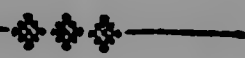


Wilmington Centinel,

AND GENERAL ADVERTISER.

W E D N E S D A Y, JUNE 25, 1788.

MISCELLANY.



The following speech is said to have been taken down at one of the greatest speaking or disputing clubs in London. As these are places where all persons have admittance at a very moderate expence, it is not to be wondered at, if there is, great diversity in the characters and manners of the speakers.

Question. IF happiness be in our power, in what state of life is it most easily acquired?

Mr. President—Where is that there thing called happiness, to be found?—that's the question, or at least the meaning of it.—Where?—You don't know.—No.—How should you, till you're told it?—Let me alone and I'll resolve you.—Why, sir, every where.—Where is that there thing called happiness to be found?—that's the question. You don't know.—No to be sure—how should you? Let me alone and I'll resolve you. Why, sir, no where.

Every where and no where!—Very strange you'll be apt to say. But so it is, sir.—No where and every where; every where and no where; that's my opinion. Now, sir, this in my mind is plain enough of itself; but for the satisfaction of the gentlemen present, I'll go about to prove it to you; and in order for to do so, Mr. President, I'll ask you two or three questions.

Do you know who I am that's speaking here? No you don't. How should you? Let me alone and I'll resolve you. I am a man that is my own master, and worth a good round sum; I won't say how much; that's not the question, I an't before a court. Well! and what was I before, in old times, when you were a snivelling boy going to school, Mr. President, what was I then pray? You don't know. No to be sure, how should you? Let me alone I say, and I'll resolve you. Why I was a servant, not worth a shilling—not worth a groat. No—I lie there; I was worth ten pounds and a few shillings in the worth of times. But let that pass. I an't before a court. So enough said.

Well, Mr. President, now come to the question. Where is that there thing called happiness? Is it in a single life, or a married life? Is it in a high station, or a low station? Is it in sickness or in health? In riches or in poverty? Is it in blacking the corners of a street, or in lolling at ease in a fine gilt coach? No sir, it is n't; where is it then, where is it then? You don't know. No, how should you? Let me alone and I'll resolve you. Why, sir, it's in all these, and in none of these. It may be with 'em—it may be with without 'em. It has nothing at all to do with 'em. Happiness is here, here, sir, (laying his hand on his breast) in a contented mind and a good conscience—that's my notion.

Why sir, what did I say?—What did I say? Why, I said, Mr. President, that I was a servant once. Well! I was; I am not ashamed to own it. Well! I was my master's cloaths, comb'd his hair, and washed his feet. Well! what then? Why, I was happy. Well! then I came to have servants of my own, comb'd my wigs, and brush'd my clothes. Well! I'm happy now, very happy.

I was a single man when I was young. Well! I was happy—very happy. I too had a wife. Well! I was happy then—as happy that is—Well! after some years she died. Well! I was a single man again. Well! I was happy—very happy, exceeding happy, never happier in my life.

Well! as that there thing called children—I was happy then, very happy. Well! I had a little fidgeting thing with their mother, and a little fidgeting thing with their father. They're all dead but one, and that one's dear. Well! I was poor Jimmy, he died t'other day—the gripes, gripes, gripes for him too. But enough said, let that pass—I've ne'er a child now. Well! I'm happy now, very happy. I was formerly—that when I had not above ten pounds and a few shillings in the world. Well! I was happy then. Well! I was happy now—how much—but I believe I could buy and sell my own goods. No offence I hope—the present company, you know, is always excepted. But I think I could—What think you of my notion.—Well! what then? Why, I'm happy now—very happy, exceeding happy, never happier in my life.

