



Observe the plans of fair & delightful Peace,
Ugawp'd by party rage, to live like Bathers.

Historical Letters.

From the Virginia Argus.

LETTER VII.

Concerns... with the various and important objects connected with her history... continued.

WARS.

Among the wars of Greece that have been the most famous, we may reckon those of the Spartans and Messenians. — These were three mortal combats between these two powers and they all terminated in favor of Sparta. The first commenced towards the year 774 before Christ, lasted for 20 years, and concluded in the destruction of Ithome. — The second began towards the year 684 before Christ, endured for fourteen years and was terminated by the capture of Ithome. The third took place about the year before Christ 464 lasted for 14 years, and ended in the expulsion of the Messenians from Peloponnesus.

The wars of the Greeks with the Persians occupy a period of 50 years. The original cause of them is said to have been the ambition of Darius, excited by Hyphas, the son of Pisistratus, who took refuge in the Court of Persia after his banishment from Athens. This long continued war embraces three distinct epochs: 1. The expedition of Darius; 2. That of Xerxes; 3. And that of the Greeks against the Persians.

The expedition of Darius took place 490 years before Christ. This Prince (believed to be the Ahasuerus of Scripture, who influenced by Esther, revoked the sentence against the Jews, and confounded the wickedness of Haman) was one of the most illustrious Monarchs of Persia. Just, merciful, courageous and warlike, Darius, who had greatly extended the empire of his predecessors, by an unhappy destiny, saw his glories tarnished on the sterile shores of Attica. — He had subdued Thrace and Macedonia, but the conquest of Greece still remained to be achieved. Hyphas, driven from Athens, excited him with all his art to the enterprise, whilst the conduct of the Greeks themselves tended to irritate him to fury against their country. Having sent heralds into Greece to demand earth and water, that is to say, submission to his power, the Lacedemonians, in an atrocious spirit of irony interred one alive and drowned the other. The Athenians on their part, sacrificed the interpreter, for having said they, sulked the Greek Language with such a vile proposition. Darius, in his anger, expedited against Greece 110,000 men, commanded by Datis and Artaphernes. They at first took the Island of Euboea, burnt Eretria, and sent all the inhabitants in chains to Darius. They had in reserve a similar fate for the rest of Greece, which however was saved by a splendid victory. — The celebrated Miltiades, at the head of only ten thousand men, had the temerity to attack this multitude of Persians near the town of Marathon. He threw them entirely into confusion and left them no other refuge than the asylum which their vessels afforded, and which they gained with much difficulty. Hyphas perished. The Spartans did not arrive until the day after the battle, notwithstanding they had marched 46 leagues in three days in order to arrive at the field of action.

The expedition of Xerxes against the Greeks, took place about the year 481 before Christ. This prince, who was the son and successor of Darius, after seven years of immense preparation, and a strict alliance with the Carthaginians, who, on their side, undertook to attack the Greeks of Sicily and Italy, put himself in motion with almost an entire nation, to avenge the misfortunes of his father. — Herodotus, whose veracity, in this particular, may well be questioned, reckons five millions as the aggregate of that multitude of men which Xerxes assembled for the invasion of Greece. He crossed the Hellespont upon a bridge of boats, and his troops, as it is said, were seven days and seven nights in passing over. He pursued his march, without resistance, along the coasts of Thrace, of Macedonia, and of Thessaly, whilst his fleet keeping pace with his army, passed the Mount Athos, which Herodotus attests, Xerxes had the folly to cut. The Persian forces at length arrived at the defile of Thermopye, where there occurred another event of immortal celebrity. Leonidas and three hundred Spartans, for two days arrested the progress of the whole Persian army, and finally fell the victims more of treachery than of force, a Thracian having

shown to the troops of Xerxes a passage over the mountains. This defile of Thermopye is a strait between Mount Eta and the sea, about two leagues in length, and in no place more than 20 feet in width. It cost the Persians more than 20,000 men.

At the same time that the Persian king over-ran Phocia and Bœotia, he inundated with his myriads the territory of Attica, and arrived at Athens. The mistacles had sufficient influence to cause it to be abandoned. The entire population embraced the magnanimous resolution to embark on board their vessels, which conveyed them to the island of Salamis, opposite to the deserted city. The Persian barks, in defiance of tempests and of the repeated attacks of the Greeks in the vicinity of Eubœa, arrived at the same time in the neighborhood of Salamis. Xerxes, seated upon a throne, elevated above the shores of Athens, gave the signal for a sea fight, which he animated by his presence. Twelve hundred and seven vessels composed the Persian fleet, whilst the Greeks could barely reckon three hundred and eighty. Victory, however, declared for the latter. Their triumph was complete, having destroyed about 200 of the vessels of their enemy. Eurymedon, the Lacedemonian, commanded; Aristides was in the action; but Themistocles was the hero of the day.

