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[JUSTITIAM SPECULAMUR.]—(No. 51.)

MISCELLANY.

FOR THE FAYETTE GAZETTE.

HERMIT.

No. V.

"And over all supreme,
"A passion for the common weal."
THOMPSON.

ACCORDING to an old custom, I might have employed a paper before this, in describing the applause I have received, for the design of my work, the purity of my sentiments, the elegance of my style, and the happy choice of my materials.

My mind, warmed with the zeal, and elevated by the pride of an author, had prepared itself to admit the highest commendations; and the usual expressions of surprise and admiration, were already tinkling in the ears of my fancy: But my love of truth forces me to declare, that, before last night, I had not heard a syllable uttered, respecting my papers; and my surprise was great, when I discovered, that even then, they were not praised, and had drawn down upon them the united censure of a company of politicians.—They were seated at a table in the Coffee-House, and appeared to be engaged in an earnest political conversation. Having but little skill in such subjects, and feeling no desire to enter into an unpleasant discussion of them; I attempted to pass on to a box which was unoccupied, but an old acquaintance, who was of the company, caught me by the sleeve, and insisted upon my joining them. I feared myself accordingly, and had scarcely lighted my pipe, when the person who had been speaking resumed the argument.—He was a thin man, apparently about five and forty, and, as I had afterwards learned, had come from a distant part of the country; that his opinions, at this important crisis might be generally known. "So warm is his patriotism, (whispered my friend) that he has, for many years past, neglected his private affairs, that he might understand the interests of the public, and be useful as far as the privacy of his station would permit him. He has indeed tried to become a public man, but the people, from gratitude to his zeal, or pity for his circumstances, have always been unwilling to impose that burden upon him." His principles are hostile to the French, and my friend assured me, that a late slight success of theirs, had given him more uneasiness than heating their wheat, and the worm his tobacco. The orator said, "it was a lamentable circumstance, that a nation, surrounded with so many blessings as the Americans were, should be discontented with their condition, and anxious to change the sweets, of peace, for the horrors and desolation of war, and all for what purpose? (demanded he, with much emphasis) "to assist a people who have trampled under foot the most sacred obligations of justice, and who, for the true principles of government, have substituted confusion, rapine, clamor and licentiousness.

"He was sorry, (he said) there were persons amongst us who endeavored to scatter the seeds of sedition, under the semblance of virtue and moderation; but, thanks to his vigilance, he knew the author of some writings—he was a factious man, and wished to rouse the indignation of the people against the President's Proclamation."

My friend seemed to be uneasy, all the time the other was speaking; but, when he mentioned the Proclamation, puffing out a volume of smoke, and bit-

ing off the end of his pipe, he began, in an animated tone of voice—"Such remarks shew plainly the interest and prejudices whence they spring: If the Americans are happy, they should remember those to whom they are indebted for every thing they enjoy; and not idly bask in the sunshine of prosperity, while a generous ally is wasting her blood and treasure in defence of the sacred rights of man. As to publications, he was sorry that any American should be degenerate enough, to encourage, by his writings, a criminal neutrality, at a moment like the present. In his opinion, a certain paper was designed for that purpose, and had alone in view to make us indifferent to the struggles of the French."

(To be continued.)

CHARACTERS.

The following characters of certain leading Members in the French National Convention, are extracted from a work lately published in London, entitled "A Review of the Proceedings at Paris during the last summer." By Mr. Fennel. The critical Reviewers of this work cannot help considering it as a party sketch, and consequently greatly overcharged. Some of the facts, however, they believe, not to be totally destitute of foundation.

M. PEYTON,

"Was originally a petty fogging attorney; by the assistance of the revolution, he contrived to get returned for Chartres to the first National Assembly, by the influence of the clergy, whom he has since so ungratefully persecuted, and whom he then so effectually deceived by his hypocrisy. He was after made Mayor of Paris, and since, President of the Convention.

M. ROBERTSPIERE,

"Was a poor orphan at Arras, he was afterward clerk to an obscure Attorney, when he was returned a Member of the first National Assembly: he was obliged to beg a coat for the occasion; but has now every appearance of a splendid fortune.

M. BRISSOT,

"Was a few years since, well known to some Police-Officers of this country, as a pickpocket; but, upon their endeavoring to obtain a more intimate acquaintance with him, he withdrew to France, where his talents have been much more favorably, though, perhaps, not so justly rewarded as they would have been, had he remained much longer in England.

M. MERLIN,

"Was an under usher to a school: he was on the point of being married; but having received the lady's fortune the day before that appointed for the wedding, he contented himself with the money, and ran away. But being afterward reduced, he broke open a lady's bureau and stole the pecuniary contents: he then returned to France, and became a Member of the National Assembly.

M. CHABOT,

"Was the son of a baker: he ran away with his uncle's wife, which occasioned the death of his uncle and benefactor.—He afterwards debauched her daughter; but again changing his mind, he persuaded a third lady to rob her husband, and ran off with him: for which, he was some time in prison; but, having procured his release, he was returned a Member of the National Legislative Assembly.

M. CONDORCET,

"Having been suspected of aristocracy, and, consequently, for a long time refused admittance to the Jacobin society, to remove all the suspicions of the leading Members, and procure their favor, he performed a work of supererogation, with respect to the equality of rights, and extended it even to a partition of the privileges of a husband; by which means he successfully qualified himself for a Jacobin, and procured sufficient interest to be afterward elected a Member of the Convention.

M. ROUELLE,

"Some years ago kept a small eating house in the vicinity of London, which

having been under the necessity of quitting, he caught the golden, glorious opportunity afforded by the reign of anarchy, of retiring to his native country, where he has been exalted to the honor of being deputed a member of the national convention.

