

THOUGHTS ON THE PRESIDENCY. No 4.

The consequences which would follow from the election of a Military President.

It is dangerous to our liberty, as well as destructive to our trade, to encourage great numbers of our people to engage in the profession of arms, so as to depend on that alone for their livelihood. A soldier, who has no other way of living can never be a good subject especially in a free country.

It has been shown that the exclusive appointment of military officers to civil trusts, will be the leading policy of a military President; and that General Jackson would be urged to the adoption by a consistent regard for the principle which would be established by his own election--by the sympathies existing among military men--and by the strong impulses of his nature, of which he has given unequivocal indications in the patronage already lavished upon his military associates.

The injustice of this policy, not only to individuals, but to the classes of society now within the pale of the favored profession, would be its least evil. Its inevitable tendency would be to urge us onward--first to war, and then to despotism.

The character of nations, like that of individuals, is often formed by circumstances apparently trivial, and perhaps no circumstance has more weight than the general estimation in which arts and professions are held by those who give the law to public opinion. In Spain, agriculture and commerce have been considered incompatible with the dignity of the Castilian character; and the sons of nobles, engaging in trade, would be ranked among the lowest of the vulgar, and deemed unworthy of association among the dignitaries of the land. The consequence has been that agriculture and commerce are there despised and neglected, and Spain, with a fertile soil, numerous ports, and a favorable position, has become impoverished, even with the aid of mines of gold and silver. In Great Britain, wealth confers respectability and power; commerce, as the means of acquisition, is held in esteem; and the wealthy merchant, ranking with the peer, is often raised to the highest honors. The consequence was, that Rome became a military Republic; the army was the only road to civil trusts; a Roman who aspired to the Consulship, was necessitated to march through fields of blood; and war was the honorable trade of individuals and the State. He, therefore, who has the distribution of public honors and emoluments, is in his power to contribute greatly to the formation of the character of an infant People; he decides upon the qualifications entitled to preference, gives the law to what should be considered honorable or base, and imparts the impulse that pervades society. All must, then, for see that the policy of a military President, being similar in its principle to the law of Rome, will produce the same result. And whenever military service shall be considered the sole passport to Executive favor; whenever offices of honor and emolument shall be conferred, exclusively or generally, on those who shall exhibit the "brightest intellect" in military action; the young, the ardent, and the ambitious, considering the active elements of society, will eagerly desire to engage in the military profession, and military service will be demanded by the voice of the country.

And how will this voice be received by those who, from filling exalted stations, and wielding the Executive power, will be enabled, in so great a degree, to stamp their opinions on the public mind? Can any one imagine that this voice will be suppressed by the successful General, whose elevation has been the reward of military service? Can it fail to be hailed with delight? Let history be examined, and experience decide. With the exception of perhaps a single individual, who stands by himself in the history of mankind, and who, indeed, was not so much a soldier, as a statesman, can any instance be found of a successful soldier, raised to supreme Executive authority, who has not inflamed the martial ardor of the People, found pretexts for the exercise of his military skill? Would it not be madness to think that a soldier, accustomed to the excitements of victory and battle, and who supposed himself able greatly to control the question of peace or war, would long be contented with the calm of peace? Placed in a state for which he was not designed by nature; unable to preserve his reputation or benefit his country; dependent upon men whom he mistook or despised; surrounded by his own expians, prostitute pangrivers, and his going sophists--foxes that fondle tigers--could he brook a state of peace in which he would find nothing but comparative indignity and oblivion? Would he be solicitous to avoid a war by which his own talents would be displayed, and his superiority to those around him once more regained? Could he resist the temptation to hasten its approach as the great means of imparting lustre to his administration, and associating his name with brilliant achievements? To place a soldier, destitute of civil merit, in the expectation that peace would be preserved, would, in my judgment, be as wise as to invest the wolf with the shepherd's apparel, and the shepherd's staff. He might assume the maxims of peace while it suited his purpose, but his native character would remain unchanged.

