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**Political.**

*From the Connecticut Mirror.*

If the public affairs of this country are not well managed, we shall certainly think the age of miracles, like an old fashion, has come round again. To shew that this remark is not unfounded, we ask our readers to follow us through a brief catalogue of the great and virtuous men, who are at this moment engaged in very laborious efforts for our safety and profit.

In the civil department, we have a Madison, who has a multitude of claims to the character of a great man. In the first place he is a Virginian. In the second, he is Jefferson's successor. In the third, he writes able letters in a style that but few people can understand. In the fourth, he is a devoted Frenchman in his politics. And in the fifth, he is the democratic chief. With respect to his virtue and integrity, we rely much on the evidence of Robert Smith, Esq. to establish those points. One thing is certain—so long as he disposes of the public money as freely, and as honestly, as he did in the case of Erving's 22,000 dollars, his party will never impeach either his virtue or his integrity.

A powerful aid to him in his great services for his country, our President must find in a Gallatin. The very name of this gentleman carries with it the idea of public virtue and patriotism. When this country forgets his inestimable labours in fomenting the Whisky-rebellion, and in various other situations, its tongue ought to cleave to the roof of its mouth, (if it has one,) and its right hand to forget its cunning.

In the military line we have a Wilkinson for Commander in Chief!!! After a long life of eminent devotion to the good of his country, this brave, disinterested, and unspotted hero, is reaping the reward of his labours. He is on trial for charges preferred against him by the Executive before a court martial. However, it is probable he will be acquitted, as he is accused of nothing of more importance than receiving a pension from the Spanish government, peculation, a participation in the treason of Col. Burr, and a considerable degree of prodigality in the lives of his troops.

Whilst this worthy patriot and soldier is thus persecuted, his successor, Gen. Hampton, has arrested and ordered to trial before courts martial, a large proportion of his field officers. Whether there are men enough in commission of a suitable rank to sit as judges over their fellow officers, or whether they have to borrow a part of their courts from the militia, we have not heard. It would, however, be a great misfortune, if there are not enough living officers to bury the dead ones. When these trials are all over, should the delinquents be all honourably acquitted, they will, it is presumed, be ready to serve their country in the war, which it is expected we shall be engaged in very shortly after Congress meet on the first Monday in November next.

In Congress, it is to be feared, we shall not be in so good plight as we are in the other branches of our affairs. By the unfortunate removal of General Varnum into the Senate, there is no democrat left who will do for Speaker. How they will get over this difficulty, it is not easy to see, unless the General will consent to do duty in both Houses—a thing which, considering that he is now regularly chosen into both, and has at least a double quantity of talents, we think he may fairly, and even constitutionally do. Mr. Eppes, too, the son-in-law of Mr. Jefferson, has lost his election, and cannot assist with his pre-eminence abilities. There is now no man of the party qualified for the high and important post of Chancellor of the Exchequer; unless, indeed, Mr. Eppes' place can be supplied by a very enlightened politician who is coming from Vermont, by the name of Fiske.

But the most brilliant display in our political exhibition, is in the news-papers. The newspapers are of the highest importance in this country. The first in order is the National Intelligencer. This mouth-piece of the Administration, is happily under the care and management of an Englishman of the name of Gales. The Richmond Enquirer is very ably conducted by an Irishman. The Whig by another. The Aurora by another. In these instances there is no drawback, as in the case of Mr. Gales. The Baltimore American is under the government of a Frenchman. This is, if possible, still better than the last. One newspaper in this country is regulated by a High Dutch corn Doctor. Here is rather a falling off. Surely it is not easy to conceive a country being better situated than ours, in these particulars. The natives, who know but little, and care less about their country, and its concerns, are most happily relieved from the burden of taking charge of their own concerns.

But what we esteem equal to almost all the other blessings that we have enumerated, is the fact—that a Citizen EDMOND C. GENET, of Prospect Hill, has at length taken up his goose-quill to settle all our difficulties, especially those which belong to, or are connected with, the laws of nations.

With such advantages as these, who will despair of the Commonwealth? It is true, there has been something of a schism lately among our great men, and they have foolishly began to tell tales of each other. But that will turn out to be nothing. Who cares if our President should be found to be a disciple, and a devotee of the great Bonaparte, and a squanderer of the national cash? His friends will not only not desert him for such

trifles as these—they will admire him the more. Let what will come, then, (except war,) and the party, fearful that the federalists may take the government again, will bury their animosities, and the government together, rather than resign their places and power.

