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SUICIDE.

A Letter to a Gentleman in Baltimore contains the following Particulars of a most shocking Suicide, committed by a young Gentleman of Respectability and Circumstances on Broad-creek, whose Name is omitted through Regard to the Feelings of his Connexions.

Broad-creek Feb. 23.

Dear Sir,

Of all the scenes of life that I ever past, last Monday presented the most suddenly shocking. At 7 o'clock in the morning I left home; was absent until 3 in the afternoon. At my return, I found the House locked. I found the Servants where ——— was. They answered, they knew not, as he often went out to his Cousin, Mr. ———'s. I sent for the key: The Boy returned with the answer, he had not been there; and observed to me, that he saw the key in the door; and further, that ——— told him he was going a ducking. I attempted the windows, one of which I found I could open; went in, and found my gun gone. Resting satisfied that he was gone a gunning, I ate dinner; after which, as I was reading a Newspaper, I observed a wet place in the wall over my head, which lead me to suppose that some water had been spilt, that should have been wiped up. I ascended the stairs until my head was above the floor, when I saw the unfortunate young Man on the floor. The blood having run a small distance, my first surprise was not so great; supposing him in a fit; his face not having the appearance of death: However, the ascent of one step more presented to my view the gun, with a flick through the guard above the trigger. Then, Sir, my astonishment was such, for an instant, that description falls short; nor can any human being imagine what were my feelings. He had behaved in such a manner, that not the least suspicion had entered the breast of any one: In short, considering his conduct and cheerful behaviour, during a great length of time, and what appears by the letters he left behind (four in number) that he had it in contemplation; this transaction marks the greatness of resolution, added to the greatest composure of mind I ever read of.

The following is a copy of his letter to me.

Dear Friend,

"Before you receive this, I hope to be in the regions of happiness. If not, I shall be utterly annihilated. In either case, I think I shall make a happy exchange. I do not believe that the kind Author of Nature ever made Mankind to be miserable in a future state. You will, no doubt, be surprised at this; but the shocking event (as you will term it); but after reading this, I hope your surprise will cease. I cannot say that I have been either happy or miserable in this world; but I have enjoyed my equal part of both. We all experience more pain than pleasure; and why should we wish to live in this wretched world. If Man is to be more miserable in another world, than he is in this, for any transaction in this life, he is the most miserable animal of the creation. If after death, we cease to exist, it ought, to every man, to be a welcome visitor; for, most undoubtedly, a non-existence is preferable to an existence wherein we experience more pain than pleasure. For these reasons I have resolved on the experiment. At all events, I shall be removed from those troublesome doubts concerning a future state, which are common to us all. I shed a tear for the numberless unhappy beings I leave behind me; and so I bid adieu to this wretched world.

"This is not a thing on which I resolved, without maturely and deliberately considering every circumstance. I have had it in contemplation for more than nine months; It has been about two weeks since I resolved.

"The letters you will find with this I wish you to forward to the respective persons to whom they are directed. Adieu."

(Signed)

Broad-creek, Feb. 23, 1800.

"P. S. Look in my pocket-book for the accounts."

In the other letters are the following expressions:

"Many will be the conjectures about the measures I am now about to take; but the reason is, thirst for knowledge, and wish for happiness, which I know cannot be attained in this world." And "feel perfectly composed" Also, "the instrument which is to decide my fate is now lying by me."

He left particular explanations of all my business; and, except this last rash act (if I may term it rash after reading his letters), his conduct met the general approbation of all his friends and acquaintance. He was of uniform lively disposition, and one of the last persons, of all my acquaintance, that I should have suspected of such an act.

I am your's, &c. ———

EXTRACT

From the following important report of the Public Debt of the United States, and the causes of its accumulation, &c. was submitted to the House of Representatives, on the 3th of May.

The Committee who were appointed on the 20th of March to examine the accounts of the United States, relating to the public debt, and to report the amount respectively incurred and extinguished, and generally such facts as relate to the increase or diminution of the same, since the establishment of the government of the United States under the present constitution,

REPORT,

That for the purpose of obtaining every statement from the treasury, which could elucidate the subject of enquiry, they addressed a letter to the secretary of that department on the 24th of March, a copy of which is subjoined to this report, and on the 29th of April they received his answer, transmitting sundry statements, numbered from one to nine inclusive, and exhibiting in the most clear and satisfactory manner, the most important of the Treasury operations in relation to the debt from the commencement of the present government. These statements together with three letters from the Secretary on this subject, are now submitted to the house, and although it is certainly possible that some trivial errors may have taken place into the details which these documents contain, yet the committee perfectly confident, that the general results which they produce must be correct.

The statements number 1 and 2, contain an account of the receipt and expenditure of all public money, from the commencement of the government, and whilst they shew the application of the revenue to the debt, they will present at the same time in one view, every expense with which the treasury has been charged, and enable the legislature with more accuracy to decide how far those objects, or the amount of expense in particular cases may be diminished.

The order of those having particularly directed the attention of the committee to the increase or diminution of debt they have

thought it their duty to bring into view the amount of debt with which the present government commenced its operations and to contrast the same with the balance of debt on the 1st of January in the present year. In discharging this duty, it will become necessary to explain the principles on which these statements rest, which the committee will do in as concise a manner as possible. But before they enter upon this detail, they can not forbear to express the satisfaction which they feel in declaring, that the documents which have been obtained from the treasury, will, in their opinion, fully demonstrate the precision and ability with which the business of that department has been conducted, and that by the fiscal operations of the government the public debt has been diminished.

In ascertaining the amount of the old debt, two different principles have been taken by those who have made their calculations on this subject. The first has been to include only the interest upon the debt to the close of the year 1789, as the nearest convenient period to the day when the government commenced its operations, and after deducting from the aggregate of debt the amount of funds then in the power of the government, to consider the balance as the amount of old debt. The second principle has been, to take the amount of debt, as the same has been liquidated and funded under various acts of Congress, and after deducting therefrom the funds acquired or possessed by the government at the close of the year 1790, to consider the balance as constituting the true amount of old debt. The difference between these principles consists in this: by the last mode of computation, the interest which accumulated upon the debt, subsequent to the close of the year 1789, and until the debt was funded and provided for by law, is considered as a part of the old debt, whereas, by the first mode of computation, this interest is totally excluded.

In consequence of a difference of opinion, which it is understood still exists on this point, the committee have thought proper to state the debt in both modes, that the results in both cases may be perfectly understood.

Dolls. cents.

The nominal amount of debt on the first of January, 1790, as appears by statement N ^o . 9, amounting to	72,237,201 97
The funds then in possession of the government, and to be deducted, were,	
Cash in the treasury, January 1, 1790.	28,239 61
Cash in the hands of collectors,	23,127 84
Bonds at the custom houses,	590,458 40
Debts due to the United States, under contracts of the late government, collected at sundry times,	62,586 74
Debts paid in specie, during the year 1789,	15,927 13
Proceeds of the sale of land to the State of Pennsylvania, made by the late government,	151,292 41
	931,742 33
Amount of debt, January 1, 1790.	71,305,559 64
By the same document it appears, that the debt contracted by the late government, as the same has been liquidated and funded, by acts of Congress, amount to	76,781,953 14

That the funds possessed by this government, on the 1st of January, 1791, and to be deducted from the debt, were as follow:

Cash in the treasury, January 1, 1791,	570,022 88
Cash in the hands of collectors,	225,786 97