

EAST FLORIDA.

Extract of a letter to a gentleman in Richmond from his friend in St. Augustine, dated April 5th, 1821.

"I wrote to you a few days before I left Charleston, and intended to have written to you again on my arrival at this place—but I have postponed it until I could either see or learn more of the country of Florida. This town has been built a great many years, and bears evidence of it, as it is completely in ruins. It is the seat of government, and consequently the residence of the Governor, Mr. COPPINGER; who is a plain, civil, and apparently very friendly man—He seems to be very anxious to leave this place and return to Cuba, his native place, and the residence of his wife and family, from whom he has been separated several years; but he and most of the Spaniards here seem very much mortified at the thoughts of giving up a country which possesses a great deal of fine land, but from which they receive little or no benefit—for there are not half a dozen Spanish settlements on this side the Cape.

"The town of St. Augustine can never be a place of any consequence, either for commerce or as a deposit for the productions of the country; for there is a most difficult and dangerous bar at the mouth of the river, which has not more than nine feet water at high tide, and the bar is said to shift with the winds—so that it can never be a port of entry for large vessels; and the poverty of the surrounding country for 20 miles, is such as to prevent any kind of produce being brought here. The lands on the St. Johns are said to be very fine; it lies about 35 miles to the northward of this place, and runs in a semicircular form, being equi-distant from hence for many miles. On this river are some settlements, and it is probable that the principal port of entry on this side the Cape will be near the mouth of this river, as it has more water than any other stream. The Mosquito and Indian rivers, the one 60 and the other 90 miles to the south of this, are said likewise to have on them very fine lands well adapted to sugar, and many persons think to coffee. But the indolence of the Spaniards is such that they have made no experiment of it. But the finest part of the country lays to the west of this, and is called Alocua; it is said to be as rich as land can possibly be. It is, however, in possession of the Indians, who will not willingly give it up. They are much excited against the Spaniards, for having, (as they say and very justly,) sold them and their country; so that it is safer for an American to travel into the interior of the country than for a Spaniard—though it is by no means safe for either without an Indian guide, many of whom are constantly coming to this place. There are a vast number of large grants for land embracing a great proportion of the best land in the country; but most of them forfeited from non-compliance with the conditions of the original grant: which generally required that they should be settled within a limited time.—This will open the door for disputes to all the large grants.... As soon as it is safe to travel in the country, I mean to take a tour through it.

"I shall remain here until the exchange of flags takes place. I did expect there would have been a great many negroes imported here before it was given up, but not one has arrived here except a few from the United States. Money appears to be scarce here, as in Virginia. Notwithstanding the ruinous condition of the houses here, they ask the most extravagant prices for them, and they rent proportionably high. There are a number of adventurers coming on here from Charleston and Savannah, but no men of capital except one from Charleston, who has purchased a house in town and lands on Musquito.... The healthiness of this may induce many persons from South Carolina and Georgia to retire here in the sickly season. The inhabitants appear much mortified, that this long settled place is not to be continued the seat of government. They are indeed deeply interested, as their town property will be worth very little. I wait with great impatience to see the American flag supplant the Spanish. I think it will be necessary to send a pretty strong force here at first, as well as to Pensacola:—for the Indians are by no means reconciled to the exchange, and many of them are under an impression that the Americans intend to make slaves of them.... There are a vast number of runaway negroes among them, who probably from motives of policy inculcate their opinions. The appointment of Gen. JACKSON as Governor of Florida has mortified the Spaniards, and struck terror in the Indians, who appear to be panic struck at the bare mention of his name. I think it would be unsafe to purchase lands here, until they are sold by the authority of the United States."

LONDON, FEBRUARY 22.

The Cotton Market remains in a very depressed state; the sales since our last amount to about 700 bags.—The arrivals are only 12 bags.

SPAIN.

Communicated for the Norfolk Herald. CADIZ, JANUARY 28.

