

SWITZERLAND.

From the London Morning Chronicle, an anti-ministerial paper.

Every heart of feeling and liberality must contemplate with grief and indignation the unhappy state to which Switzerland has been reduced by the base arts of the late French Government. The invasion of that country; the overthrow of its numerous paternal and domestic Governments, was indeed a blot so conspicuous among the foul stains of revolutionary injustice. The consequence of this violence unprovoked; of those fantastic changes uncalled for as they were, has been misery and ruin to the wretched inhabitants of its once happy mountains; the introduction of the spirit of faction among the governors, of animosity among the governed, of universal misery, and universal guilt.

The confession of those who now justify fresh changes, by the proof of the evil which past innovations have wrought, is a melancholy and damning argument against all their system. They have beaten down the little republics, which for ages had dispensed a degree of happiness and contentment rarely the lot of mankind, and in return they set up the shadow of a republic, productive of nothing but oppression, desolation, and sorrow.

This change in Switzerland is the more generally felt, because Switzerland was, in some sort, the country of every European. It was a kind of consecrated ground held sacred amidst the ravages of universal war, and the contests even of tyrants. It was a holy place in the midst of Europe, where the unhappy of every land found an asylum; where the wealthy delighted to enjoy their advantages, and the wretched to assuage their sufferings; where every traveller from the most remote corners of the world enjoyed a common hospitality, and indulged a common affection. It was, indeed, a country that belonged to the civilized world in general, dear alike to the rich and to the poor, to the happy and to the unfortunate.

No wonder then that every man is grieved to see it unjustly seized and appropriated by any hostile power; but the grief must be more poignant still to see it burning and agonizing in the revolutionary fever. Alas! can we be permitted to hope that this paroxysm will pass over and that its health will again be restored? Can we be permitted to hope that Switzerland will again be the spot to which man will resort to behold uncorrupted manners; a plain, honest, and intelligent people; mankind in that middle, enviable state, between the innocent simplicity of primitive times, and the enlightened comforts of civilized society?

AMERICANS

Murdered by Savage Frenchmen, for fighting like true Spartans under their own Flag, in defence of their property and in honour of their country.

NEW-YORK, Sept. 27.

Important!

Last evening came up the Pilot boat Perseverance, on board of which was a pilot who brought into the quarantine ground, an English schooner in a very short passage from Martinique.

The captain of this schooner informed the pilot of the taking of Curacao, by the French.

This was effected by troops which embarked on board of 150 sail of sloops and boats at Guadaloupe. On their approaching the port of Curacao, a chain was ran across the harbour, which prevented their entering, but they soon after effected a landing on some other part of the island, advanced to the city, and after a bloody conflict, the French got possession of this place.

The Captain further states, that the United States brig Pickering was in the harbor at the time, and joined with other Americans in defending the place against the French, who, when they conquered, massacred every American in the place, including the consul, officers, and crew of the Pickering.

The Pilot further adds, that he was informed, that the reason of this armament being fitted out against Curacao, was, because the Governor of Curacao would not receive bills on the Governor of Guadaloupe for the expenses incurred in repairing the Vengeance.

The Pilot could not recollect the names of the above schooner and captain, but says it was told to him as no ways doubtful—and that the captain was anxious to come up to town himself to relate the news, as he esteemed it of the utmost importance to America.

RICHMOND, October 7.

RICHMOND, Oct. 2d, 1800.

Mr. Davis,

I FIND myself called upon in your last paper, to publish a letter from Mr. Henry to me. I should not have thought it necessary to notice any thing from an anonymous writer, either friend or foe, had there not been insinuations thrown out that I had misrepresented, and perverted the meaning of that letter—but holding the good opinion of my fellow citizens in high estimation, I have determined to publish the letter, and beg leave shortly to explain the circumstances which produced, and my conduct concerning it, that the public may judge whether I have been guilty of the charge of

