

The cackling of geese once saved the Roman capital, and so often does our fate depend on causes, apparently the most trivial, that, after having, in vain, tried various other means, I am not without the hope of this essay making my fortune.

If Dr. Johnson's father had been a tailor and not a bookseller, it is possible that this illustrious lexicographer had never become an author; and Dr. Franklin might not have arisen to eminence, if he had been apprenticed to any other mechanical business than that of printing. That these were men of minds naturally strong, every body acknowledges; but, who will deny that external circumstances contributed to the development of their intellectual powers, and that thus, they, in great measure, owed their celebrity to causes not within their control as individuals, or, in other words, to fortune? Hundreds of Samuel Johnsons and Benjamin Franklins now languish in obscurity, who, without the like happy concurrence of circumstances, must live neglected, and die unknown.

The case of morals is analogous to that of intellect. Under certain circumstances, Nero might have been a Howard, and Borgia a Benezet; and the two philanthropists might have surpassed all their predecessors in wickedness, if the former had been of the imperial family of Rome, and the latter the illegitimate son of a Pope. Having the same accidents of birth, education, and country, John Wesley had, perhaps, acted the part of Voltaire, and Voltaire have been the patriarch of the Methodists, being son to the vicar of Epworth. In exchanging external circumstances, George Fox and Jean Jacques Rousseau might have exchanged characters: the former have published such books as the New Heloise, and the latter have spent his life in disseminating the principles of Quakerism.

The external circumstances which have more effect in determining the various conditions of man, than any original diversity in their moral, intellectual, or physical conformation, are, as I have already intimated:

First, the time and place of their birth. Secondly, their parentage and family connections.

Thirdly, their education.

These suffice to form their personal character, after which their fortune, as far as it then depends on external circumstances, is principally influenced by the nature of the government under which they live, and the society with which they associate. The effect of the two causes, last enumerated, is so immense, as often to counteract completely the operations of personal character. We see a young man, industrious, frugal, prudent, enterprising and economical, but we cannot prognosticate that he will rise to wealth. We know, indeed, that the virtues, which belong to him, are what increase the wealth of the community; but, circumstances, over which he has no control, as an individual, may deprive him of all his earnings. We see another young man virtuous and intelligent; but, we cannot with certainty predict that he will attain to honours;—the wickedness or folly of others may condemn him to obscurity or cover him with ignominy. In like manner we know not, but that the causes which deprive virtue and talents of their just reward, may give opulence to the idle and extravagant, and celebrity to the profligate and the doltish. By the agency of government and society, so often is the effect of the actions of individuals diverted from the individuals with whom they originate, that, from our knowledge of his character, we cannot foretell the fortune of any man whatever. So capriciously, indeed, do riches and honours appear to be distributed among men, that the ancients represent the being as blind whom they supposed to deal out the lot of life according to her humour; and so great and so sudden are the vicissitudes of human affairs, that they gave her for her throne a wheel that never stands still. A single revolution of this wheel raises us to the zenith of prosperity, or sinks us to the nadir of adversity; and God only knows whose turn it will be, to be next exalted or next depressed.

As in all cases in which events depend upon a multiplicity of circumstances, in proportion as we extend our views from particulars to generals, and from individuals to communities, human affairs exhibit more and more a steady subject for philosophical examination, and furnish a greater number of general conclusions to guide our conjectures concerning what is future and contingent. General causes produce general effects. We know that industry and economy are what produce wealth, and that idleness and extravagance are what occasion poverty. We also know that, in certain lands, they who labour hardest and live most frugally, have the least of this world's wealth, while they who do not labour at all, have the greatest number of enjoyments;—and, moreover, we know to a certainty, that, in whatever land this is the state of affairs, fortune must, in some strange way, greatly favour the latter at the expense of the former. No effect, however, is produced without a cause. The industrious may be deprived of the produce of their labour by circumstances not within their person-

al control; but these circumstances must be directed, and a power to control them must exist somewhere. And, furthermore, this much is certain, what these circumstances are, and where this power exists, if no enquiry be instituted, will never be discovered.

I sincerely wish that I could call the attention of the good people of the United States to a due consideration of the nature of fortune, (i. e. of the present state of affairs and its causes.) They may depend upon it that speculations on this subject would prove no less useful than amusing. Much as she has been neglected of late, of so great importance was Fortune among the ancients, that they deified her. As before observed, they gave her a wheel for her throne, and covered her eyes with a bandage. Those, who are accustomed to regard the events of the world with a philosophic eye, must immediately perceive, that truth furnished the materials, out of which fancy formed the picture, and all mankind are ready to acknowledge that justice and reason have never yet torn the bandage from the eyes of Fortune.