"It is impossible that the present system in this country can stand. Cut from every foreign supply, and without the means of substituting it, from their own resources and energies, the people have nearly approached the climax of their sufferings. Anonymous publications emanate from Madrid, calling upon them to awake from their lethargy. The great parties of the Royalists, Constitutionalists, and Republicans, agitate the country, and must soon make a trial of their strength.—At the head of the last is the present Secretary of War, (Valdes,) and Riego, the most popular men in the army.

GREAT BRITAIN.

Nothing can be more contradictory than the representations of the state of Great Britain, made by the Ministerial orators and writers on the one hand, and those of the Opposition on the other.—All is Spring with the members and adherents of administration—all Winter with the whigs.

An intelligent writer in the London Times says, "with taxes and poor rates amounting to near seventy millions per annum—a civil list and a church establishment the most extravagant in Europe, and nine hundred millions of debt, we are not to be consoled by the declaration of any minister of finance, that for many years to come he does not intend to burden us with new taxes."

Mr. Curwen, a distinguished member of the House of Commons, belonging to the agricultural interest, held the following language in the debate of the 24th January, 1821.

"When he looked to the state of Agriculture, he would ask, could the noble Lord Castlereagh be really ignorant that the agricultural interests were in so wretched a condition, that even no abatement would after some time, induce the cultivators of the land to go on with their labors.

"It was impossible that the country could go on and pay the enormous taxes with which it was burthened; how, indeed, could it be expected, that with an income so decreased, such an overgrown system of taxation could be discharged. The whole landed property of the country at 25 years' purchase could not meet the demand upon us. The poor rates had increased beyond all precedent; it was calculated that this tax alone was adequate to the whole rental of the country.

FROM BELZONI'S TRAVELS.

MAHOMMED ALI PASHA, The celebrated Bey of Egypt.

I was presented to Mahomet Ali Bashaw, who received me very civilly. The Bashaw was just returned from Arabia, where he had conquered some of the Wahaby tribes, and delivered the holy cities of Mecca and Medina from the infidels.

The Bashaw is in continual motion, being sometimes at his citadel, and sometimes at his seraglio in Esbakie; but Subra is his principal residence. His chief amusement is in the evening a little before sunset, when he quits his seraglio, and seats himself on the bank of the Nile, to fire at an earthen pot, with his guards. If any of them hit it, he makes him a present, occasionally of forty or fifty roubles. He is himself an excellent marksman, for I saw him fire and hit a pot only fifteen inches high, set on the ground on the opposite shore of the Nile, tho' the river at Soubra is considerably wider than the Thames at Westminster Bridge. As soon as it is dark, he retires into the garden, and reposes, either in an alcove, or by the margin of a fountain, on an European chair, with all his attendants round him. Here his numerous buffons keep him in continual high spirits and good humor. By moonlight the scene was beautiful. I was admitted into the garden whenever I wished, by which means I had an opportunity of observing the domestic life of a man, who from nothing rose to be Viceroy of Egypt, and conqueror of the most powerful tribes of Arabia.

From the number of lights I frequently saw through the windows of the seraglio, I supposed the ladies were at such times amusing themselves in some way or other. Dancing women are often brought to divert them, and sometimes the famous Catalani of Egypt was introduced.—One of the buffoons of the Bashaw took it into his head one day, for a frolic, to shave his beard, which is no trifle among the Turks; for some of them, I really believe, would sooner have their head cut off than their beard: he borrowed some Frank's clothes of the Bashaw's apothecary, who was from Europe, and, after dressing himself in our costume, presented himself to the Bashaw as an European, who could not speak a single word either Turkish or Arabic, which is often the case. Being in the dark the Bashaw took him for what he represented himself to be, and sent immediately for an interpreter, who put some questions to him in Italian, in which he did not answer;

he was then questioned in French, but no reply; and next in the German and Spanish languages, but still he was silent; at last, when he saw that they all were deceived, the Bashaw not excepted, he burst out in a plain Turkish, the only language he was acquainted with, and his well known voice told them who he was; for such was the change of his person, particularly by cutting off his beard that otherwise they could scarcely have recognised him. The Bashaw was delighted with the fellow; and, to keep up the frolic, gave him an order on the treasury for an enormous sum of money, and sent to the Kaciaby, to present himself as a Frank, to receive it. The Kaciaby started at the immensity of the sum, it was nearly all that the treasury could furnish; but upon questioning this new European, it was soon perceived who he was. In this attire he went home to his women, who actually thrust him out of the door; and such was the disgrace of cutting off his beard, that even his fellow buffoons would not eat with him till it had grown again.