Let no one suppose it to be my intention to ascribe to General Jackson a disposition to promote objects of ambition, by the sacrifice of the interests of his country. Although his friends have considered him the "ruler of our destinies," a term I disapprove, because implying the possession of absolute power--I am willing to believe that he entertains no design hostile to liberty or peace. But it is a law of our nature to be impelled by motives, the existence of which, while obvious to others, may be unknown to ourselves; and, from the operation of this law, General Jackson is not exempt. It is from the known influence of motives upon the decisions of men, according to their predominant character, that any calculation can be made upon human action. Hence we anticipate, with confidence, that he will act liberal and compassionate, will frequently embark in benevolent designs; and that a man actuated wholly by passion, will as frequently commit acts which reason must condemn. For the same reason we may expect that if our President be suspicious, he will inflame our party; if passionate, he will enlarge our party; and if inclined to war, he will rarely fail to bring war upon his country.

But, perhaps it may be thought that the Executive will be unable, if disposed, to involve us in a war, since the power to declare war has been confided to Congress. This suggestion would have more weight, had not the power to negotiate with foreign nations and the command of the military force been confided to the Executive. In the exercise of the first, an offence may be given; by employing the second an aggression may be committed. Reparation must be required of the Executive by whom the injury may have been committed or authorized; and pride and resentment may widen the breach which conciliation and avoidance might have closed. What then will it avail that Congress shall refrain from declaring war against others? They have no right to determine what another State should consider due to its honor or interest, and no power to prevent a declaration against us; and thus may a single individual, invested with power, kindle a war, blighting the happiness of millions.

If therefore, we only consider the consequences, flowing from the principle that military service shall be deemed an indispensable prerequisite to civil appointments; and reflect on the motives by which a military President would be impelled to escape from a state of peace, rendered irksome and degrading, to one of war, in which he would find scope for the display of his military talent, all must admit that under his administration, war would at least be a probable event. But the probability is increased almost to certainty; when we call to our minds the character of Gen Jackson, which has marked the public conduct of Gen Jackson, in various stations to which he has been called, and his entire destitution of that moderation, without which no Executive Magistrate can adjust the conflicting interests--always arising among commercial nations, or diminish the causes of devastating wars. He who in private life delights in extremes, and decides every difference with the sword, will seldom be guided, in public life, by the dictates of reason or moderation; and, if exalted to power, will be prone to think of no arbiter but that of force. If, while exercising only a limited command, we have seen General Jackson advancing into the territory of a friendly power, without authority from his Government, and taking forcible military possession of the posts of Spain; if in addition to the violation of territorial rights, we have seen him wounding the honor of Spain in the most sensitive points by arresting the Representative of her Sovereignty, who if not then acting had acted as her Agent in giving up possessions of a ceded territory and was entitled to courtesy, if not immunity, forcing him from bed in the dead of night, with threats of a confinement in prison & when called upon by his Government to justify his conduct, defending himself on the ground that he had the same right to coerce the acting Agent of Spain to do his duty, that his Government had to compel by war, a compliance with treaty stipulations; thus divesting Congress of the exclusive power to make war, by assuming the right to make war on a diplomatic agent; if we have seen the Executive of our Union, willing to palliate but unable to justify, these transactions, compelled to acknowledge before the world that the friendly relations with Spain were only preserved by the immediate abandonment of the posts which had been conquered without authority; and indirectly reproving him for his rashness by referring him to Vattel, and explaining the immunities to which Ministers or Agents of other nations were entitled; if we have seen the Representatives of the People and the States filled, more than once, with grief and indignation at his wanton prostration of individual rights, State sovereignties, constitutional law, and judicial authority; if we have seen the same general evincing as little respect for the constituted authorities of his own country as he had shown for the agent of a foreign Power, when surrounded by his soldiery in a distant territory; if while an inquiry into the legality of his military conduct was pending, we have seen him endeavoring to inflame the passions of the People against the conduct of his Constitutional Judges; if we have seen him charging a Committee composed of the most honorable, vigorous and intelligent Senators, who had acted by the commands of the Senate, who were clothed with their authority and entitled with their protection, with malignant, factious, and corrupt motives, with unbecoming their powers, mistaking facts, suppressing testimony, assailing his reputation from a settled spirit of hostility, and making against him foul accusations without proof or probability; if while his own conduct was still the subject of constitutional inquiry, we have seen him addressing the Senate in the form of a memorial, arraigning the conduct of their Committee before his bar, and in a tone of supercilious authority, informing that body representing the States of the Union, and by whose authority he held his commission that they ought to have considered the conduct of their Committee as derogatory to the duties imposed on them; thus not only deliberately insulting the Senate through their Committee, and the Union through their Senate, but declaring to the whole what they ought, and what they ought not to do, and that his acts must not be questioned; if we have seen a legislator in the discharge of duties imposed by the Constitution for the security of the Rights and Liberties of the People, compelled to resort to defensive weapons to protect his person against the threatened violence of this Military Commander;--what may we not expect when he shall have no superior to control him and every passion shall find greater provocatives and fewer restraints from the possession of still higher powers? Can the most sanguine mind anticipate any thing but turbulence and war?