M. DANTON

"Was the son of a butcher: he procured the protection of the late princess de Lambelle, by marrying a relation of the maid of her femme de chambre. By the interest of the princess, he was appointed a farrior to the count d'Artois' stud: he practised, also, as a Doctor; but was so unsuccessful, that the court constantly threatened any of his servants, who displeased him, with the attendance of Danton. He had before the king's acceptance of the constitution, been *de crete de prise de corps*, but escaped in the general amnesty, he was one of the principal instigators of the horrid massacre committed on his former benefactors, and is now the minister of justice.

MARAT.

"The gentleman who now calls himself Marat, thought proper to adopt that name, after having been engaged and discovered in forging the billets d'escoupte, and taken refuge from his pursuers in England, where he afterward taught the French language;—he also took advantage of the abolition of laws in France, to return to his own country in safety, where he has however since, been nine times *de crete de prise de corps*;—but his efforts in the cause of patriotism have at last been rewarded by a seat in the national convention.

M. CARRA.

"Was, in his youth, condemned to the gallows for breaking open a shop, and stealing from it money and goods: his sentence was afterwards exchanged for two years imprisonment, and a subsequent and perpetual banishment: during his exile, he stole a gold watch, and being convicted of the theft, he contrived to make a sudden change in his residence. On his return to Paris, after the revolution, his talents were sufficiently acknowledged to secure him a seat in the Jacobin club, from which, he has since been advanced to a more conspicuous post in the national convention.

M. GORSAS

"Formerly kept a little day-school; but having murdered his father, he was condemned to expire on the wheel: this sentence was, however, afterward mitigated, and he was sent to the galleys for life. He contrived a few years ago, to get free, and return to Paris; he was first admitted to the Jacobins; and, secondly, was made a member of the convention."

Domestic Articles.

PENNSYLVANIA.

PHILADELPHIA, JULY 10.

Extract of a letter from Paris, dated April 3.

"You will judge, my dear friend, to what height public spirit has risen in this city. About 2000 young people of 14 or 15 years of age but who have not completed their 16th year, and therefore not liable to enter into the national guard came out of what is called the battalion of children, and have been at the national convention to present on their knees a petition to go to the frontiers at the expence of their families, swearing at the same time they would not rise until they should do justice to their demand. The members of the convention could not refrain from tears, at the interesting sight of youth so courageously offering itself. They rushed forward to embrace these generous children, who, without changing attitude, intreated the legislature immediately to pronounce their concurrence, but seeing the assembly undetermined, the leader and orator of this affecting deputation, turning himself towards his brethren, addressed them in the words following, which were frequently interrupted by his tears.

"My companions let us go, and return dishonored to our families, for the

fathers of our country judge us incapable of dying for the republic." A majestic calm succeeded all at once to this public scene, and the convention after a short debate, decreed in the greatest silence that the legion, called the children of the republic, should hold itself in readiness to depart in 8 days for the frontiers. Instantly shouts of *long vive the republic* were heard from every corner of the hall, and more than 20,000 voices replied from without. I was there, my dear friend, and I cannot recall the ravishing sight, without shedding tears of joy. The mothers of these inconceivable children attended them at the passage, and, weeping, congratulated them on having deserved the confidence of the republic. The executive council hath given orders that this legion be conducted by short marches to the frontiers, and that in two months to relieve from their posts these young pupils of the country, little accustomed to the fatigue of a camp. What an example for every town through which they will pass, and what enthusiasm they must spread on their return."

The merchants of the city of Philadelphia assembled on Monday last in consequence of the departure of the French brig Little Democrat (late the Little Sarah) armed and supposed to be bound on a cruise. They appointed a committee to inform the governor, that at least one of the hands, if not more, on board said brig is a citizen of the United States. This committee was also directed to make further enquiries relative to the equipment of the brig in this particular. They were to report in the evening.

On the 2d inst. a vessel arrived at Boston in 15 days from Ostend, which place she left the 15th of May. The French were then in high spirits and determined to defend their country to the last extremity. Every necessity of provisions, &c. were in plenty, and no appearance of want throughout the republic. Accounts were current in Ostend of an engagement between one of the French armies and the British and Austrians combined, in which the latter were defeated with the loss of twelve hundred men. A body of 1000 British forces marched from Ostend on the 10th May to join the combined armies; others had arrived, and more were expected. Gen. Custine, at the head of 20,000 men was ready to attack the electorate of Treves, and his advanced posts were actually on the electoral frontiers.

On Monday morning last died, Mr. BENJAMIN TOWNE, many years a printer in this city. His remains were interred yesterday evening attended by a respectable number of citizens; and most of the typographical profession in Philadelphia.

N. CAROLINA.

HALIFAX, JULY 17.

At the Federal District Court which was held at Wilmington, on the 1st inst. a libel was exhibited in behalf of the owners of a British vessel which had been taken by a privateer, commanded by a Captain Hervieux, a French citizen, and carried into that port—the libellants, in their libel suggested that the privateer was heretofore an American bottom, and had been fraudulently transferred—that she had cleared out at Charleston as an American vessel on a trading voyage, and had afterwards put into Georgetown, and provided herself with arms, having on board, in quality of mate, a certain Gideon Olmstead, an American citizen, who was active in capturing the prize: Consequently that she was illegally taken and no prize.

A rule was granted, that the respondents should shew cause why the libel should not be admitted and process issue against the prize. On the next day Capt. Hervieux appeared and pleaded to the jurisdiction of the Court, stating, that the nation of which he was a citizen, was at open war with Great-Britain, from whose subjects the prize was taken on the high seas, and that no Court of Admiralty of a neutral nation, could of right, take cognizance of questions of prize or no prize between the belligerents.