The Bashaw seems to be well aware of the benefits that may be derived from his encouraging the arts of Europe in his country, and had already reaped some of the fruits of it. The fabrication of gunpowder, the refining of sugar, the making of fine indigo, and the silk manufacture, are introduced, much to his advantage: he is constantly enquiring after something new, and is delighted with any thing strange to his imagination. Having heard of electricity, he sent to England for two electric machines, one with a plate, the other with a cylinder. The former was broken by the way; the latter was dismounted. The physician of the Bashaw, an Armenian, did not know though it was so easy a matter, how to set it up. Happening to be at the garden one evening, when they were attempting it, and could not succeed, I was requested to put the several pieces together; and having done so, I made one of the soldiers mount on the insulated stool, charged the machine, and gave the Turk a good shock; who, expecting no such thing, uttered a loud cry, and jumped off, as much terrified as if he had seen the devil. The Bashaw laughed at the man's jumping off, supposing his fright to be a trick, and not the effect of the machine; and when told, that it was actually occasioned by the machine, he affirmed positively that it could not be, for the soldier was at such a distance, that it was impossible the small chain he held in his hand could have such power. I then desired the interpreter to inform his Highness, that if he would mount the stool himself he would be convinced of the fact. He hesitated for a while whether to believe me or not; however he mounted the stool, I charged well, put the chain into his hand, and gave him a pretty smart shock. He jumped off like the soldier on feeling the effect of electricity; but immediately threw himself on the sofa in a fit of laughter, not being able to conceive how the machine could have such power on the human body.

A RELICK OF ANTIQUITY.

The following is a remarkable specimen of electing Members of Parliament taken from a memorandum MS. of J. Harrington, Esq. of Kelston, in Somersetshire dated 1646.

"A note of my Bathe business about the Parliament, Saturday, December 16, 1646, went to Bathe and dined with the maior and citizens; conferred about my election to serve in Parliament, as my father was helpless, and ill able to go any more. Went to the George inn at night, met the bailiffs, and desired to be dismissed from serving; drank strong beer and metheglin; expended three shillings; went home late, but could not get excused, as they entertained a good opinion of my father.

"Monday Dec. 38, went to Bathe; met Sir John Horner; we were chosen by the citizens to serve for the city.—The maior and citizens conferred about Parliament business. The maior promised Sir John Horner and myself a horse a-piece, when we went to London to the Parliament which we accepted of; and we talked about the synod and ecclesiastical dismission. I am to go again on Thursday, and meet the citizens about all such matters, and take advice thereon.

"Thursday 31, went to Bathe; Mr. Ashe preached. Dined at the George inn with the maior and four citizens; spent at dinner 6s. in wine.

Laid out in victuals at the George inn L 0 11 4
Laid out in drinking 0 7 2
Laid out in tobacco and drinking 0 4 4

"January 1, my father gave me four pounds to bear my expenses at Bathe.

"Mr. Chapman, the maior, came to Kelston, and returned thanks for my being chosen to serve in Parliament, to my father in name of all the citizens. My father gave me some good advice, touching my speaking in Parliament as they should direct me. Come home late at night from Bathe, much troubled thereat concerning my proceeding truly for man's good report and my own safety.

"Note. I gave the city messenger two shillings for bearing the maior's letter to

me. Laid out in all three pounds seven shillings for victuals, drink, horse-hire, together with divers gifts.

ELOQUENCE OF SHERLOCK.