If this were a time of war, some pretext might be urged for elevating a soldier to the Chief Magistracy of the Union, whose military exploits are his only recommendation. His friends might then assure us, without taxing the credulity of the public, that he would exercise the extraordinary qualifications ascribed to him by Mr. M'Duff; indeed, by a natural and easy extension of his avowed principles, he might declare every man within the United States, soldier or citizen, native or foreigner, to be subject to martial law, and, therefore, liable to be ordered into the field, or to be banished from the country; and should any one question in a public print the legality of his order, he might cause the culprit to be arrested, confined in prison, and tried for a "libel," or "mutiny," or "domestic treason," before a Court Martial composed of dependent officers of his own selection. In this way a foreign enemy might be expelled at the hazard or the loss of liberty. But surely a remedy always dangerous and often destructive, should be reserved for a state of disease. In peace, a time of health, the Military Chief, so expert in finding pretexts for the exercise of arbitrary power; disposed to magnify expostulation into treason; preferring Courts Martial to Jury trial and Courts of Common Law, even for the trial of an alleged libel against himself; disapproving the sentence of his favorite Tribunal and pronouncing guilty, and committing their milder sentences for those of death; who, from his own showing, would imprison the Ambassador of a foreign Power with as little compunction as he would invade her soil or meet an enemy; who would betray an infatuation never quelled by a community of intelligent freemen. Dangerous as it might prove to personal liberty, and the pacific relations with foreign powers, it would be still more fatal by its example. It would subvert the pacific policy so essential to our prosperity, establish the precedent of a military succession to the Presidential chair; and declare that, misled by the glare of military renown, the American People, heretofore characterized for wisdom, are ready to entail upon themselves and their posterity, the multiplied calamities which follow the car of Ambition and Conquest.

WYTHE.

Oxford Academies.

THE examination of the Male Academy begins on Monday the 12th of Nov. and the Report will be read Wednesday morning; immediately after which that of the Female Academy will take place, and the exercises will close on Friday evening with a musical exhibition. The attendance of all interested is respectfully solicited. The winter session of these institutions opens on Monday 7th Jan'y. 1828. The Male under the care of J. D. Johnson as heretofore. The Female under that of the Rev. Jos. Labaree. A. BURTON, Sec'y.

The Edenton Gazette, Norfolk Herald, and Petersburg Intelligencer, will publish the above three weeks and forward their accounts, to the Post Master of this place. Oxford, Oct. 20th, 1827. 11 3w

Raleigh Register. FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 9, 1827.

Swamp Lands.--An act was passed at the last session of our Legislature, directing the Board of Internal Improvements to have surveyed the present year, certain Marshes and Swamps, for the purpose of ascertaining the practicability of draining them, with a view to their cultivation. To carry these instructions into effect, the Board contracted with an Engineer from New-York, by the name of NASH, who since June last, has surveyed the Swamp lands lying on the head of White Oak River, in the counties of Jones and Onslow; those about Catfish Lake, in Craven county; those east of the Cluffnut & Harlow Creek Canal, in Carteret county; those about Durham's Creek in Beaufort county, and those between the Albermarle and Pamlico Sounds, including the greater parts of the counties of Hyde, Tyrrel and Washington. Mr. Brazier has likewise made a survey of the Big Swamp in Bladen county. The result of these surveys proves, what we have always believed, that North-Carolina possesses a mine of wealth in her Swamp Lands, which if rightly managed, may be made a source of great and lasting revenue, to the State. Instead of being the abodes of wild beasts and reptiles and the receptacles of stagnant water, which spread disease and death for one third of the year, these Marshes may be converted into fruitful fields, and be made the delightful habitations of man.