There's the thing. I had it here, Mr. President, (laying his hand on his breast)—I was contented with my lot, and never wish'd for what I hadn't. When my master's good came to me—your humble servant, said I. Well! I was thankful; thankful, d'ye see, when I got out of service, when I set up a shop, and so recovered my liberty; thankful d'ye see, when my wife went the way of all flesh, and I recovered my liberty a second time—was my own man again.—But never pined, never grieved; always contented, that's my notion.—Never owed no man a shilling; paid every man his own; lived upon what I had, little or much, all's one for that.—There's happiness for you, every where and no where, as I said at first; in no particular station, and yet in every station; because it is in a man's own heart, in a man's own mind, and follows him every where. What is he that gave you this here question?—Where is that there thing called happiness, to be found?—You don't know where he is.—How should you? Let me alone and I'll resolve you. Why, the man that gave you that there question is—no matter what he is—I was going to call him fool—and why? because he is one—and a d—d fool too. But may be he's present, therefore I won't do no such thing—so let that

pass. I have no mind to affront no body; but let every body do as I do, and they'll do right; let 'em be peaceful and quiet, and contented and happy in their own minds, and they'll never go to ask such foolish questions; they'll find it within; that's my notion.—Some porter—bring some porter here.—And so here's your health, Mr. President, and let the next speaker better what I've said, if he can.



Choice of a HUSBAND, by a Gentlewoman of Prudence.

TO meet with a man perfectly agreeable (though the person is least to be regarded) may be a task of some difficulty, to a nice and discerning woman. His qualifications must be great to recommend him: But I shall offer some particulars, which, if observed, may contribute to a good choice, and are worthy of election, though seldom to be met with in one person. First; it is necessary that he be a man of virtue and morality, having a large share of natural sense and acquired knowledge, proceeding from a liberal education; that he be well read, and a man of conversation, so as to have a general knowledge of men and things; to be pretty much, if not entirely, master of his passions, but not without courage, though with discretion to use; naturally good humoured and loving, but not jealous, nor meanly submissive; one not a perfect stranger to vice; but has seen enough of it as to have a right notion of the folly and fatal tendency of it; he may be immoderately addicted to all decent pleasures, and manly diversions; love his friend and bottle a little, but so as not to draw off his affection from his wife; to be a man of manners (though by no means foppish) enough to oblige and civilly treat persons of all tempers; not to be too profuse, but have conduct enough not to live beyond his circumstances, and application enough to his own business, to keep the world from imposing upon him.



A LOVE LETTER from an officer in the army, to a Widow whom he had never seen.

THOUGH I never, madam, had the happiness to see you, no, not so much as a picture, and consequently can no more tell what complexion you are of than one who lives in the remotest part of China. I am, nevertheless, passionately in love with you; and this affection has taken deep root in my heart, that, on my conscience! I could die a martyr for you with as much cheerfulness as thousands have done for their religion, who were as ignorant of the truth for which they died, as I am of your ladyship.

This declaration, madam, may perhaps surprize you; but you will cease to wonder what it was that not only gave birth to my passion, but has effectually confirmed it. Last week having occasion to ride into Surry, about some particular business, I noticed not far from the road, a most magnificent seat. My curiosity was instantaneously raised to know the owner of so beautiful a pile; and being informed it belonged to your ladyship, I began that moment to have a strange inclination for you. When, therefore, I was further informed, that 2000 acres of the best ground in England appertained to this noble fabric, together with a fine park, delightful gardens, variety of fish ponds, and other desirable conveniencies, I then fell up to the ears in love, and resolved to enlist myself among the number of your humble servants and sincere admirers.

"The owner of so many fine things," said I to myself, "must needs be the finest woman in the world. What though she may be old, her trees are green! What though she may have lost the lillies and roses in her cheeks, she has enough left in her garden! What though she should be barren, her fields are sufficiently fruitful."

With these thoughts in my head, I alighted from my horse, and at once became so enamoured with your ladyship, that I told my passion to every tree in your park; and, by the bye, they are the tallest, straightest, loveliest, and finest shaped trees I ever beheld in my life.

I now appeal to your ladyship, whether any lover was influenced by more solid motives, than your devoted humble servant. Those who are wholly captivated by beauty, will infallibly find their passion decay with the transitory charms which first attracted their regard; and those who pretend to admire a woman merely for the qualities of her mind, must consider her soul as abstracted from her body, but he who loves not a woman in the flesh as well as in the spirit, is only fit, in my opinion, to make love to a spectre; whereas my passion, the sincerity of which you cannot possibly doubt, is built on the same foundation with your house, grows with your trees, and will daily increase with your estate.