After this event Xerxes did not conceive himself in very great safety, and leaving Mardonius with 453,000 Persians, he hastily returned to his kingdom, happy in being able to repass, in a small skiff, that same Hellespont which but lately had been covered with his boats.

Mardonius was not more fortunate than his master; he was beaten, killed on the plains of Plata in Bœotia, and his army destroyed. He was vanquished by the celebrated Pausanias; and the brilliance of his victory was increased by another not less glorious, for Leonitichydus, with the Grecian fleet, defeated that of the Persians at Mycale at the same time.

Expedition of the Greeks against the Persians.

The disasters of the Persians and the victories of the Greeks, rendered the latter aggressors in their turn. They over-ran the isles of the Egean sea and the coasts of Thrace, those of Ionia, carried off whatever belonged to the king of Persia, and broke the yoke of such as had reluctantly yielded to his domination. Pausanias, Themistocles, but, above all, Cimon gave to the Persians the most mortal blows. This latter has rendered himself forever renowned by his two victories in one day, upon two different elements. With an inferior squadron he destroyed the Persian fleet at the mouth of the Eurymedon, and landing in the face of the enemy's army, he attacked, beat, and dispersed it.

At length, Artaxerxes, weary of so unfortunate a war, terminated it by a peace which completed the glory of Greece. He consented that all the Greek cities of Asia should be free, that Persian vessels should not navigate the Egean sea, and that the latter power should not station any military force within three days' march of its coasts.

War of Peloponnesus.

This war commenced about the year before Christ, 431. It endured for 27 years, and the history of it is given to us by Thucydides. It partly originated in the revolting conduct of Athens, who was desirous of domineering arbitrarily over the rest of Greece; and in part from the jealousy of Sparta and the other Greek States, who bore with impatience the supremacy of the Athenian. A quarrel between Corinth and Corcyra, one of her colonies, served as a pretext, & was the signal for a general war.

All the Greeks partook in this terrible quarrel, and arranged themselves on the side of Sparta or of Athens; but in such a manner, that, generally speaking, all the land forces were united with Sparta, whilst the maritime cities connected themselves with Athens. It was this great difference in the nature of the forces, and the difficulty of being brought in collision, which prolonged the war, and rendered it more destructive than bloody. Sparta menaced Athens with all her forces, ravaged her environs, and blockaded her inhabitants within their walls. Athens, on her part, avenged herself by the ravages which she committed among her enemies, whereby she compelled them to fly to the defence of their own inhabitants. The plague prevailed many times during these unhappy conflicts, and gave a finishing

touch to the calamities with which those wretched countries were troubled.

Among the actions worthy of particular observation were the capture of the island of Sphacteria, in front of Pylos. — The Athenians had at that time a fine opportunity of making an advantageous peace, which was repeatedly offered to them by Sparta, the latter being anxious to save those of their citizens, who were likely to be made captives. The siege of Potidea, which surrendered to the Athenians after three years investment; the inhabitants were driven out, and the city was peopled with Athenians. The siege of Amphipolis, the taking of which by the Spartan Brasidas, occasioned the banishment of the historian Thucydides, who was named by the citizens of Athens to go to its aid. The imprudent and vain Cleon, who was charged with the recapture of the place, was killed in flying before a sortie of the besieged; but the brave Brasidas, who commanded the latter, was slain in the midst of his success. The expedition to Sicily, which was undertaken at the instigation of Alcibiades, in opposition to the wiser counsels of Nicias; Alcibiades had the direction of a select portion of the vessels, marines and soldiers; but Nicias and Demosthenes had the principal control. All their efforts were directed against Syracuse: The resistance which they met with afforded time for Gylippus the Lacedemonian to come to the succor of the place, and the expedition terminated in a most disastrous manner for the Athenians. Their vessels were lost, their army was beaten, hemmed in, and compelled to surrender, the soldiers were made slaves and the generals were put to death. Athens never fairly recovered from this dreadful reverse; and Cicero has well remarked on this occasion, that her glory and her power had been shipwrecked in the port of Syracuse. The naval combat of the Arginusæ, where the Athenians vanquished the Lacedemonian Cai ratides, who although very inferior, fought from a false notion of honor, and perished in the battle. The citizens of Athens condemned their eight victorious generals for having neglected to bury their slain. — The sea-fight of Egospotamos, where, by address, Lysander destroyed the Athenian fleet, took their generals, pillaged their camp, and in some measure decided the fate of the war. Of 180 vessels scarcely one returned to Athens. The capture of Athens by Lysander, who after the victory of Egospotamos, blockaded it by sea, whilst the kings of Lacedemon invested it by land. Reduced to the last extremity by famine, this ill-fated city implored mercy from her enemy, who rased her walls, demolished her port, changed her government, destroyed her marine, and reduced her to a species of servitude. C.

