

Wilmington Centinel,

AND GENERAL ADVERTISER.

W E D N E S D A Y, SEPTEMBER 10, 1788.

MISCELLANY.

Character of General WASHINGTON.

[From a late publication.]

THE general is tall and well made; his complexion is fair, and his eyes of a light blue, but somewhat smaller than a just proportion of features would require; his face, though not strictly handsome, is such as impresses upon the mind that idea which we mean to express, when we say, that such a person has a good countenance. He wears his own hair, which is brown, and is generally dressed with all the simplicity of a country gentleman. When I saw this distinguished person, whose eminent services have brought him in the rapid course of a few years, from private life to a level with the most illustrious characters of ancient and modern times, conversed with unaffected modesty, and treating every one around him with that sort of care and politeness which can only flow from a sensation of perfect equality, I could not help saying to myself, that if Rome was made for Caesar, this man at least was made for America. Born of parents who possessed but little property, general Washington began life as a surveyor, a circumstance which was doubtless of infinite service to him during the war, as it enabled him to judge of distances with accuracy, and to choose his ground with judgment. In the French war which commenced in 1755, he was first distinguished as an active and enterprising officer, and was with Baddock as a sup numerary aid in the fatal action near Fort Duquesne, where that unfortunate gentleman expired with his life the witness he had been guilty of. During the war he was raised to the command of a regiment, and made his fortune by marrying the widow of a Mr. Cassis, by whom he has unfortunately no children. When the war was over, he had a large estate, and was remarkable for nothing more than the neatness of his dress, the strict attention which he paid to the affairs of his estate, and for an almost unfeeling degree of diffidence, which not only prevented his speaking in the assembly, but very seldom allowed him to deliver his opinion in private companies. As a man of mild and gentle passions, he was amongst the last who thought of independence, but he adhered to it when once adopted, with a degree of paternal attachment, and seems never to have been cast down, and never to have lost his hopes, amidst all the crosses which he experienced; and in spite of the gloomy prospect of distress and calamity which frequently hung over him. It has been reported, that his letters were composed by his aids de camp; this is not necessarily have been the case in matters of form, but where the subject was of great importance, the characteristic style of the general is very easily discerned; it is an easy flowing style, which is addressed nearer to the heart than the imagination, but which goes directly to the understanding, and expresses every idea in the clearest and most unequivocal manner. Upon the whole, he seems to have been the only man in America, perhaps in the world, who could reconcile the jarring interests of so many different provinces, who could keep an army together from their personal attachment to himself, at a time when they were scarcely fed, and neither clothed nor paid, and who could join the activity of Marcellus to all the caution of the Old Dictator, and be at once the sword and the buckler of his country.

Let those who are fond of tracing up events to their causes, admire the singular dispensations of providence which led Congress to choose him as their general, who was alone able to carry them through the war; the cause of it was this, the eastern and northern interest had at that period a great majority in Congress, but they gave up the satisfaction of appointing a countryman of their own to command, and choose a Virginian, that they might bring his countrymen heartily in the war by such a sacrifice to the vanity of the ancient dominion.

B O N E S.

EVERY man, as Shandy says, has his hobby-horse—it is certain, however, that all men have bones—in their bodies a sufficient number, could they be content—but they must nevertheless have other bones.

The statesman's bone is a good place—Look at him while he picks it. What a snarling he makes it any one dares but approach it; there he keeps gnawing, and gnawing, until a stronger cur scratches it from him—Yet he never loses sight of his favourite bone.

Two great dogs snarled for many years about a bone, and just as they were about to divide it amicably, in came a little puppy, and snatching up the bone ran away with it.

The Lawyer has his bone—a good fee—which he keeps mumblyng at, until he can get no more marrow, then leaves off in hopes of another.

The parson has an ecclesiastical bone—a good living; no cur barks more when he has got it, but he is a spaniel all over before the bone is thrown at him; yet on the very sight of it, cries Noto Episcopari, which is, being interpreted, I am exceedingly glad to get at it.

The physician too has his bone, which is most commonly a bone of contention between him and the patient, the latter wishing to be well, and the former wishing to prolong the distemper. There are pretty pickings from medical bones.

The merchant has an excellent bone in time of war, called a contract. There is a deal of meat in this bone, and the juices and marrow are rich and palatable, but they are very extravagant masters who throw such bones to their dogs; they might serve to feed many a poor family.

The trading justice has many excellent bones: indeed, every poor or rich devil who comes under his knowledge, is a bone which he will not throw into Newgate, until he has picked it quite clean.