Bishop SHERLOCK, in one of his Sermons, has the following elegant passage, which is quoted by Mr. BLAIR, in his Lectures on Rhetoric and Belles Letters, as a remarkably fine example of the figure of personification. The author is comparing our Saviour with Mahomet.

"Go, says he, to your Natural Religion; lay before her, Mahomet and his Disciples, arrayed in armor and blood, riding in triumph over the spoils of thousands who fell by his victorious sword. Shew her the cities which he set in flames, the countries which he ravaged and destroyed, and the miserable distress of all the inhabitants of the earth. When she has viewed him in this scene, carry her into retirement—shew her the Prophet's chamber; his concubines and his wives—and let her hear him alledge revelation, and a divine commission to justify his adultery and lust. When she is tired with this prospect, then shew her the blessed Jesus, humble and meek, doing good to all the sons of men. Let her see him in the most retired privacies; let her follow him to the Mount, and hear his devotions and supplications to God. Carry her to his table, to view his poor fare, and hear his heavenly discourse. Let her attend him to the tribunal, and consider the patience with which he endured the scoffs and reproaches of his enemies. Lead her to his cross—let her view him in the agony of death, and hear his last prayer for his persecutors—Father forgive them, for they know not what they do! When Natural Religion has thus viewed both, ask her which is the Prophet of God? But her answer we have already had, when she saw part of this scene through the eyes of the Centurion, who attended at the cross. By him she spoke and said, 'Truly this man was the Son of God.' This, (says Blair) is more than elegant; it is truly sublime. The whole passage is animated and the figure rises at the conclusion; when Natural Religion, who, before was only a spectator, is introduced as speaking by the Centurion's voice. It has the better effect too, that it occurs at the conclusion of a discourse where we naturally look for most warmth and dignity.

HEROES AND MONUMENTS.

Diligent but fruitless search has been made in a grave at Savannah, to identify the remains of General Greene, (whose son had been interred subsequently in his father's tomb) for the purpose of erecting an obelisk in honor of the hero. Numbers had been buried together; and how could a "hero's dust" be distinguishable from that of others?—Nereus looked no handsomer than Ther-sites in the charnelhouse. It is enough that the soldier of liberty lives in history, and "in the hearts of his fellow citizens. As Mr. Macon said, "Since the invention of types monuments are fit for nothing." They may foment the arts; but are very equivocal proof of gratitude in the builders, who may be as moveable by vanity as patriotism. It is right as natural, that the illustrious dead should have, like Washington a plain and decent sepulchre. We had rather see the great reposing in their family-vault, then pressed by sculptured piles.—It sounds very finely; it serves

"To point a moral, or adorn a tale." To read the emotion with which Alexander is reported to have beheld the tomb of Cyrus, "in a paradise," or pleasure garden; how he did homage at that of Achilles,—how he behaved towards the statue of Xerxes, &c. I had as lief, or rather, hear of the champions of freedom; the victors at Marathon, at Leuctra, or Salamis. Historians and Poets construct the best monuments; their memorials are more lasting than the proudest pyramids that ever aspired to the clouds.—Washington City Gazette.

THE METHODISTS.

This religious sect is said, in a late publication, to amount in England to nearly one million of persons, although during the year 1820 they had diminished about six thousand. It is stated that the number of members is exactly ascertained by each paying one penny a week to support their preachers, which amounts to 212,632 pounds sterling per annum; that the "collections for educating the sons of the priests (preachers) and for various other purposes," make the whole taxes, levied annually upon each member, amount to ten shillings, making a total of five hundred thousand pounds sterling, or about two millions three hundred thousand dollars, which, according to the statement in the publication alluded to, "is sufficient to pay 10,000 preachers, at fifty pounds sterling a year each, besides all that they receive in the way of food, lodging, and other items, that go towards maintaining them. It is just to say, that no religious sect has done more to reform the vices of the lower orders than the methodists. Nat. Adv..

A REASONABLE LADY.

The original of the following from Lady Compton to her husband, may be seen in the Harleian Collection of MSS. No. 7003, folio 105, in the British Museum. Lady Compton lived in the reign of James the First, and this letter is preserved as an incontestible proof of the existence, at that period, of at least one REASONABLE WOMAN.—Nat. Int.

