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Military!

From the Baltimore Federal Gazette. A SKETCH OF THE MILITARY SYSTEM OF FRANCE, &c.

Our first parents were told, as soon as they had fallen and to prevent the effects of despondency, no doubt, that their "seed should bruise the serpent's head;" but this does not seem to be the policy of some political writers, and though they paint the sway of Napoleon Bonaparte in the most horrid colors, yet tell us these colors are durable, and will last for ages. It is pleasing to see such opinions combated by writers of such talents as the author of "A Sketch of the Military System of France," &c. and especially to see that fatal prophecy combated by the arms of those who advance them.

Mr. Walsh in his "Views," has shown that France was exhausted of men and money, though he still holds her up as a monster of endless duration, and these passages our author has judiciously quoted. The enquirer may wonder by what means France is to maintain her exorbitant power, when men and money fail? In Mr. Walsh's Review of the work before me, it is said, she can replenish them in conquered countries? Can they have maintained a war of 5, 10 or 15 years, without its usual consequences, and will not France have accomplished their ruin, by the time her plundering legions have overrun their territories?

The Reviewers have misled our respectable writer into a chronological error of some importance, with respect to the subject of the first part of his Sketch—that is to say, the Conscription; which the former represent as first organized by the directory, in 1796, whereas that revolutionary machine was in full operation in Robespierre's reign, five years before, when all unmarried Frenchmen, between the ages of 19 and 25, were forced into the service. Neither the conscription, nor the mint of assignats, or any other means, (and it is difficult to conceive any not possessed by him) could save this tyrannical minister, or his revolutionary government. Suddenly, and unexpectedly they both fell as if lightning from Heaven had descended purposely to blast them.

It appears that amongst the number of instances adduced by the writer of the Sketch, to show the approaching downfall of Bonaparte and his power; the history of Cromwell, and the commonwealth of England, should have had a place. It cannot be denied that the success of Cromwell, and the success of Cromwell, had acquired as much ascendancy over the civilized world, as that possessed by the French now.

France then, and at all times, for many centuries past, the greatest power on the continent of Europe, was awed by Cromwell into acts of baseness, which have only been equalled by petty states, or others subdued by the French arms. After ten years reign, Cromwell became afraid of his meanest domestics, and no country he had insulted, feared to return the treatment on his immediate successor, Richard, or even upon Charles the 2d when restored to the government.

Since then too, there has been a revolution in Persia; which affords a lesson for the French usurper. Nadir Shah, alias Koudi Kan, overturned that empire about the middle of the last century, and seated himself on the throne; but his vexations and cruelties procured him to be assassinated by those very officers who had contributed to his elevation, and in his own tent; so that there was an end to his *Dynasty* in a very few years.

Our author seems to have nearly confined himself to the enumeration of the physical causes which are like to produce the overthrow of French power; but there are moral as well as physical causes for the rise or fall of Empires.

A liberal and honorable line of conduct might have rendered the French usurper a long time secure; but that principle of honor, which the learned and ingenious Montesquieu states as the basis of French power, has been repeatedly and egregiously violated. Perhaps the French nation would have overlooked the attack on the friendly Ottomans, during the time that Bonaparte acted as a subaltern, and all other treacheries until the affair of Spain. It is evident, that from the time he betrayed the two kings at Bayonne, he has lost much of the popularity which he had at home, and that his foreign enterprises have been attended with difficulties or discomfures, unknown in his previous career.

In our republican government, we understand there are such things as *first principles*, and that for the preservation of these governments, it is necessary to recur to them—Without inquiring here what these are, it is evident, that one of the first principles of a monarchy, whether limited or absolute, is the hereditary right of the sovereign prince.—Whatever may be the acquired power or popularity of Bonaparte, this hereditary right will ever be wanting; a recurrence to it must be his overthrow.

It will not be found that monarchy, not elective, or in a state of barbarism, has changed its *dynasty*—causes have occurred to make the subjects prefer one prince or princess of a family, to another of the same family; but this, on many accounts, cannot be termed another *dynasty*.

There must be something more to entitle the king of Rome, as Bonaparte's child is called, to the loyalty of the French than his birth; and it cannot be conceived that a brave people will sacrifice every thing to uphold an infant, whose claims to their services are little or no greater than those of any other child in the empire.