The following letter is inserted at the request of the writer. We have generally declined publishing articles of this kind; but we are the more willing to depart in the present instance from our usual practice, as this Address is divested in a great measure of local matter and contains much correct reflection of a general and interesting nature. The common method of electioneering cannot be too much censured; and we cheerfully give publicity to the following just sentiments on the subject.

To the Freemen of Orange County.

FELLOW-CITIZENS.—Shortly after the last Election, I came to the resolution not again to offer myself as a candidate for public favor. This was not, as many imagine, the effect of mortification occasioned by the result of that election; for being a new Candidate, my poll was more honorable than I had just reasons to expect, and therefore could not be a cause of mortification; but I took this resolution to avoid the turmoil and bustle, thro' which it has now become necessary for a Candidate to pass to gain his election, and to avoid the reproach and calumny of the envious and wicked, and to follow the bent of my own inclinations, which lead me to private life;—I therefore concluded to withdraw from the bustle and leave it to be encountered by men composed of "sterner stuff." (However, upon more mature reflection, assisted by the suggestions and solicitations of many of my Countrymen, I have again consented to hold a poll at the ensu-

ing election, to represent you in the House of Commons of the next General Assembly. But although I have consented to become a Candidate, I have not consented to perform the usual electioneering campaign: I cannot undertake to ride to every house—to attend every tax-gathering and every muster-ground—to go through the series of superfluous ceremonies, and drench the people with Whiskey to excess, and even besot myself, for the purpose of gaining favor. This practice, though very much sanctioned by custom in this country, is in my opinion, very reprehensible, and one which I cannot consent to embark in. It tends to encourage laziness—to vitiate the morals of the people—and begets in the Candidate, a spirit of sycophantic subserviency which little comports with the dignity of a Legislator. It is calculated to place the government exclusively in the hands of the rich, by ensuring success to the longest purse. It saps and destroys the very vitals of liberty and independence, and converts elections into coverings for the basest corruption. For these reasons, together with my domestic concerns, which will not well admit of my absence, I have resolved to make known by means of this publication, my willingness to serve my Countrymen, and will leave the issue with them.

I am sensible that this method is not calculated to ensure success, but no other one can I consent to adopt, and hope the time is not far distant when no other will be pursued; for I am persuaded that after a man is generally known, the people can make their election more correctly and unbiassed when left to themselves, than under the inebriating influences of potent drinks of grog. (When occasionally convined with my neighbours, I can take a glass with much satisfaction, but to ride to the farthest verge of the County for the express purpose of treating and drinking, is a wanton waste of time not justifiable either by prudence or principle. And what better can be said of the annual electioneering excursions? Day after day, and week after week, is spent in traversing the County from one extremity to the other, and every hole and corner is ransacked to curry favour and to gain a vote, while the same time and labor might have been more usefully employed in some honest occupation at home. Were these excursions made for the purpose of giving information, of enlightening the minds of the people, the practice would be laudable; but alas! instead of eradicating error, and disseminating useful knowledge on those occasions, the whiskey bottle is too often introduced to pass away the time, and the dextrous and copious use of it is perhaps the only argument used by the Candidate to convince you he is a clever fellow and worthy of your suffrages.