*From the National Intelligencer.*

**External Commerce.**—It cannot, ought not to be concealed, from our planters and farmers, intelligent merchants long ago have realized it, that the foreign commerce of the United States must undergo a great and perhaps permanent reduction. The neutrality, once so highly respected, which, in a period of free trade, filled the coffers of the merchant, and rewarded the toils of the planter and farmer, is now held by both belligerents to be almost a crime; and is therefore shackled by one to the utmost of her power, & by the other as far as her own views and interests permit. It is in vain to look for a renovation of it in its pristine extent; for the series of measures by which it has been reduced, even should they cease, will leave effects behind them which can never be eradicated. The orders in council and decrees, and the municipal regulations of the belligerents with whom our commercial intercourse was most desirable, have taught their citizens to look to other sources for supplies of those articles which we were wont to furnish.

These observations are meant particularly to apply at this moment to the articles of Cotton and Tobacco.

France has heretofore afforded a market for a great part of the cotton and tobacco produced in the United States; which it is well known, scarcely now bring sufficient in England, our only unrestricted export vent, to defray the freight and charges. But in France, the policy of her emperor has restricted the use of all foreign growth of these articles, with a view to encourage their production in the provinces under his controul. The importation of tobacco into France is almost entirely prohibited, one fifteenth only of that consumed being allowed to be of foreign importation. Should this restriction be extended to Holland and the Hanse towns, (which is said to be expected) there will scarcely remain a market for any portion of the tobacco produced in the southern states.

The article of cotton is known to be a mere drug in England; and from the heavy duties imposed in France, together with the risk and insurance against the orders in council, it can scarcely be shipped to the continent without a loss. Even should the orders in council be revoked, of which we see no probability, the effect of the restrictions for four years past has been, as we before observed, to open other sources of supply to such an extent, that they will ere long, if they do not already, exclude all cotton, except the very first qualities, of American growth. Much cotton is now grown in Italy and Naples, and imported from the Levant, not indeed of as good a quality as ours, but good enough to answer most of the manufactures, and to supercede the necessity of admitting ours.

Our Rice too is said to be much less in demand in France than heretofore, being superseded by that grown in Piedmont.

In short, the present state of commerce is such that scarcely any prudent merchant will risk an adventure to Europe. Every thing, indeed, impressively points to the policy of establishing within ourselves a market for our own productions, and this object is rapidly accomplishing without the agency of the government. No artificial encouragement, we believe, will be necessary to secure to our manufactures, and consequently to our internal demand for the raw materials, as rapid an extension as is perhaps desirable.

*From the Norfolk Ledger.*

We have copied into our paper from the National Intelligencer, an article under the head of "External Commerce," with a view to offer some observations upon it. We are to bear in mind that the original publications which appear in that paper, if they do not emanate from the administration, may fairly be supposed to contain nothing which does not accord with the sentiments or opinions of the cabinet, and upon this account deserve more consideration.

The decline of our foreign commerce has been occasioned greatly by the unjust edicts of the belligerents—but our own laws have not a little contributed to aid in this work of destruction. By one of the belligerents, says the Intelligencer, speaking of our commerce, it is shackled to the utmost of her power, meaning France, and yet the same paper tells us, that the obnoxious decrees of France are revoked, but on this subject is not our intention to dilate.

The project of an agricultural republic, or in other words, the abandonment of external commerce, has been ascribed to Mr. Jefferson, and we believe with truth. Whether he will be able to effect it or not, time will discover—but the sentiments contained in the article to which we have referred, have an "awful squint" that way. We are told in semi official language, that we must prepare for a change, as "every thing impressively points to the policy of establishing within ourselves a market for our own productions." Now this sounds very prettily upon the ear of a visionary philosopher, but is little less than downright nonsense. Suppose we were to manufacture more than we now do; would we use more tobacco, flour, corn, rice, naval stores, lumber, &c. &c.? We might expend in manufactures more of our cotton, but would that compensate for the loss of

our shipping, the sale of our flour, corn, and other articles which we have to spare, and of which we can consume no more than we now do?