In fact, every royalist or imperialist in France, who does not owe his immediate protection to Bonaparte, must be persuaded that lasting peace can only be procured to the country by restoring the government to the family of their ancient kings; and every Frenchman, who holds an estate by inheritance, or wishes to convey an estate to his own descendants, must think himself interested in maintaining this *first principle* of the monarchy.

As to the acquisition of territory and population, Holland, Savoy or Switzerland existed merely by courtesy, if I may use the term; they had not intrinsic power sufficient to maintain their independence; and, as they had not this requisite to durability, their subjugation, or annexation to France, can add none to hers; especially if we consider the difficulties attending a union of people speaking different languages, professing different religions, and divided by great mountains, or other geographical and physical obstructions.

There is a degree of cruelty in speaking of the efforts of the Spanish Patriots, in the manner Mr. Walsh does, and it is to be wished, that his Review may never reach either the northern or southern extremities of the European continent, where the power of France is still resisted. That power would never have arrived to its present extent, if many of the kingdoms or states of Europe had not been persuaded that resistance was vain, and that, as they must succumb sooner or later, it was quite futile to make any sacrifices merely to delay inevitable fate. Is there no change of circumstances, no exertion that can save the continent? Oh, if our young author could but qualify his prophecies with an if!

I could wish that these political writers would make themselves better acquainted with the history of the rise and origin of the French revolution, from which the evils of the European world have flowed. The fame of Lally, Tolland or Mallet du Pan does not appear to be known to them; and a debt of gratitude is due to that brave and honorable minority of the national assembly of France, many of whom sealed with their blood the sincerity of their opposition to this revolution in its first stages—a debt of gratitude, I say, is due to their memory from the present generation, as well as to that of Palafox and Romana, which it is time should be paid, and which certainly will not be overlooked by future historians.

If a Conti or a Casales could have been heard and obeyed in 1782, the world would not have to bewail their fate, or the fate of their countrymen and neighbors.

The opinions of Mr. Walsh, on the subject of French power, are such as might naturally be acquired in the literary circles of Helen M. Williams, and others in Paris, of whom he has given us the eulogy, nor do I know that different opinions would be formed from a correspondence with the friends of that lady and of reform in England. He has shut up the volume of experience and history, and how should it occur to him that, turning the tables on the French, other Henrys or Edwards may penetrate into the heart of France? The gloomy prophecies of Mr. Burke, whom our young American seems to have imitated were proper in 1795, before the arms of France had extended beyond her territory, but it is quite the reverse now, when these arms have reached the extremities of the continent. In his struggle with our author, he seems to admit with reluctance that French conquest may be confined to the continent of Europe, or twenty years more of successes, even puts the case to the government of this country, and supposing England too is subdued, points out our fate, and a dismal one it is, of course.

And this is all given to encourage resistance! I have said struggle with our author, for I think it is evident he labors to maintain the opinion before advanced by him, and I believe that many who read the arguments with due reflection, may be convinced by him, if they are not by our author, that the power of France has seen its zenith, and that for some time past, it has been on the decline, except perhaps in these United States, whom he has labored to enlighten in vain, or rather, whose government has had its organs of vision darkened by him, instead of its mind enlightened, on this subject.

When the success of the French arms, are sufficiently accounted for by the success of French intrigues, I cannot admit, with our respectable author, that the former is materially due to the superiority of military talents in the revolutionary officers. The Arch Duke Charles, Seward, Sidney Smith, Abercrombie and Wellington, have each of them proved their talents equal. I do not believe the modern marshals surpass Bouille or Rochambeau, by whom they were taught, much less, that they are the equals of Conde, Turenne, Marlborough, or Frederick the 2d.

Neither does our author seem to be aware of the advantages Bonaparte derives from representations, that the times are big with wonders, not equalled in former history. It is bereaving us of our reason to make us in the hands of the tyrant, like clay in the hands of the potter, and this is unfortunately, and I am sure unintentionally, exactly what the editors of the Edinburgh and American Reviews, both are doing. I hope that Mr. Walsh, at least, is by this time convinced that his views have not induced our government, "to be incessantly on the watch against the wiles and intrigues of France." It has only been taught, by him I fear, to consider that *idol white*, which it might have painted to itself *black*, for though gloomy, he insists upon it the colours are durable, as said before. Universal conquest spoken of in the sketch, are words which convey no definite idea to common minds; if the writer had represented the views of the French to be limited by individual plunder, it would have drawn us near the truth. And after reading Burke or Ames, I can neither subscribe to the opinion that the sudden and successive increase of the power of France, within the last few years, has amazed and confounded the wisest and best informed politicians, or after Montesquieu or Mallet, that the world never saw the like before, so that its lessons of experience should be set aside.

