

fleets. Money enough was procured by the loan to equip a fleet, which was dispatched against the Spaniards, but, from the mismanagement of those in command, the expedition totally failed. Thus baffled in all his projects, disappointed in all his expectations, unable to fill his coffers by the plunder of his enemies, or of his own subjects, the King was obliged to have recourse to another parliament.

If it be true, that he suffered his first parliament to be chosen without any exertion of court influence, he now at least had sufficient reason to change his mode of conduct. He caused some of the popular leaders to be named for sheriffs, in order to incapacitate them for being elected, but he found by the insufficiency of the measures, that an arbitrary administration will always meet with opposition, and that the indignation of a whole people is not to be repressed by depriving them of a few leaders.

About this time Mr. Hampden married a daughter of Thomas Foley, esq. (great grandfather of the first Lord Foley) and was elected to this parliament as representative for Buckinghamshire: he had no sooner taken his seat than he entered vigorously into all the measures of the patriots, and from his great talents became a very important acquisition; but as he had not yet obtained such celebrity as to cause his name to be particularly distinguished, we shall follow the proceedings of parliament till we come to those events in his life which held him up to the admiration of his country and of all Europe.

The parliament being assembled, a supply of three subsidies and three fifteenths was voted by the commons, but with the mortifying restriction, that they would not pass it into a law till the end of the session: and a committee was then appointed to inquire into grievances. Irritated as was the King at this conduct, he was obliged to wait with patience the result of their inquiry.

But the commons thought it in vain to lop off a few branches from the tree of oppression, whilst the prolific stem remained: they therefore determined to make a bold stroke at this, by impeaching the Duke of Buckingham, whom they regarded as the author of their private as well as public calamities. This step was not more unexpected than it was displeasing to the King, who, at all hazards, resolved to support his favourite, and accordingly sent Lord keeper Finch to command them not to meddle with his minister and servant: and by another message they were told, that if they would not furnish his majesty with supplies, he should be forced to take other resolutions. Undisturbed by the messages, and unawed by the threats of the crown, the commons were proceeding with the impeachment, and had presented a long catalogue of charges against Buckingham; when Sir Dudley Digges and Sir John Elliot, two principal managers of the impeachment, were by the King's authority committed to the tower. The commons irritated at this measure, determined to stop all proceedings, till their members were discharged, and the King, in releasing them, was obliged to acknowledge his precipitance, or his weakness. The lords also, stimulated by the success of the commons, demanded and obtained the release of some of their members.

After a formal answer from the duke to the charges brought against him, the prosecution insensibly fell to the ground. Perhaps defective as was his character, and great as were the evils he had brought upon his country, there was no legal ground for such an accusation. But the commons took a stronger ground; they presented a firm and temperate remonstrance to the King, in which they describe the wickedness of Buckingham's administration, and his invasions of the rights of the people: and they conjure the King, in the name of all the commons of England, for the honour of God, and the love he bears for his people, to dismiss him from his councils. In the most unequivocal manner, they avow their loyalty and their determination to exalt him above any of his ancestors: but they declare "we protest to your majesty, and to the whole world, that until this great person be removed from intermeddling with the affairs of state, we are out of hope of any good success; and do fear that any money we shall or can give

will, through his misemployment, be turned rather to the hurt and prejudice of this your kingdom, than otherwise, as by lamentable experience we have found in those large supplies, we have formerly, and lately given."

Had Charles listened to this constitutional interposition; had he dismissed a justly obnoxious minister, and manifested any kindness for the rising spirit of liberty; had he unobscured himself to his people, and given security for the frequent sitting of parliament, and for his governing according to law, all the succeeding miseries might have been averted. The parliament would not have withheld supplies from a King, who did not wish to rule without them, and the existing abuses might have been removed, and the accumulation of new ones prevented.

The commons now attempted a measure, which had it succeeded, might have given efficacy to their petition for the removal of Buckingham. They began to prepare a remonstrance against the levying of tonnage and poundage, without the consent of parliament. But the King, who had sufficiently resented the attack upon his favourite, could not bear this new blow. He determined to dissolve a parliament, which gave him nothing but repeated insults, and he chose rather to forfeit the bill for the subsidies, than to purchase it at the expence of his minister and his prerogative. So determined was he upon this measure, that to the solicitations of the house of peers for a little longer time, he imperiously answered, "Not a moment longer," and soon after dissolved the parliament.