For any thing I know to the contrary, you may be the handsomest woman in the kingdom, but whether you are so or not is not material, while you have fortune enough to fix my affection. I am a soldier by profession, and as I have fought for pay, by heaven's blessing, I mean to love for money!

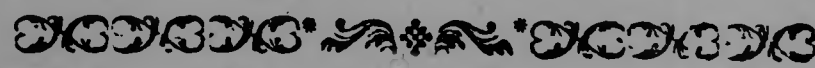
All your other suitors will speak the same language, if they

were equally honest; and should you favour this blunt address, by making choice of me, I can add, for your comfort, that you will be the first woman upon record, from the creation to the present hour, who ever loved a man for telling her the truth.

I am, madam,

Your's, &c.

R. T.



RESOLVES of CONGRESS.



By the UNITED STATES IN CONGRESS assembled, May 8, 1788.

ON a report of the board of treasury, to whom was referred a motion of Mr. Carrington:

Resolved, That Congress proceed to the election of two commissioners for settling the accounts of the five great departments, to continue in office one year.

Ordered, That the commissioners of accounts for the quarter-master's, commissary's, hospital, marine, and cloathing departments, with the approbation of the board of treasury, commence suits in behalf of the United States, against all persons in any of the said departments, who stand chargeable with public monies, computed from the present date; and that this order be published in the several states for the period above-mentioned.

Resolved, That the said commissioners be directed to continue their unremitting attention to the final adjustment of all accounts which have arisen in the said departments, and to the recovery of all sums for which suits may be commenced; and that at the termination of their commission, they deposit with the register of the treasury, all the books and papers of their respective offices, together with a general abstract of the sums due from individuals, in order that immediate measures may be adopted for the recovery of the same.

CHARLES THOMPSON, Secretary.



UNITED STATES IN CONGRESS

ASSEMBLED,

MAY 22, 1788.

THE committee, consisting of Mr. Dane, Mr. Williamson, Mr. Irvine, Mr. Hamilton, and Mr. Brown, to whom was referred a motion of Mr. Dane, relative to public and unsettled accounts, having reported,

That, on carefully examining the subject referred to them, they find, that during the late war, and especially in the early periods of it, many millions of dollars were advanced by the United States to sundry persons, of the expenditures whereof proper accounts have not been rendered; and though the persons who have been entrusted with public monies have been frequently called upon to settle their accounts, by the acts and officers of Congress, yet in many cases they have not produced or exhibited to the proper officers, any documents or vouchers on which regular settlements can be made. That several accounts of very considerable extent have been taken up, and so far passed on, that balances appear to be stated generally, and in some cases payments made, though it does not appear that the proper statements were made of the articles which composed those accounts, or that the regular vouchers were produced to support the charges in them. Accounts thus imperfectly stated and unsupported, the committee conceive are justly liable to revision, and particularly so, as it does not appear that the parties have at any time considered them as finally settled. That from a general view of this subject, the committee are induced to think and believe, that the United States have already suffered very great inconveniencies, by inexcusable negligence and unauthorized delays, in persons entrusted with public monies, in not rendering and settling their accounts; and that it is become highly expedient that decisive measures be speedily adopted for closing all the unsettled accounts of the late war; and therefore the committee are of opinion, that the Board of Treasury be directed to cause suits to be commenced in behalf of the United States, against all persons who stand charged with public monies or other property; and that they cause the same to be commenced within three months from this date, against all those persons who have been already specially required to settle their accounts by the proper officers, and who shall not within that time adopt and pursue measures effectual, in the opinion of the said board, for settling the same; and within five months from this date, against all other persons so charged, and who shall not within that time adopt and pursue like measures: and, that when any material questions shall arise concerning any doubtful or partial settlements of accounts which may have been made, or concerning the operation of any particular suits, the said board be directed to state to congress, particularly, the circumstances of the case, with their opinion thereon.

Resolved, That Congress agree to the said report.