misrepresentation or perversion. Some time in December 1798, a gentleman mentioned in my presence, that a report was circulating in Hanover, injurious to Mr. Marshall's interest, and much to the discredit of Mr. Henry, and wished he could be informed of it. I told him I was intimate with the gentleman, and would inform him of the report, if he would state it in writing. He did so to this effect:—"That a certain gentleman (naming him) had applied to Mr. Henry for his opinion of the most proper person to fill the office of a Representative for Henrico district, in the Congress of the United States, when he answered that the best advice he could give in the case, was to vote against that person for whom the old Tories, Scotch and British merchants, were the most anxious." I accordingly wrote to Mr. Henry, and received in answer, this much talked of letter, which I have often been solicited to publish, by characters for whom I had the highest respect; but I was opposed to it, conceiving it improper to trouble the public with what was merely intended to contradict the false reports to the prejudice of an individual in a particular district; and resolved to use it for that purpose only. The letter was therefore committed to the charge of confidential persons, to shew to the people within the district, in order to remove from their minds the wrong impressions which the report had occasioned, and I enjoined that no copy should be taken. After the death of my worthy friend, I locked up his letter as I thought forever—but it soon after occurred to me, that insinuations had gone forth that Mr. Henry was unfriendly to Gen. Washington, and disapproved of his administration. As this letter shewed the contrary, and that he gave Gen. Washington the preference to any other character whatever, I thought it but justice to the memory of my departed friend, to make this circumstance known to that illustrious person, not doubting but it would be gratifying to him to find his conduct approbated by so good a man; for which purpose I transmitted to him the only copy ever taken of the letter to my knowledge. The answer which I had the honor to receive, you may publish also, to gratify the curiosity of Mr. Friend.

A. BLAIR.

N. B. The original letters may be seen by all who wish it.

To ARCHIBALD BLAIR, Esquire.

Red Hill, Charlotte County, Jan. 8, 1799.

DEAR SIR,

Your favour of the 18th of last month, I have received. Its contents are a fresh proof that there is cause for much lamentation over the present state of things in Virginia. It is possible that most of the individuals who compose the contending factions, are sincere, and act from honest motives. But it is more than probable that certain leaders meditate a change in government. To effect this, I see no way so practicable as dissolving the confederacy. And I am free to own, that in my judgment, most of the measures lately pursued by the opposition party, directly and certainly lead to that end. If this is not the system of the party, they have none, and act extempore.

I do acknowledge that I am not capable to form a correct judgment on the present politics of the world. The wide extent to which the present contentions have gone, will scarcely permit any observer to see enough in detail to enable him to form any thing like a tolerable judgment on the final result as it may respect the nations in general. But as to France, I have no doubt in saying, that to her it will be calamitous. Her conduct has made it the interest of the great family of mankind to wish the downfall of her present government;—because its existence is incompatible with that of all others within its reach. And whilst I see the dangers that threaten ours from her intrigues and her arms, I am not so much alarmed, as to the apprehension of her destroying the grand pillars of all government and of social life—I mean virtue, and morality, and religion. This is the armour, my friend, and this alone, that renders us invincible. These are the tactics we should study. If we lose these, we are conquered, fallen, indeed. In vain may France shew and vaunt her diplomatic skill and brave troops: so long as our manners and principles remain sound, there is no danger. But believing as I do, that these are in danger, that infidelity in its broadest sense, under the name of philosophy, &c. is fast spreading, and that under the patronage of French manners and principles, every thing that ought to be dear to man, is covertly but successfully assailed—I feel the value of those men amongst us who hold out to the world the idea, that our continent is to exhibit an originality of character; and that instead of that imitation and inferiority which the countries of the old world have been in the habit of exacting from the new, we will maintain that high ground upon which nature has placed us, and that Europe should alike cease to rule us and give us modes of thinking. But I must stop short, or else this letter will be all preface.—These prefatory remarks, however, I thought proper to make, as they point out the kind of character amongst our countrymen most estimable in my eyes. Gen. Marshall and his colleagues exhibited the American character as respectable.—France, in the period of her most triumphant fortune beheld them unappalled. Her threats left them as she found them, mild, temperate, firm. Can it be tho't that with these sentiments, I should utter any thing tending to prejudice Gen. Marshall's election? Very far from it indeed. Independently of the high grati-

fication I felt from his public ministry, he ever stood high in my esteem as a private citizen. His temper and disposition were always pleasant, his talents and integrity unquestioned.—These things are sufficient to place that gentleman far above any competition in the district for Congress. But when you add the particular information and insight which he has gained, and is able to communicate to our public councils, it is really astonishing that even blindness itself should hesitate in the choice. But it is to be observed, that the efforts of France are to loosen the confidence of the people every where, in the public functionaries, and to blacken characters the most eminently distinguished for virtue, talents, and public confidence—thus smoothing the way to conquest, or those claims of superiority as abhorrent to my mind as conquest, from whatever they may come.