This the commons foresaw, and before their dissolution they took care to print and disperse their remonstrance. To counteract the effect this had upon the minds of the people, another was published by the court. These papers were the sources of argument for the two parties throughout the nation; but Hume acknowledges, "that all impartial men judged that the commons, though they had not as yet violated any law, yet, by their unparliamentary and independence, were insensibly changing, perhaps improving, the spirit and genius, while they preserved the forms of the constitution; and that the King was acting altogether without any plan, running on in a road surrounded on all sides with the most dangerous precipices, and concerning no proper measures either for submitting to the obstinacy of the commons, or for subduing it."

The dissolution of this parliament not only defeated all the purposes for which it had been called, but served greatly to widen the breach between the King and the people. Charles became confirmed in his opinion, that the commons had formed a plan to weaken his prerogative; and the people in theirs, that the King wished to establish despotic authority. Nor was he much wronged by these suspicions; for had he possessed a military power, there is every reason to believe he would now have thrown off the mask, and renounced popular assemblies. But not being possessed of these resources, he was obliged to ransack the annals of tyranny for precedents, and, under whatever circumstances he found them, he applied them without scruple to his own purposes. The following are a few of the plans he had recourse to for raising money. He published a proclamation, declaring his intention to make his revenue certain, by granting his lands, both copyhold and others, to be held in fee-farm. The laws against Roman Catholics were dispensed with for sums of money. To the Nobles, he sent a particular request for a great contribution, reminding them of the former demands of his ancestors, and of the generosity of theirs. A loan of 100,000l. was demanded of the city of London, from which they endeavoured to excuse themselves; but they were finally obliged to furnish twenty ships, and to alleviate the burden, they were allowed to nominate all the officers, except the captains. Orders were sent to the different sea-ports, to provide ships for his majesty's navy; and though many of the inhabitants indignant at this tyranny, fled from their habitations to avoid it, they were ordered back by a proclamation, and compelled to compliance. To complete the system, the kingdom was placed under martial law.

Under pretence of invasions and insurrections, the lord-lieutenants were commanded to assemble a body of military, to be ready to suppress every tumult by the most prompt and efficacious measures. The intention of this undoubtedly was, to crush the first appearance of a justly dreaded rebellion; to sublimate fear for affection; and to silence the murmurs of the people, by rendering (to adopt a modern phrase) terror the order of the day.

[To be continued.]

PORCUPINE, JUNIOR.

The following curious Sentiments are extracted from that *unfortunate lunatic* John Ward Feane's *Defulatory Reflections*.

"Under the auspices of a wise and prudent ruler, we might proceed to other reformatations, absolutely essential to the continuance of our existence, as a truly great, free, and independent nation. Those egregious baubles of sovereignty, those pestiferous incitements to demagoguery, the state governments, might be abolished, and their officers rendered dependent, as they ought to be; on the government of the United States, instead of having it in their power as at present, to organize revolts against that government.

"This would be a very admirable act for a new administration to commence its career with, the unfortunate people being in as distressful a situation amidst the jars and clashing of the multiplicity of jurisdictions, as they would be, placed between two globes, revolving in contact; so that a more popular, or a more judicious step could not be adopted.

"The present topographical location of the states should, in order the more effectually to abolish the memory of federalism, be totally changed, and the continent divided into ten, fifteen or twenty counties, to be governed by a lieutenant, or praefect, appointed by the executive; certain subaltern appointments should be in his gift. "These praefects would constitute as proper an upper house, for one branch of the Legislature, as could be well desired. I venture to affirm that it would be found a more proper and independent branch than that for which it would be substituted."

FEDERAL CITY.

Extract of a letter from a gentleman in Washington, to his friend in Philadelphia.

"Notwithstanding the unfavourable accounts which are handed to public view by some of the inexperienced young men here, because they have been obliged to remove from some of their former luxuries, I assure you, Sir, the prospects of the growth, and prosperity of this infant capital of an infant Empire, are, by no means, inauspicious. We have present inconveniences, our buildings are too few to render accommodations comfortable, but we perceive houses in abundance rising, which gives an happy presage, that soon our rents will be moderated, and the emigrant procure accommodation without extortion.

"We very much feel the want of municipal regulations, and the establishment of a regular market, but this will doubtless be among the first objects in the consideration of Congress.—Our supply of provisions is pretty regular and by no means immoderate in price.

"We are scattered over an extent of 3 miles in length, from the eastern branch of George Town, in which distance there are about three clusters of houses, each too small to exist without communication with the others, so that the man of business must have many a weary step in its prosecution.