The Christian religion not admitting a plurality of gods, on the decline of the heathen mythology our fickle goddess shared the fate of the other deities of the Pantheon and Areopagus; but the vulgar in modern times entertain ideas with regard to the various conditions of men, but little more rational than those of the populace of Rome and Athens. By ascribing every thing to fortune, a man is represented as destitute of power to control any circumstance whatever. Another vague notion of fortune, seeming to suppose effects without causes, is absurd, if not atheistical. To do away these errors, the philosophers gave sanction to another equally great, in asserting, after Appian, that every man is the maker of his own fortune.

What doctrine was it the wish of Dr. Young to inculcate by the following couplet?

"Look into those who are call'd unfortunate,
"And, closer view'd, you'll find them all unwise."

Here the reverend Doctor makes a wise man and a fortunate man one and the same thing; but, Lord Bacon tells us that "a fortunate man must have something of the fool and not too much of the honest in him." How the opinions of the great sometimes clash!

Some, considering that, in the vulgar acceptance of the term, there is no such thing as fortune, propose that the word should be blotted from our vocabularies; and, I should have no objection to this procedure, provided it could be shown that the condition of every man is wholly uninfluenced by circumstances beyond his personal control. Others, on account of the various and discordant significations different people give to it, think our language would be benefited by a rejection of the disputed dissyllable; but, so long as we can attach definite ideas to it, I cannot see the propriety of this verbal excision; for, during the present topsyturvy state of affairs, no word is more convenient.

In calling the attention of the good people of these United States to the consideration of Fortune, till a better definition be offered, I should like them to consider it, as "that concurrence of causes or circumstances, beyond our control, which influences or determines our fate or condition of life." This may apply to us either as individuals or as a nation. Certain circumstances, however, not within our control in our private capacity, may be within our control as a community. The influence of government is universally acknowledged to be very great; and, as in a republican country, every man has some share in the government, as far as this influence extends, every man has it in his power to make, not only his own fortune, but that of his neighbour also, in exact proportion to the share which he has in the government. Never, not even for a moment, losing sight of these truths, I should like the good people of these United States duly to ponder upon the vast variety of conditions among us. Some of us are poor, some rich, some virtuous, some vicious. It would be well if we could discover how far the riches or poverty, the virtue or vice of each individual is owing to himself, and how far to others. How far the circumstances, which produce this diversity of conditions, are within our control as a community, and how far this great inequality of fortune has been caused by the unequal operation of the laws.

—If so be that there is in the United States any idle, profligate, extravagant man that is rich;—if so be that there is any industrious, frugal, prudent, enterprising man that is poor;—if so be that there is any worthless wretch living in honour or celebrity, or any worthy man in disgrace or obscurity;—I say, supposing, merely for the sake of a case, that any thing so contrary to what we, in reason, believe to be the natural connection of cause and effect, should exist in the United States, it would be well if we could discover what the fortunate concurrences are that give to vice the reward due to virtue, and what the unfortunate that inflict upon virtue the penalty which is properly incurred only by vice.

MERLIN.

FOREIGN.

Five days later from Liverpool.

NEW-YORK, OCT. 31.

The ship Orion, Capt. Davis, which was left at Liverpool, to sail in 3 or 4 days after the Hercules, is below.

Half past one.—Our boat has just come up from the Orion. She left Liverpool in the afternoon of the 21st September, and has brought no newspapers. The Captain informs, that although it rained several days after the Hercules left Liverpool, yet the crops were not as much injured as was at first apprehended. Markets not materially changed since last advices.

CHARLESTON, OCT. 27.

FALL OF CARTHAGENA.

By the British brig Neptune, captain King, arrived at this port yesterday, in 23 days from Jamaica, we have received papers from thence to the 2d inst. inclusive. We copy the following important intelligence from the Kingston Courant of the 2d October:—

"By the schr. John, we have received accounts of the city of Carthagena having capitulated on the 25th ult. to the Independents. On the 26th, col. Miguel Martinez, aid-de camp to gen. Montilla, arrived express at Savanilla, from Torbaço, with the above intelligence, and with an order for all vessels in Savanilla to discharge their cargoes and proceed to Carthagena to take the governor, (general Torres) and the garrison of that fortress to Cuba. The schr. Bristol, Hall, and sloop Greyhound, Henderson, were both taken possession of in consequence, and an officer and fifteen soldiers put on board each, with directions to call off Santa Martha. When off that port, they fell in with his Majesty's brig Nautilus, capt. Chapman, who sent the soldiers on shore, and ordered the vessels to return to Savanilla, and take in their cargoes which were ready, after which, they were to sail for this port. On their going back to Savanilla, they were seized and sent away, under the protection of two gun-boats, for Bocca Chica, from whence it was expected they would take the Spanish troops on board, and depart immediately for St. Jago de Cuba.