Whatever we expend for our own consumption, or in manufactures, finds the best and surest market, of which we cannot be deprived, either by the injustice of belligerents, or by our own laws. But we would ask the Intelligencer what is to be done with our surplus produce?

There is some management discovered in presenting the subject; of all our produce none is noticed but Tobacco, Cotton, and Rice; Flour, Corn, Lumber, Naval Stores, &c. are passed over without notice, and for very obvious reasons. The writer of the article in the Intelligencer, very well knew the Great Britain and her dominions, with her allies, were exclusively our customers for the articles omitted, and that France never did, nor perhaps ever will want those articles, which form so large a proportion of our exports.

The truth is, as we have upon other occasions demonstrated, Great Britain is our best customer, and so are we her best customer. If her subjects are making efforts to procure the articles which we formerly furnished from other sources, we must ascribe it to our own laws. It was in our power, and yet may be, to extend our exports to Great Britain. If Russia from policy or fear, adopts the continental system, the export of Hemp to Great Britain from the United States, would form a valuable branch of trade. We are told that the emperor of France is determined to do without our Tobacco, Rice and Cotton. Formerly France consumed a considerable quantity of our tobacco, but Great Britain consumed three fourths of our cotton, and she cannot produce within herself either rice or tobacco, so that she must (provided our philosophers do not abandon "external commerce") depend upon us, for her supplies of those articles, with those of wheat, flour, corn, naval stores, lumber, &c. &c.—When we speak of G. Britain, we are to be understood as speaking of her colonies also.

The more any one will examine the subject, the more will he be satisfied, that our commercial intercourse with Great Britain was more important and beneficial, than that of France and her dependencies.

The party who govern at this time, having by a system of weak (we hope not wicked) measures, aided in the deplorable reduction of our "external commerce," would now persuade us to abandon what yet remains, and all this, that the Philosophical experiment of an agricultural republic may be made. This experiment has been made, and the result we think ought to satisfy. If any one will examine what was the condition of the United States from the peace of 1783 to the adoption of the Federal Constitution, he can satisfy himself upon this subject. Between those periods of time, the citizens of the United States, were not engaged in external commerce; it was managed entirely by foreigners, chiefly British. We were then nationally and individually without credit, or resources. And this will be our situation again if we abandon external commerce.

**FREE SCHOOLS IN SCOTLAND.**

The poverty of Scotland, previous to the commencement of the 18th century, was proverbial. Several happy circumstances combined to raise the condition of that country; but to one of them else, nor perhaps all the rest put together, had so much effect towards it as the establishment of free schools. This was attempted, though, as it would seem to little purpose, long before the period I have mentioned. In the year 1646, the parliament of Scotland made provision for the establishment of a school in every parish throughout the kingdom. That law was however repealed, and was not revived till 1696; when it was put in full force, and has so continued ever since. The number of Parishes in Scotland, (according to Dr. Currie, in his life of Robert Burns) is 877; and, of course, there is at least that number of schools. Each gospel minister is the superintendent and patron of the school in his own particular parish. Hence in the very lowest condition of Scotch peasantry every one can read, and most persons are more or less skilled in writing and arithmetic.

There is this remarkable singularity in the laws of Scotland, that though they make provision for the instruction of the poor, they make none for the support of poverty. This looks hard and cruel; yet it has some excellent effects. It is owing in part to this circumstance, that the Scotch peasants have a more than ordinary share of prudence and reflection; and save their money by living within the bounds of the most rigid economy. Parents there, among the peasantry, are exceedingly attached to their children, who are considered by them as the only supports of their old age, the very poorest giving a considerable portion of the wages of their labour to their aged or infirm parent, whose days of labour are past.—Whereas in South Britain, or England, where immense sums are raised annually for the support of the poor, their dependence upon the national funds render them improvident, so that they take no care to lay up something of their own while it is in their power, and feel little compunction in neglecting their helpless parents, as knowing that the public stands engaged to provide for them.

By means of the general diffusion of learning by free schools, together with early religious instruction and habits of industry and economy; capital crimes have been more rare in Scotland than in any part of Europe.—For thirty years im-

mediately preceding the year 1797, the executions in Scotland did not amount to six annually; though the number of crimes which are there made capital, is very great. And as to the minor crimes, which incurred merely the penalty of transportation, one quarter sessions of the town of Manchester, (one of the most populous manufacturing towns in England) has sent, according to Home more felons to the British plantations than all the judges of Scotland usually do in the course of a whole year.