Tell Mr. Marshall I love him, because he felt and acted as a republican, as an American. The story of the Scotch merchants and old Tories voting for him is too stale, childish, and foolish, and is a French finesse—an appeal to prejudice—not to reason and good sense. If they say in the day-time, the sun shines, we must say it is the moon—if again, we ought to eat our victuals—no, we say, unless it is *ragout* or *fricasee*, &c. &c. and so on to turn fools in the same proportion as they grow wise. But enough of such nonsense.

As to the particular words stated by you to come from me, I do not recollect saying them. But certain I am, I never said any thing derogatory to General Marshall—but on the contrary, I really should give him my vote for Congress preferably to any citizen in the state at this juncture, one only excepted, and that one is in another line.

I am too old and infirm ever again to undertake public concerns. I live much retired, amidst a multiplicity of blessings from that Gracious Ruler of all things, to whom I owe unceasing acknowledgments for his unremitted goodness to me.—And if I were permitted to add to the catalogue one other blessing, it should be, that my countrymen should learn wisdom and virtue, & in this their day to know things that pertain to their peace. Farewell—I am, dear Sir, yours,

P. HENRY.

A. BLAIR, Esq.

To ARCHIBALD BLAIR, Esq.

Mount-Vernon, 24th June, 1799.

SIR,

Your favor of the 19th inst. enclosing the copy of a letter from our deceased friend, Patrick Henry, Esq. to you, dated the 8th of January last, came duly to hand;—for this instance of your polite attention to me, I pray you to accept my thanks, and an assurance that the letter shall find a distinguished place in my bureau of public papers.

At any time I should have received the account of this gentleman's death with sorrow: In the present crisis of our public affairs I have heard it with deep regret. But the ways of Providence are inscrutable, not to be scanned by short-sighted men, whose duty is submission without repining at its decrees.

I had often heard of the political sentiments expressed in Mr. Henry's letter to you, and as often wished that they were promulgated through the medium of the Gazette. The propriety or inexpediency of which measure, none can decide more correctly than yourself.—But after what you have written to me, I feel an incumbency to inform you, that another copy of that letter has been either surreptitiously obtained, or fabricated, and more than probable is now in the press; for I was informed on the day preceding my receipt of your letter, that one was in the hands of a gentleman in this county, (Fairfax) and that he had been asked to, and it was supposed would have it printed.

My breast never harboured a suspicion that Mr. Henry was unfriendly to me, although I had reason to believe that the same spirit which was at work to destroy all confidence in the public functionaries was not less busy in poisoning in private fountains and sowing the seeds of distrust among men of the same political sentiments—Mr. Henry had given me the most unequivocal proof whilst I had the honor to command the troops of the U. States in their revolutionary struggle, that he was not to be worked upon by intriguers; and not conscious that I had furnished any cause for it, I could not suppose that without a cause, he had become my enemy since. This proof, contained in the letter to which you allude, is deposited among my files; but for want of a proper receptacle for them, which I mean to erect, they are yet in packages.—When I shall be able to open them with convenience, I will furnish you with a copy of what passed between Mr. Henry and myself, in consequence of the attempt which was made by a party in Congress, to supplant me in that command, since you think they are not to be found among his papers, and wish to be possessed of them.—Your letter to me, Sir, required no apology, but has a just claim to the thanks and gratitude of one, who has the honor to be, Your most obedient, (and for its contents) obliged, humble servant,

GEO. WASHINGTON.

NOTICE.

The Election for choosing Electors of President and Vice-President of the United States, takes place on the first Monday in November next, throughout the state of North-Carolina,