"The schr. Perthshire, Ferres, was relanding her cargo at Savanilla, and would be obliged to go to Carthagena, to take in troops for Cuba.

"We learn, that gen. Montilla, previous to the capitulation of Carthagena, had bombarded that city, from the Popa, and had occasioned much injury to it from the fire of six long guns and two mortars."

FALL OF LIMA.

The editors of the Washington Gazette learn by a letter, dated from La Guayra, October 8, that official advice had been transmitted from the Vice President of Cundinamarca, (or New Granada,) to the Vice President of Venezuela, that Lord Cochrane's squadron had entered the port of Callao, in consequence of the capture of Lima, &c. by Gen. San Martin.—The gentleman adds:

"An expedition of all the English troops in Caracas, say 300, and 200 Creoles, embarked on board two vessels of war, 3 transports, on the 5th inst. and sailed the same day from this port, their destination unknown; but I conjecture they are bound to Panama, via St. Martha, where they will receive a reinforcement of 1500 or 2000 men, and perhaps will be commanded by General BOLIVAR, in person, as by the last accounts he was on his march for that place. I have reason also to believe, that a force from Guayaquil, commanded by Colonel Diego Ybarra, will co-operate in the capture of Panama, the fall of which I consider certain in all this month."

CHARLESTON, OCT. 31.

CAPTURE OF THE PIRATES!

By the schr. Mary-Ann, Capt. HILLARD, arrived yesterday, we received a Havana paper of the 24th inst. from which we have translated the following highly pleasing article:

"Havana, October 24th, 1821.

"Arrived from Liverpool, the American ship Lucies, Capt. MISSROON. On the 16th, this ship was taken possession of by the famous pirates who cruise off Cape St. Antonio, and as these picaroons were about plundering her, the U. S. brig Enterprize, fortunately hove in sight, and succeeded in capturing the piratical fleet, consisting of four schooners and one sloop. The sea robbers had the audacity to hoist their red flag. Besides the vessels captured, there was an open boat attached to the same gang, which effected her escape.—The prizes have been sent to Charleston, where the crews will be tried. The ship was brought in by a midshipman of said U. S. brig.

We have been horror struck by the depredations and piracies lately committed by these buccaneers, and we congratulate the mercantile world on the capture of those unprincipled men, the more particularly, as by their apprehension, important discoveries will be made, by

which we will find out who are their companions, who their protectors, and by whom fitted out; together with other interesting information."

Another Account.

We have been politely favoured with the following extract from the Log-Book of the ship Lucies, Cap. MISSROON, which was received yesterday in a letter from Capt. M. dated Havana, 24th Oct.

"Tuesday, Oct. 16—At 5, A. M. when hauling round Cape Antonio, saw a large brig ashore on the Cape; and when we came abreast of her, she hailed us, saying, this is the Aristides, of Boston, from Liverpool, taken by the pirates two days since, and run ashore by them. At that instant, we were fired at by a pirate, and shortly after was boarded by her, three others in company, all under Spanish colors. As soon as they got on board, they drew their sabres, cocked their blunderbusses, and drove us all below. After they had possessed themselves of our (officers and passengers) watches and other valuables, with blunderbusses at our breasts, threatening instant death in case of refusal, they then proceeded to break open the trunks of dry goods in the steerage; in the mean time liberated some of our crew to bring the ship to anchor, which they did in three fathoms water. While we were confined in the cabin, we saw from the windows a large schooner and brig, standing close round the cape, which appeared to be armed vessels; the brig at this time being near to the Aristides, taking off her crew, fired at one of the pirates that had run down from us in that direction. Our captors, on seeing this, precipitately left us, and began to tow and sweep their vessels in shore. At 8, the large schooner came up with and hailed us, under the Colombian flag; enquired if we had been taken by the pirates, and being answered in the affirmative, instantly opened a well-directed fire upon them from a 24 pounder. When the firing had ceased, she again hailed us to say if the brig astern did not prove to be an American man-of-war, on our hoisting our signal, she would immediately come to her assistance—she then hailed off. This vessel prove to be the Colombian schr. La Centilia, commanded by Charles C. Hopner. About 9, the brig, which proved to be the U. S. brig Enterprize, came up with us, and enquired if we had got possession of our ship again? Being answered yes, Capt. Kearney demanded all the boats and men we could spare, to go in pursuit of the pirates; and in less than ten minutes, five armed boats left the Enterprize, pulling after them—About 11, the boats being near to the schrs. the largest one being full of dry goods, was set fire to by themselves, and abandoned. About half past 11, she was in a blaze to the mast-head, all sail being set. At meridian she blew up. So ends this day.