"The capitol, or more properly, one wing of the intended capitol, is nearly finished—in it is a temporary House of Representatives and Senate Chamber—the latter, elegant and convenient, the body being but small—the galleries are very commodious. The chamber for the Representatives is extremely inconvenient. It is about the length of that in Philadelphia, but narrower by perhaps ten feet, so that the members are to be crowded quite on the Clerk and Speaker—This must awaken in Congress an immediate determination to build the other wing which was ever de-

termined to be the site for the two Chambers. The middle wing, finished, will be the Hall and Audience Chamber, or where the President will meet the two Houses.—Neither the centre nor the right wing are yet scarcely begun."

The Hillsborough Fall Races.

WILL commence on the 1st Day of October next, and continue three Days open and free for any Horse, Mare or Gelding, without Exception. The first Day's running will be three Mile Heats, the second Day's two Mile Heats, and the third Day's one Mile Heats. Those who may intend starting a Nag in any of the Days' running, will take Care to enter the same with Mr. Abner Benton Bruce, of Hillsborough, before Sun Set of the Day previous to which such Nag may be intended to be started, otherwise no Nag will be permitted to start but by paying double Entrance, and if a Non-subscriber double Subscription also.

By Order,
JOHN TAYLOR, Secretary.

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IN the Collection of BOOKS lately imported from England, by J. Gales, are the following VOYAGES & TRAVELS, mostly of the original Editions, and elegantly bound, viz.

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A complete Account of the Settlement at Port-Jackson, in New South Wales, including an accurate Description of the Colony of the Natives, and of its Natural Productions Taken on the Spot by Captain Watkin Tench, of the Marines. With a Map of the hitherto explored Country.

A Voyage to the South Sea, undertaken by Command of His Majesty, for the Purpose of conveying the Bread-Fruit Tree to the West-Indies, in the Bounty, commanded by Lieutenant William Bligh, including an Account of the Mutiny on Board the said Ship, and the subsequent Voyage of Part of the Crew in the ship's Boat, from Tofoa, one of the Friendly Islands, to Timor, a Dutch Settlement in the East-Indies. The whole illustrated with Charts, &c. and a fine Portrait of the Author. Published by Permission of the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty.

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OCTAVO.

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I Wish to buy Six or Eight Deer to stock my Park; and will give six Dollars for a Doe and Fawn; seven Dollars for a Doe that has two Fawns, and one Dollar and a half a Piece for Fawns without Does. The Deer must be delivered at my House near Raleigh.

WILLIE JONES.

Raleigh, July 6, 1800.

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Sketch of the Life and Character of HAMPDEN, (CONTINUED.)

HOWEVER repugnant the controul of parliaments might be to the arbitrary principles of Charles, many reasons induced him to call one soon after his accession to the throne: the treasury was exhausted, the nation involved in a considerable debt, and though the crown had several sources of revenue, there were none so certain as raising it by means of a parliament; besides, Charles confided in his popularity, being engaged in a war undertaken at the request of the last parliament, and if the commons should prove refractory, and exceed the bounds of duty, he believed himself possessed of an effectual remedy in his power of prorogation and dissolution; he therefore summoned one, and trusting to the will of the people, used no influence over the choice of its members. In his speech, he stated himself to be engaged in an expensive war, without the means of carry it on. The commons, after much altercation, voted two subsidies, amounting to about 125,000l. which was esteemed a sum very inadequate to the necessities of the crown. Various have been the conjectures of historians to account for this parsimonious conduct, but those who have attended to the account of the government given in the preceding section, will be at no loss for the true motives. It is obvious that the commons had already formed a design to circumscribe the exorbitant power of the King, and they well knew that they could only effect this by keeping him dependant upon them.

London now being exposed to the dreadful devastations of the plague, Charles, for the safety of its members, removed the parliament to Oxford; he followed them, and, in a more urgent manner than before, represented his necessities, and demanded supplies; but finding in the commons no symptoms of compliance, he dissolved the parliament in disgust; assigning however, as the motive, his fear of the plague, the evil consequences of which might have been as well avoided by a prorogation. So short a session had only allowed the commons time to manifest their purposes, without being able to effect any of them; and as they certainly discovered a strong opposition to the measures of government, this discovery, had the King been capable of receiving instruction, might, by shewing the temper of the people, have shewn him the path of safety and happiness.

Charles, or his minister Buckingham, had formed two plans for raising that supply which could not be obtained from parliament; one was to extort money from individuals by means of a loan, the other to take some of the richest Spaniards