One conspicuous feature in the minds of native Scotchmen, is an ardent curiosity; another is, a more than ordinary propensity of emigration.—Their minds imbued, from childhood, with some degree of learning, they are inquisitive. Possessing learning without fortune they are enterprising; and unable to make or mend their fortunes at home, they go abroad. About a hundred and fifty thousand Scotchmen, on an average, are said to live, out of Scotland;—in England, in America, and wherever they can find treasure. Going abroad poor, they often, become rich by industry and parsimonious frugality. While Irish emigrants, generally speaking, have little faculty to get money, and less to save it, the Scotch perfectly understand both. Beginning as pedlars, they have frequently become, in the course of a few years, wholesale merchants; nor are they often seen to make any expensive appearance till their circumstances can well afford it. They are much less addicted to intemperance and prodigality, than the Irish, the English, or even the Americans.

Though Scotchmen emigrate in vast numbers, for reasons just now mentioned, yet no people have a stronger attachment to their native land; from the highest to the lowest, it is scarcely possible to give them more mortal offence than by speaking to them contemptuously of Scotland.

In some of these points, the resemblance betwixt the Scotch and a great many of our New-England people is obvious and striking.

The English language was very little known in Scotland, especially among the lower classes, till the beginning of the last century. The revival of literature there, is dated 1715; the Scotch about that time having models of composition, from the Spectator, and other writings of Queen Anne's reign, which first gave them a general taste for English reading.—Since that period Scotland has produced a greater number of ingenious writers, than perhaps any country else of equal population, in the known world.—Connecticut Courant.

*From the Desk of Poor Robert the Scribe.*

There are some lessons very proper to be given in domestic economy, which the writers of your quarto and your folio volumes think below their notice—the preacher conceives them below the dignity of the desk, and they must pass without remark, unless some humble, plodding wight, like poor Robert the Scribe, shall take them into his special consideration: And among these one on Cleanliness is not the least important.

Some writer has observed (and I think I saw the observation in the Gleaner) that "cleanliness is allied to godliness."—Certain it is that there is an intimate connection between the purity of the body and purity of the mind. No woman can be lovely who is not neat. The fairest she that ever trod the earth, though she were young and blooming, as Hebe—though "grace were in her step—Heaven in her eye—in all her gestures dignity and love," yet should she appear abroad with her neck soiled or her wrists greasy, believe me, dear girls, she would excite only disgust. When Paris decided that most delicate and important point, on the south-western declivity of mount Ida, had Venus appeared with her mouth greased like an alderman's wife at a turtle feast, depend upon it she never would have been honored with the apple.

Harry Hawkeye, of the city of New York, was a young gentleman of much sprightliness and wit; genteel in his manners—of graceful person, and possessing a handsome fortune. You may easily guess that all the girls set their caps for him. Harry, though not too fastidious, was yet desirous of getting a neat wife. "Beauty," said he "is desirable; good sense and good nature necessary, but neatness," added he, "is indispensable." A young lady with whom he became acquainted, added to an exceeding fine person regular features, wit, and good nature, a fortune of ten thousand dollars. Dorothy Harley, for that was her name, was well pleased with the attention of Harry. The courtship went on, and every body considered it as an excellent match.

One afternoon Harry went up to her father's which was a little way into the country, to spend a few hours with his Dorothy to partake of some of their excellent strawberries which were at that season in high perfection. Seated in a delightful arbour in the garden they chatted awhile as you may suppose of love; and then she ran to bring with her own hand some strawberries and cream; after regaling themselves with the delicious treat, Harry playing with his saucer, chanced to turn it bottom upwards in his lap. What was his mortification and astonishment when he beheld the bottom of the saucer black with dirt! It would have posed a man of less sensibility than he possessed. He seized an opportunity, and wrote on the grass with the end of the spoon the following lines, and left the house, which he visited no more.

Tho' she in wit and fortune shines—  
In form and beauty be divine;  
A slut shall ne'er be wife of mine.

HARRY.  
[The Gleaner.]