But few individuals have any idea of the vast quantity of land in this State comprehended in the term, Swamp Land. It is estimated from pretty correct data, that the state owns one million five hundred thousand acres of land of this character, and that nearly a million more are owned by individuals! The whole of this, now worse than useless property, is susceptible of effectual reclamation, and at a comparatively trifling cost. Mr. Nash informs us, that he saw reclaimed land in Beaufort county, which had often been three feet under water, producing from 13 to 16 barrels of corn to the acre. This land before it was drained was offered for sale, at twenty-five cents per acre, and no purchaser could be found. After deducting the expense of cultivation, it will pay the interest of six per cent. upon about \$250 per acre. In almost every instance, after draining these Swamps, there remains reposing on the clay bottom, a vegetable compost from eight to twenty-four inches in thickness.

Mr. Nash mentions a most extraordinary fact, relative to the Swamp Lands between the Albemarle & Pamlico Sounds. He says, this tract of country is surpassed by none in point of fertility, and is of greater extent, than some of the sovereign States of our Union, and if reclaimed and put under cultivation would support a population of one hundred thousand inhabitants! When under cultivation, these lands not only produce the largest and most luxuriant crops of Corn, Cotton, Tobacco, Rice, Wheat, Potatoes, Hops, Oats, Indigo, &c. but are peculiarly adapted to the growth of Hemp, and to the culture of the Vine and Mulberry. When it is recollected that several hundred thousand dollars are annually sent from this State, for the purchase of Cordage for vessels, for Cotton Bagging, &c, the adaptation of this soil for the production of Hemp, is a weighty argument in favor of its reclamation.

Mr. Nash is at present engaged in making a survey of the Dismal Swamp. We anticipate a very interesting Report from him to the Board of Internal Improvements on this subject.

Mr. Markley.--This gentleman has at length published an address to the public, in relation to the alleged corrupt bargain between Messrs. Adams and Clay, and in reply to certain statements made by Messrs. Buchanan, Isaacs and Eaton. He disowns, as we expected, in the most decided manner, any agency or authority, other than as expressing his own individual wishes for the election of General Jackson to the Presidency, and the appointment of Mr. Clay to the office of Secretary of State. He denies that he had any correspondence or communication with Mr. Clay on the subject, or with any person on his behalf, or otherwise, except in the ordinary conversations which were common to the members of Congress in their intercourse with one another. He declares that he was "originally friendly to the election of General Jackson to the Presidency." "I voted for him in the Democratic Caucus of 1824, & subsequently not only gave him my vote, but used my best exertions by every fair and honourable means, to promote his election to the Presidential Chair." How ridiculous the supposition then, that he should be engaged in an intrigue, for the benefit of Mr. Clay. A point of some importance is established by Mr. Markley in the detail which he gives of his conversation with Mr. Isaacs, viz: "Further, Mr. Isaacs

declared his belief, in which I concurred, that a large portion of the western delegation, from the unreserved conversation we had had on the subject, wished Mr. Clay to be Secretary of State, in which desire they were joined by a large portion of the delegation from other States friendly to General Jackson's election. It is indeed a well known fact, that amongst the friends of all the candidates there was much speculation on the subject, much was said unreservedly and with much zeal and good humor on the subject of Cabinet appointments; that if this, or that, candidate succeeded to the Presidency, the general voice was raised in favor of, and the general eye fixed upon, that distinguished Statesman and inflexible Republican, Henry Clay, as the first officer of the government; and I now sincerely believe that whichever of the candidates had been elected, he would have had the offer of the most prominent situation in the Cabinet, that which he now holds under Mr. Adams."

So it seems, that such was the confidence which Gen. Jackson had in the "arch intriguer," that he would if he had been successful, offered him, the Secretaryship of State. Another fact asserted by Mr. Markley, and adverted to by us, a short time since, sufficient to repel the idea that he took any peculiar interest as to the arrangements dependant on who might, or might not, be elected President; and that is, that he left Washington for Pennsylvania on the morning of the 11th or 12th of January, 1825, and did not return until Tuesday the 30th of the same month, the day after Mr. Clay's Card had appeared in the National Intelligencer.