Wednesday, Oct. 17.—Begins with heavy squalls, thunder lightning and rain. At 4, P. M. cleared up. Saw coming round the Point, (Mangrove Point on the chart) the other two schrs. and a sloop, (no longer pirates) with American colors at their mast-heads, prizes to the Enterprize. At 9, was boarded by Capt. Hopner, supplied him with sundry articles of provisions, which he would not accept of on any other terms than paying even more than was demanded for them. At 10, Captain Kearney boarded us, from whom we learn that the Aristides will be totally lost; her rudder and stern post is torn off, and four feet water in the hold. The British brig Larch, of St. Andrews, from Kingston for Havana, was taken at the same time we were, and re-taken by the Enterprize. After Capt. Kearney had dispatched the boats after the pirates yesterday, he stood round the Cape with the brig to the southward, and there captured another of the robbers, who had taken a French brig the day before, bound to Campeachy."

New Store.

GEORGE SEELYE, & Co.

HAVE lately opened a large assortment of European and Domestic Goods, in the Store lately occupied by Fitch & Barker as a Shoe Store, where goods will be sold at the following reduced prices, viz:

Ginghams at 12 1-2 cents per yard.

Calicoes at 17 cents per yard.
Domestic Shirting at 15 cents per yard.

Plains, Cassimers and Broad Cloths from 45 cents to \$7 50 per yard—of an excellent quality.

Together with an extensive assortment of DRY GOODS equally as low. Country Merchants can be supplied on reasonable terms.

Newbern, Oct. 27, 1821—188wi.

Economy is Wealth.

FOR CHEAP GOODS GO TO

T. W. PITTMAN'S

CHEAP STORE,

CRAVEN-STREET,

Nearly opposite the Newbern Bank,

WHERE MAY BE FOUND

Goods of every Description

CHEAP FOR CASH.

Ginghams at 12 1-2 cts pr. yd

Calicoes, 16 cents per yard

Domestick Shirtings, 14 cts.

Hdkfs, 20 cents.

Plains Cassimers & Broad

cloths, from 40 cents upwards.

ALSO,

A quantity of SHOES, at 30 cents,

Together with

A GENERAL ASSORTMENT OF

Fresh Dry Goods,

FANCY GOODS, &c.

BOOTS & SHOES, of every

description,

Ladies', Gentlemen's, & Children's

Beaver Hats,

Saddles, Bridles, Trunks,

FOWLING PIECES, RIFLES, &c.

AND

A GENERAL ASSORTMENT OF

GROCERIES.

ALSO,

2 very handsome STICK GIGS,

4 light, One Horse WAGGONS,

A NUMBER OF

LOW PRICED PLOUGHS,

Fancy & Windsor Chairs,

And a small invoice of

FURNITURE.

November 3d, 1821.—189

Henry Dewey,

HAS removed directly opposite his former Store, on the Old County Wharf, and has received from New-York an assortment of

Dry Goods & Groceries,

Hardware & Cutlery.

Crockery & Glass ware,

&c &c.

Which he will sell on reasonable terms.

October 27—188.

THE SUBSCRIBER

HAS JUST IMPORTED FROM PHILADELPHIA

A large and general assortment of

DRY GOODS,

HARDWARE and GRO-

CERIES,

Which he offers for sale at reduced prices.

A L S O,

Ten Crates Crockery,

And an elegant assortment of

COMMON & CUT GLASS—very low.

ON CONSIGNMENT—

100 boxes, 50 feet 8 by 10 Window

Glass, \$ 5 per box.

80 ditto, 50 feet, 10 by 12, \$ 6 25

50 Kegs Snuff, 25 cents per bottle.

He also offers for Sale.

ONE FIRST QUALITY PHILADELPHIA MADE

GIG,

And one ditto SULKEY—Also,

Two first rate young

HORSES,

well broke to harness, and go well

under the Saddle.

Wanted to Purchase,

THREE THOUSAND BUSHELS

Palma Christa Seed,

For which the highest price will

be given.

WILLIAM DJINN.

Newbern, October 19, 1821—187.

Spanish Segars.

JUST received, and for sale by

the Subscriber, a few Th usand

first quality SPANISH SEGARS.

George A. Hall.

Newbern, Nov. 3.