusation so completely groundless, were arrested and thrown into dungeons. They were then put to the torture, to extort confessions from them.—O'Donoju had the nails of his hands and feet torn off by the roots. His life is despaired of.—Yandiola was chained to the ground and an enormous weight placed on his breast for 48 hours. They both persisted in their innocence to the last. Yandiola was not liberated from torture until he had become speechless and gone into convulsions.—He now lies dangerously ill.

London, May 23.

This day at 1 o'clock, there was a very numerous meeting of Directors & Stock-holders of the Bank of England. The Governor opened the business of the meeting by the following propositions:—

That the bank should lend to government three millions sterling.—2. That the capital of the bank should be augmented to \$25,000,000, that is that its capital, which is eleven millions, should be increased fourteen millions. As the last resolution required an act of Parliament, the necessary steps were immediately taken to carry it into execution.

Insurrection at Tunis.—Extract of a letter from the Agent to Lloyd's at Marseilles, dated May 18:—"There was a violent insurrection in the beginning of this month. The insurgents killed the Bey, and offered the crown to his brother who refused it; fearing they were betrayed, they got possession of the galets and forts by stratagem, and spiked the guns: they then took possession of five corsairs, armed with ten and twenty guns each, viz. one brig of 20 guns and 170 men, one brig of 18 guns, two schooners of 19 guns, with which they sailed, taking with them a very rich booty, and several of the principal people. It is not certain where they are gone, but it is supposed to Constantinople."