The perusal of this Address must irresistibly force the conclusion upon the public mind, that the charge made by Gen. Jackson against Mr. Clay, is unfounded. Mr. Markley gives the following reasons for the publication of his Address:--

Mr. Buchanan, Mr. Isaacs and Major Eaton have thought proper to bring my name before the public, as that of a person implicated, or in some way concerned, in an attempt to induce General Jackson to give a certain pledge, or pledges, as to a certain appointment it would be his duty to make in the event of his election as President of the United States. One consequence of the publications of these gentlemen has been that they have given rise to a torrent of abuse and calumny, which has been directed against me. It is not however for the purpose of averting this polluted stream, or of noticing those who have cast into it their mite of slander, that I sit down. My object is of a higher nature; a desire to do myself justice, and as far as my best recollection and judgment shall permit, to spread the truth, and the whole truth before my fellow-citizens. I do not hope by any thing I can say, however satisfactory and conclusive, to propitiate any of my enemies, personal or political; nor shall I, for that, or any other purpose, turn from a full and fair examination of such parts of the letters of the gentlemen who have imposed upon me this unpleasant duty. As relates to myself, I could have wished to have been spared this appeal, but it is no longer a matter of choice. I might have been persuaded to permit the errors and inaccuracies of Mr. Buchanan and Mr. Isaacs, arising from a want of recollection, to pass unnoticed; and, from a desire to be at peace I might even have been content to overlook their unkindness; but, when Major Eaton, on their showing, presumes to call me "the negotiator," in what he represents to be a corrupt transaction, I am imperatively bound to speak, and I will speak that which I do know to be true. Let the blame and condemnation fall where it is merited, but not on me.

If these were not motives sufficiently powerful, there is another which would determine me. An effort is making by the use, and the abuse, of my name, to wound the characters of some of our ablest and most exalted citizens, and by accusations which I believe to be unfounded, and in which I am certain I bore no part, to sink them in public estimation; to cast them down from the heights which they have honorably attained, and in their places to put those whom I regard as having adopted principles and avowing a determination to pursue a course of policy, which I have no doubt would greatly affect the prosperity and happiness of the State of Pennsylvania and of the whole Union.

The proposition to go into an election for U. S. Senator from Tennessee, by the Legislature of that State, now in session, gave rise to considerable debate. Amongst the opponents of it, was Col. John Williams, formerly a Senator in Congress from the district now represented by Judge White, but now a member of that Legislature. The following are his concluding remarks:--

In all the organic features of our government, the will of the people when clearly ascertained prescribes the rule of action for their agents--this will is expressed through the medium of agents, some of whom are mediate and some immediate--the latter of whom return at short periods to the source from which they came. I have before remarked, that the Senate was the most aristocratic feature in our political edifice--for according to the provisions of the constitution (even when strictly observed) they are in some measure placed beyond the reach, or control of the people, for six years. If a reasonable doubt exists on the question of placing them 3 or 6 years beyond the control of the people, sound discretion should fix on the latter period. On such a question, will any one who is a republican in practice, as well as profession, hesitate for a moment? It is not sufficient for gentlemen to profess, if their practice is at variance with the true principles of republicanism--and I contend that a republican at heart, will not by construction extend and enlarge what is now the most aristocratic feature in the representative department of this government. In our own state, the rule was settled for many years, that no Senator should be re-elected until after the expiration of his term of service. Last year, that rule was departed from, by bringing on the re-election of the Senator from West Tennessee, before the expiration of his term of service. Without intending any disrespect to the gentlemen elected, I presume I may say, without the fear of contradiction--if that election had been postponed to the usual time and the people had been consulted on the subject, that the members of this legislature would have been instructed to choose another individual. The people had not expected the election to take place at the time it did--Sir, an appeal to my measure which is calculated to forestall public opinion. Having

departed from former usage in the instance here alluded to by going into the election one year in advance on the authority of that precedent, and to meet what is called the necessity of the times we are now called on to elect two years in advance. I warn you gentlemen to pause and for a moment contemplate the consequences to which this measure may lead--I am aware that every step taken by me and all my motives will be by some misanthropes and by others misinterpreted. But this I totally disregard--I will endeavor to maintain those public principles which have guided me through high life, and will never be driven before a vulgar breeze; however violent it may blow to violate either the spirit or letter of our constitution. Others have referred to the opinion of their constituents. This subject was freely discussed during my canvass, and I have the satisfaction to believe, that so far as I bear a personal expression of the will of my constituents on the subject, their opinion is in accordance with my own, I will therefore vote against the resolution.