By offering myself, Fellow-Citizens, I do not wish you to infer that I am over anxious to become your servant, but merely to express my willingness to serve in case you think me worthy; nor do I wish you to think that I consider myself fully qualified to discharge the numerous and important duties of a Representative; for I frankly declare to you the conviction of my own incompetency. But experience has shown us that we cannot always get men qualified in every respect to discharge the duties of that office, so that we have to elect out of the Candidates who offer, those we think best qualified to serve us, and my offering only gives you an opportunity to make a choice, which otherwise would have been like Hobson's, "them or none." I am opposed to men holding office during pleasure, or their becoming members by courtesy.—I would much rather see the elective franchise exercised; it keeps in remembrance the great privilege we enjoy—that of choosing our own rulers: for if men were permitted to take seats year after year without any opposition, the people's minds would be lulled into indifference, and in pro-

cess of time they would forget they had a controlling voice. To prevent this dilemma, I did hope that some person more capable than myself would have declared himself a Candidate at our last court, and this hope was one reason why I did not then consent to hold a poll.

(It is useless at this time to say anything about my political sentiments, as I expect they are generally known. They have been the subject both of praise and censure. The earnest zeal with which I have supported my opinions, has procured me the displeasure of some men, whose friendship I should be anxious to deserve and maintain; but where a desertion of principle or a loss of friendship are the alternatives, I always choose the latter; for I hold my principles as sacred as I do my love of country, and I consider that when I yield the one, I destroy the other.

I have thus explained to you, my Countrymen, the grounds on which I act, and hope they are such as will meet your approbation. If you should think proper to entrust me with the management of your political concerns, I will endeavor to act worthy of your confidence, and will make the rule of my conduct your interest and welfare.

I am, with due respect, your Fellow-Citizen
June 18, 1811. JOHN CRAIG.

Proclamation,

BY THE GOVERNOR
OF
THE STATE OF NORTH-CAROLINA.

WHEREAS, by an Inquest taken at the house of Jeremiah Gaddy, in Anson County, on the fourth day of the present month, before Adam Lockhart, Coroner thereof, upon the view of the body of JOHN MAY, then and there lying dead, it appears that a certain RICHARD FAIR CRAWFORD, late of the said County, feloniously, voluntarily, and of his malice aforethought, did discharge a gun, loaded with forty or fifty shot, which entered in and upon the left part of the belly of the said John May, and made a mortal wound, whereby he instantly died; and that the said criminal has made his escape: And it being further represented that the murder was most cruel and unprovoked; that the criminal has fled beyond or out of the jurisdiction of this State; and that, from the large connections and influence of the said Richard Fair Crawford, it is apprehended he will not be brought to justice without difficulty:—

Now, therefore, I, BENJAMIN SMITH, Governor of the State of North-Carolina, pursuant to an act of the General Assembly, passed at Raleigh, on the 26th December, 1800, do hereby offer a Reward of TWO HUNDRED DOLLARS, to be paid to such person or persons as shall apprehend the said RICHARD FAIR CRAWFORD, and deliver him to the Sheriff of Anson County, at the jail thereof.

The aforesaid Richard Fair Crawford is described to me as being "very tall, upwards of six feet high, slender, raw-boned, remarkably strong and nervous—his face long and bony—cheek bones high—eyes large, prominent and grey—hair brown, and worn short—shows his teeth when he laughs, and chews tobacco."

Given under my hand, at Raleigh, this fifteenth day of May, 1811.

BENJAMIN SMITH.

NOTICE.

THE Subscriber having qualified at the last County Court of Mecklenburg, as Administrator on the Estate of the late Maj. David Cowan, deceased, request all persons having legal claims against said Estate, to present them to the Subscriber within the time limited by law, or they will be barred; and all who are indebted to said estate are requested to make immediate payment to
A. FRETW. Admin'r.
Charlotte, N. C. June 3, 1811. 3: 13

Notice is hereby Given,

TO ALL those having claims against the Estate of Richard Bennat, dec. to present them properly authenticated within the time limited by law, or they will be barred of recovery.—Those indebted to the estate, must make prompt payment.
AMBROSE L. BENNETT, Exr.
of Richard Bennat, dec.
May 24, 1811. 3: 13

Runaway Negro in Jail.

WAS committed to the Jail of Lincoln, on the 3d inst. as a Runaway, a Negro Man, who calls himself Charles, alias Charles, and says he is the property of Hugh Terras, but, from information, it is suspected he has not told his master's name correctly. He is a Dark Mulatto, about 5 feet 8 or 9 inches high, stout made; he is an African, and very difficult to be understood in his speech; and he is about 25 years of age. The owner is desired to come forward, prove property, pay charges and take him away; otherwise, he will be dealt with as the law directs.

JOHN B. HARRY, Jailor,
for John Allen, H. Sheriff.
Lincoln County, June 15, 1811. 6: 14