MY SWEET LIFE:

Now I have declared to you my mind for selling your estate, I suppose that it were best for me to think, and consider within myself what allowance were meetest for me; for considering what care I ever had of your estate, and how respectfully I dealt with those, (which both by the laws of God, of nature, of civil policy, art, religious government and honesty,) you, my dear, are bound to; I pray and beseech you to grant to me, your most kind and loving wife, the sum of 2600L (sterling) quarterly to be paid.—Also, I would, beside that allowance, have 600L quarterly to be paid for charitable works; and those things I would not, neither will I be accountable for. Also, I will have three horses for my own saddle, that none shall dare lend or borrow but you. Also, I would have two gentlewomen, lest one should be sick or have some other let. Also, believe it, it is an indecent thing for a gentleman to stand mumping alone, when God hath blessed their lord and lady with a great estate. Also, when I ride a hunting or hawking, I will have them attending; so for either of those said women, I MUST AND WILL have, for either of them a horse. Also, I will have six or eight gentlemen; and I will have my two coaches, one lined with velvet, for myself, with four very fair horses, and a coach for my women, lined with cloth and lined with gold, with four good horses.—Also, I would have two coachmen—one for my own coach and one for my women. Also, at any time when I travel, I will be allowed not only carriages and spare horses, for me and my women, but I will have such carriages as are fitting for all, orderly not pestering my things with my women's, nor theirs with chamber-maids, nor theirs with wash-maids. Also, for laundresses, when I travel, I will have them sent away with the carriages to see all safe. And the chambermaids shall go before, that the chambers be ready, sweet and clean. It is indecent to crowd myself in a coach with my gentleman's usher, I will have him to have a convenient horse to attend me, either in city or country. And I must have two footmen. And my desire is, that you defray all these charges for me. And for myself, besides my yearly allowance, I would have twenty gowns of apparel, six of them excellent good ones, eight for the country, and six other very excellent good ones. Also, I would have, to put in my purse, 2,000L and 200L; and also that you shall PAY MY DEBTS.—Also, I would have 6,000L to buy my jewels, and 4,000L to buy my pearls.—Now, seeing I am so REASONABLE with you, I pray you to find my children their apparel and their schooling, and all my servants, men and women their wages. Also, I will have all my houses furnished, and my lodging rooms to be suited with all such furniture as is fit, as beds, stools, chairs, suitable cushions, carpets, silver warming-pans, cupboards of plates, silver hangings, and such like. So, for my drawing chambers in all my houses, I will have them delicately furnished with hangings, canopy, couch, glass, carpet, chairs, and cushions, and all things thereto belonging. Also, my earnest desire is, that you will pay all your debts, build up Ashby House, and purchase lands, and lend no money to the Lord Chamberlain, who would have all, and your life from you. Remember his son, the Lord Waldon, what entertainment he gave me, when you were at the Tilly-yard. If you were dead, he said he would be a husband, and a father, and a brother to me, and said he would marry me. I protest I grieve to see the poor man have so little wit and honesty, to use his friends so vilely. Also, he fed me with untruths concerning the Charter-House; but that is the least: he wished me much harm—you know how. God keep me and you from him, and any such as he is.

So now that I have declared to you what it is, I would have, and what it is I would not have, I pray you, when you be an Earl, you will allow me 2,000L more than I now desire, and double attendance. Your loving wife,

ELIZA COMPTON.

We learn by an extract from a late London paper, that Lady H. L. Stanhope, niece of the late Mr. Pitt, now lives a sort of monastic life on Mount Lebanon, and refuses to see any of her countrymen. Lady S is about 40 years of age, and is, perhaps, one of the most extraordinary characters of the present day. She abandoned the company of the first families in England, and allied herself to the Arabs, of which she was afterwards appointed chief. This may be reckoned amongst one of those obliquities of the human mind that would be disbelieved if found in the pages of Romance.—Balt. Morn. Chron.