At the Commemoration of the one hundred and fifty first Anniversary of the Landing of William Penn, the founder of Pennsylvania, a public dinner was given, to which Mr. Wirt the Attorney General of the United States was an invited guest. The fifth regular toast was:--

William Wirt, Esq. the learned and eloquent Attorney General of the United States.

Which having been drank, Mr. Wirt rose and spoke as follows:--

Mr. President: I understand that modern usage exacts something more of me in return for the very unexpected compliment I have received, than the simple bow and the heartfelt expression of thanks which were once the fashion; and that according to this usage, a speech is the only appropriate return for so direct and marked an honor. But I beg you to observe, Sir, that I am not a very young man, and that this usage, itself of foreign origin, (to say no more of it) has been very recently introduced among us, & long since my social habits and manners were formed. It might be thought presumptuous, perhaps affected, in me, to question whether this improved usage sits well upon us Republicans; but it will not, I hope, be thought so, to beg to be excused from making an attempt repugnant both to my judgment and taste. Besides Sir, were I otherwise disposed, I have no theme for the kind of speech which is in use on these occasions. Politics would be out of the question here; and I cannot speak of myself; for I have no injury to complain of, no services to boast, no talents to vaunt, no honors to court. With regard to myself, therefore, I have not poetic invention enough to find where to begin; and if to relieve myself from this embarrassment, I should turn to the company and look for a theme in the principles of the Association, in the merits of the great Founder of this State, and the rich inheritance he has bequeathed to me, I should experience a difficulty of an opposite kind; for I should not know where to end. In lieu of a speech, therefore, accept from me the old-fashioned return, which alone is natural and easy to me, the simple bow and the heartfelt expression of my thanks; and permit me, in my turn, to offer you as a toast,

WILLIAM PENN and his fair Daughter PENNSYLVANIA: He, the Great Patriarch, and She the beautiful and successful Patroness of the Arts of Peace."

We are informed that a singular trial took place, at the late term of the Superior Court of Burke County. A man who is estimated to be worth two hundred thousand dollars, was indicted for the crime of Forgery, & so conclusive was the evidence that the Jury convicted him. What is still more remarkable, the amount which this individual who has thus made shipwreck of his reputation, expected to gain was only thirty dollars. He has appealed to the Supreme Court.

Fayetteville Market.--Apple Brandy 52 to 55 cents per gal. Bacon 8 to 10 cts. Bagging 20 to 24 cents per yard. Coffee 16 to 18 cents. Candles 15 to 17 1/2 cts. Cotton 9 to 10 cents. Flax Seed, Rough, 80 to 85 cents per bushel. Flour 84 75. Iron 85 50 to 9 50 per cwt. Mosses 35 to 40 cents. Oats 25 to 30 cents per bushel and Sugar 10 to 11 cents. Salt, Liverpool 75 to 99 cents. Turkeys Island d 80 cents. Tobacco, Leaf \$325 to \$350.--Wheat 75 to 80 cts. Lime \$225 to 250 per cask. Whiskey 32 to 35 cents per gallon.

The indications are numerous and strong that De Witt Clinton aims at the Presidency. There can be no doubt that the New York Statesman is his organ; and that paper has proposed him in the most unequivocal terms. Regular meetings have been held for the purpose of organizing a party; others are said to be in contemplation; and we are informed by the Editor of the Statesman, that several steam-boat ballotings on North River have recently resulted in decided majorities in favor of the new candidate. The Evening Post and the Enquirer, the two Jackson Organs for the City of New York, condemn the course pursued by the Statesman, while the Jackson Paper in Albany ridicules the idea of bringing Clinton forward. The truth is, the Heroites calculate on the support of Clinton's friends, and Clinton calculates on the withdrawal of the Hero. Alexandria Phenix.

We understand that Commodore Thomas Tingey has, at his own request, been permitted to resign his seat at the Board of Navy Commissioners, and to resume the command of the Navy Yard in this city. Nat. Int.

A young lady year Leeds, Eng. died from drinking porter from a bottle, which it is supposed once contained Prussic acid, as some of that deadly poison was found upon the porter being analyzed. This shows the great importance of well washing old bottles.

A Sierra Leone paper, of Feb. 1st states, the Brazilian Invincible was lately captured with 440 human beings on board, 186 of whom died, before the vessel reached Sierra Leone. The same vessel carried 18 slaves in the previous voyage. And yet, it is said, that the slave trade is nearly abolished!