I hope, on the contrary, the people, and especially the people of this country will reflect seriously on the useful references to history which they will find in the sketch, and which they cannot read without being impressed with sentiments of contempt, as well as horror, for the vices and crimes of modern France.

The origin of standing armies is handsomely delineated, and the comparison between the Roman and French conscription, worthy the highest consideration, among political men of all parties.

ANTI JACOBIN.

Political!

FOR THE MINERVA.

Messrs. Editors,

AT the last Session of the Legislature, in the debate upon the bill vesting in the next General Assembly the power of electing electors to vote for president and vice president of the United States, I told the House of Commons that I should appeal to the people. In order to comply with what I intended, and wish, I ask the favor of you to give the following address a place in your paper.

TO THE PEOPLE OF NORTH-CAROLINA.

Fellow-Citizens,

As you in general appear to be sensible of the unwarrantable assumption of power exercised by the last General Assembly, in taking away the election of electors from the people and vesting the privilege in the legislature, I shall not go into a detail of the many weighty arguments which might be brought forward against that measure, to convince your understandings of its impropriety. I have seen the presentation of the Grand Jury of Lincoln county, which I think breathes the very spirit of those republican principles, upon which the public eye should be constantly fixed as the polar star of liberty, and which may happily preserve it pure for ages yet to come. I have also heard from many other counties in the State, and from I have yet learned, there appears to exist a general dissatisfaction at the conduct of the late Assembly. The only thing I intend by addressing you in this manner, is to attempt to bring about the selection of some uniform plan of preventing the evils threatened by the adoption of the law passed at the last session.

The first thing necessary to be done by the people, in my opinion, is to take care that none be chosen at the next election but such men as may use their influence to repeal the law. I would not wish to be understood as by any means advising, that all those who voted for the bill be left out; but such of them only as may still continue in the opinion of its expediency and propriety, and would therefore vote for a perseverance in the measure. Many good men have given, and may doubtless again give, a vote, which afterwards they would desire and be glad to reverse.

The second thing I beg leave to advise, is that all the counties follow the example of that of Lincoln.

The third and last thing in order to bring the business properly to an issue, would be for the citizens of each county, or as many of them as are of the opinion that our liberties were infringed by the act of last session, to petition his Excellency the Governor to call the General Assembly one month sooner than the regular period of meeting—that is to say, on the third Monday in October. By this means the State could be laid off into districts, the people choose electors in time, as formerly, & the accustomed business of the annual session be transacted without any other than the usual expense.

An active and spirited line of conduct carried on with prudence and firmness, will not only let our aristocratical brethren see, that the citizens of N. Carolina have paid too dear, and set too great a value upon their privileges, to suffer them to be unwarrantably taken away, and they be silent and tame under the outrage—but it will also rouse and animate our true republican brethren in other states, to discountenance those encroachments, springing from party violence, which prove so embarrassing and under which they labor. The liberties of republics are seldom overthrown at once. There seems to my mind the same need of activity at this time that there was in 1776; the only difference is, we then had to fight for our liberties, but now all we have to do, to effect the desired object, is to exercise as we ought our constitutional privileges. With this view I hope all those anxious that the people should retain in their own hands the whole power which they can conveniently exercise, will sign the petition proposed in this article. The sooner this step be taken the better. It will give the Governor greater time to assemble his council.

I had not thought, until the occurrence of the fact, that such a measure as the act of last session could ever have been resorted to in this state. But if the plan before laid down be adopted, I apprehend the threatened mischief may be easily evaded; and the reproof they shall thus receive will be a warning to our statesmen to take care how they again sport with the rights and privileges of the people, to answer party purposes. It will be

a solemn caution to them to beware of another time sacrificing the first principles of our admirable constitution, in order to retain men in office or to gain new places. Let us all then, as one man, stand by that freedom which has cost our forefathers and ourselves so much blood and treasure; and not consent that it be sold for the emolument of an individual! There can be no danger, while Madison remains the man of the people, but he will be the people's choice. If he forget the people, and be led away by the spirit of party, the people can then consult their own judgment as to the proper course to pursue. For my part, one of my maxims is, that I will trust a good man in public life, with power which would be unsafe in the hands of a bad one.