A new play is an excellent bone for a critic, and although he be most ignorantly toothless, he keeps mumblyng and mumblyng it in his mouth until he has beflabbered half the newspaper with it. This kind of cur barks loud, as well as snarls. The managers of the winter theatres promise several bones for them to pick; indeed, during the summer, which may be called the theatrical dog-days, they almost all go mad.

Every man therefore has his bone, every man will pick his bone, and keep it as long as he can.



From the NEW-YORK DAILY ADVERTISER.

Mr. CHILDS,

AT a public rejoicing in York-Town, Pennsylvania,* I observe, among the toasts given by the flag carriers of the respective trades and classes, the following article:

“ 2. Flag of the state of Pennsylvania.

“ The state of Pennsylvania—May she hold the Federal balance and become the arbitress of the continent.”

I am astonished, sir, at the second clause of this toast. “ May Pennsylvania hold the Federal balance.” Methinks, Mr. Childs, this is a very unfederal wish. Do the Pennsylvanians really believe, that the extent, the power, the wealth, and the virtue of that state, qualify her to hold the balance between the other states? If they do, let them be happy in the opinion—but I think the old dominion at least will dispute some of those points with them.

But the last clause is insulting—the wish is a species of treason against the federal government. “ May Pennsylvania become the arbitress of the continent.” The arbitress, that is, the governing state, the Dictator, the arbitrary Lord of the continent! Is it possible that such a wish could ever have been entertained; much less published—and that too at an exhibition in honour of the federal constitution, which guarantees the equal sovereignty of each state? Cracious Heaven! It is true every state has in its bosom these little insect souls, who hover about a hand-breadth spot, and think it all the world. Nay, what is worse, there are those who venture beyond the limits of their own domain, yet are at war with every thing they meet. The climate abroad is not so healthy as that they left—the people are not so large, so well-bred, so liberal, so polite, so learned—the horses are not so handsome and so fleet—the cows give less milk—the markets are wretched—and the vegetables are poor. They find no good things except at home. Greatness, abilities, wealth, virtues, every thing is measured by the extent of the state, or by the length of a navigable river. Mr. Childs, there is yet in America, great lack of federalism.”

Upon my honor, sir, I am acquainted with all the states, sufficiently to inform the inhabitants of any one state, that they mistake egregiously, when they suppose they possess all the riches, the strength, the wisdom, the virtues, the learning in the world, or enough of them to be the arbitress of their neighbours.

But the local views, the provincial bawling of certain men, is intolerable. That they should be happier at home than any where else, is not surprising. A man who had passed his days in prison, was happy there, and refused to be released; but that such a man should treat all others as inferior beings, mere pigmies, because they could not relish his cell, is it not strange? Yet it is a time of wonders. In Baltimore, it was a wonder why that town should not be the seat of government. In New-York it was a wonder why the government should be removed. The Pennsylvanians wonder that any city should be thought of for the seat of government but Philadelphia. They wish themselves the arbiters of the continent, and wonder that every body does not wish so too.

* Published in the Wilmington Centinel, of August 27.



From the Dominico Gazette.

THE following composition is not only a cheap, but most excellent preservative for all kinds of timber exposed to the weather of this climate.

It will preserve the shingles on the roofs of houses, as also gates, pailings, &c. It prevents the intense heat of the sun from splitting and penetrating into the wood, and hinders the rain from rotting the timbers, and has, by long experience, been found to be the best mixture for preserving the roofs and sides of the houses, gates, railings, &c. It is attested, that it will preserve plank, boards, joist, &c. for ages, and will prevent the rain from driving through brick and stone work. The materials are easily to be obtained, and the work may be done by a common labourer.

The proportion of each article are as follows:

To twelve ounces of rosin, put three gallons of train oil, and four rolls of brimstone; melt the rosin and brimstone in an iron pot, and throw in the oil, stirring it all the time; when the rosin, brimstone, and oil is properly mixed and become thin, add as much Spanish brown, or red or yellow oaker, or any other colour you want, ground as usual in oil, as will give the whole as deep a shade as you choose, then lay it on with a brush, as hot and as thin as you can. Four days after this first coat is dried give it a second, and you are done with it. The covering of very flat roofs are said to have been preserved upwards of fifty years. It effectually preserves iron that is constantly exposed, from rusting.

Rum and Sugar.

F O R S A L E,

On board the Brigantine NANCY, Capt. B. LEACH, from Martinico, Now lying at Mr. W. Campbell's Wharf,

Excellent West-India RUM, and SUGAR of the first quality, Which will be sold Cheap for Cash, wholesale and retail.

WANTED,

On board said vessel, A quantity of TAR and PITCH, and a number of White Oak STAVES, for which a generous price will be given.