These thoughts are laid before you, for public investigation. If they meet the approbation of my fellow-citizens, I trust they will be attended to. If not, I assure you, I have been actuated by the purest motives and shall in either case stand acquitted to myself. There can be nothing unwarrantable in attempting by all proper means, to preserve that blessing, to obtain which for my country, for myself and for posterity, many years of my youth were cheerfully devoted.

I am, respectfully, yours, &c.

WILLIAM PORTER.

Rutherford County, March 8.

Boston, March 23.

The following is a democratic manifesto, to supply the defect in HENRY'S Letters, in which he has not implicated the Federalists. It is copied from a handbill, published in Salem, on Saturday last.

ANOTHER PLOT!!

The heat of Election hatches a brood of Plots and Falshoods.

Last Friday a stranger of good address and personal appearance, and about 28 years of age, arrived at a tavern in Haverhill and stopped for refreshment. After conversing with some of the inhabitants, and exciting their curiosity, and knowing that the *Henry Plot* was designed, as a powerful disorganizing engine for the democratic party, to which this impostor belongs, he pretended he was just from Quebec, and had in his possession evidence of most horrid treason committed by men esteemed the most upright and distinguished in the nation—and that he had actually seen the treasonable correspondence with British officers. As the election for town officers in Haverhill was to be held on Monday next, the Jacobin demagogues caught at the bait, caressed the vagrant, took him to the office above the Bridge, and after much importunity persuaded the man to copy and sign a certificate which one of these disturbers of the peace had prepared. All this was done with the secrecy that usually accompanies villainy:—for they refused to permit Bailey Bartley, Esq. to be present and examine him. After he had left Haverhill, where he called himself *Nathaniel Emery*, the good people of that town were alarmed for the public safety, and became in an uproar; for the DAMNING CERTIFICATE of this vagabond was triumphantly exhibited as undoubted evidence of Federal Treason, by Mr. Francis Eaton, a democratic lawyer, and post master in that town.

So great was the ferment and excitement produced by this most base and infamous affair, that reflecting men thought it expedient to investigate and sift this mountain of falsehood; accordingly the man was pursued to Salem, where he arrived late at night, called himself *Timothy Joy*, and at this place also said he was just from Quebec. In the morning, as soon as it was ascertained that he was in town, a warrant was obtained, and he was apprehended and examined before JOHN PRINCE, Jun. Esq. He denied none of the facts, admitted his guilt, and was ordered by the magistrate to recognize in the sum of five hundred dollars for his appearance at the Supreme Judicial Court. As he was unable to obtain bail, he is now committed to prison for trial for his crime. An immense concourse of people attended the examination, and all were disgusted and alarmed at the unfolding of the shameless and abandoned arts and devices resorted to by our demagogues to excite the feelings of the public at every election, to destroy by base calumny the fairest characters, and to sustain by the most iniquitous means the tottering cause of Democracy.

Upon examination, he confessed that he had signed a paper yesterday at Haverhill, charging col. Pickering with holding a treasonable correspondence with the British, and alleging that he had seen the letters from colonel Hamilton; that he never was in Canada, as he pretended—that he was questioned very hard, and induced to make the statement—that he was taken to an office above the bridge, and there the gentleman (so said he, if he had been a gentleman he would not have used me so) wrote the paper which he the prisoner at their request signed, and left there—they wanted him to swear to it, but refused, because (as he now said,) he thought it was bad enough to tell a lie without swearing to it. He said, that when at Haverhill, he called his name *Nathaniel Emery*, but that his real name was *Timothy Medley Joy*—that he lives at Middleton, N. H.—had been a trader, but now embarrassed—that he bore no ill will to colonel Pickering, knew nothing evil of him, was sorry for what he had done, and should not have done it if he had not fallen into such company at Haverhill.

In corroboration of his statement, writs served upon him at Middleton, and sundry small notes and accounts dated there, were found upon him—Isiah Webster, the mail-carrier between Haverhill