



MISCELLANY.

From the (London) CRITICAL REVIEW, for April, 1787.

A Defence of the Constitutions of Government of the United States of America. By JOHN ADAMS, LL. D. &c.

WE have before given our opinion of the designs of those meddling politicians, who would become the legislators of America; who have spun their subtle cobwebs with so much minuteness, that they break by their own weight. Dr. Adams examines different plans with care; objects to those parts which are deficient; supports his objections, and defends the American constitutions with sound argument, and by the experience of other governments. The science of government has always been accounted complicated and intricate; but, in reality, is only rendered so by refinement. It never can be reduced to any fixed rules, because the continual and unexpected changes in manners, and the state of society, will render it often necessary to depart from rational, and, what have been, successful plans. A third estate, for instance, in a mixed government, has been considered as the best defence of the people against the encroaching designs of monarchy, and a counterbalance to an aspiring aristocracy; but, at a period when commerce is carried on to its present extent, it becomes somewhat more: it is the representation also of the commercial interest, by men engaged in the active pursuit of it. If the House of Commons had not been established on that broad extensive basis, to admit of mercantile representatives, some additional member of government must have been added. At present, the times of sitting, and the forms of Parliament, are scarcely sufficient for the numerous inquiries which are necessary; and we already find two other bodies arising to supply the defect, viz. the East-India Company, and the chamber of commerce. The latter has begun rather inauspiciously, but may again recover its credit. This is only designed, as an instance, to show what variations changes of situation may occasion in government: to return.

We are not surpris'd, with Dr. Adams, that, since the time of Lycurgus, there have been so few discoveries in the science of government; and that these are only representation, separating the legislative, executive, and judicial powers from each other, and balancing the legislature, by erecting three independent branches. The improvements may, perhaps, be confined to the first and third, for the second is necessary to their respective independence. We are not surpris'd at this, we say, because the field is a barren one, and admits but of few practical improvements. The British constitution is not only respectable in itself, but, without pretensions to divine origin, is venerated by Englishmen, and supported by them almost inviolate: a momentary rashness, and its effects, are repaired with a respectful silence; and the scar is hardly visible.

The American constitutions, or rather the constitutions of the separate states, are, in general, founded on this model: they have a governor, a council, and an assembly; not because it is the British constitution, but because it is the best.—M. Turgot thinks otherwise; and that 'all authority should be collected into one centre, that of the nation.' Dr. Adams exposes this idle indeterminate language, and endeavours to show that, if a pure democracy be meant, it is not founded in reason, or in experience; since no pure democracy has existed in the smallest states. With this view, he examines the nature of the constitutions of those republics which have been considered as democratical. The examination is entertaining and interesting; the representations, we believe, just; and the conclusions fully establish our opinion.

Does M. Turgot mean by one centre, an aristocracy? On examination, an aristocracy is soon broken and divided by jealousy, to prevent an oligarchy. Except with different orders, and a mutual balance, governments have never rendered their countries rich or happy. From the recapitulation, we shall select a specimen of Dr. Adams' Defence.

In every republick, in the smallest and most popular, in the larger and more aristocratical, as well as in the largest and most monarchical, we have observed a multitude of curious and ingeni-

ous inventions to balance, in their turn, all those powers, to check the passions peculiar to them, and to controul them from rushing into those exorbitancies to which they are most addicted—the Americans will then be no longer censured for endeavouring to introduce an equilibrium, which is much more profoundly meditated, and much more effectual for the protection of the laws, than any we have seen, except in England:—we may even question whether that is an exception.

In every country we have found a variety of orders, with very great distinctions. In America, there are different orders of offices, but none of men; out of office all men are of the same species, and of one blood; there is neither a greater nor a lesser nobility—Why then are they accused of establishing different orders of men? To our inexpressible mortification we must have remarked, that the people have preserved a share of power, or an existence in the government, in no country out of England, except upon the tops of a few inaccessible mountains, among rocks and precipices, in territories so narrow, that you may span them with an hand's breadth, where, living unenvied in extreme poverty, chiefly upon pasturage, delitute of manufactures and commerce, they still exhibit the most charming picture of life, and the most dignified character of human nature.

Again, After all, let us compare every constitution we have seen, with those of the United States of America, and we shall have no reason to blush for our country; on the contrary, we shall feel the strongest motives to fall upon our knees, in gratitude to heaven for having been graciously pleased to give us birth and education in that country, and for having destined us to live under her laws! We shall have reason to exult, if we make our comparison with England and the English constitution. Our people are undoubtedly sovereign—all the landed and other property is in the hands of the citizens—not only their representatives, but their senators and governors are annually chosen—there are no hereditary titles, honours, offices, or distinctions—the legislative, executive, and judicial powers are carefully separated from each other—the powers of the one, the few, and the many, are nicely balanced in their legislatures—trials by jury are preferred in all their glory, and there is no standing army—the habeas corpus is in full force—the press is the most free in the world—and where all these circumstances take place, it is unnecessary to add, that the laws alone can govern.

If this be a true representation, we can only wish for its continuance, and that the result may be peace and happiness; but we fear they are yet distant. With a constitution, whose spirit at least resembles this which he has detailed, we think that political happiness will be best attained.

M. Turgot must then mean one assembly; and, in this opinion, he is supported by Dr. Franklin. Our author examines it with care; he shows very clearly, from the natural inequality of men, either in respect to riches, ancestry, or ability, that in one assembly there will be all the inconveniences of two, without the balance which two would produce. This part of his work is laboured with singular ability and success; and we are sorry that, from its length, and the mutual connection of its different parts, we are not enabled to select any portion of it.

(The residue on Wednesday.)

From the (Pennsylvania) INDEPENDENT GAZETTEER.

Mr. OSWALD, AN *in*federal writer in Messrs. Dunlap and Claypole's paper of last week, supposes that the distresses of America cannot be relieved by any alterations in our federal government, or "a few resolves upon paper," as he is pleased to stile the new constitution that is forming by the Washingtons, and Franklins, and Madisons of our country. He supposed further that the people, and not our governments, are in fault; and that they alone, and not our constitutions, require altering. This man's reasoning puts me in mind of a story I once heard of a tenant, who applied to his landlord to repair his house, adding that from its being so shattered, and open to all weathers, he had caught repeated colds. Poh—poh! said the landlord, the house is good enough; your constitution is in fault, which exposes you to catch cold so easi-

ly; put on thicker clothes, and work more out of doors, and I will undertake for you, that all the wind and rain that can beat upon you in my house, will never hurt you." The tenant resented the insult contained in this advice, and immediately left the house; which unfortunately, in the course of a few months afterwards, fell down while the landlord was viewing it, and crushed him to death in its ruins.

A Friend to Liberty and a good Government.

FOREIGN INTELLIGENCE,

Received per the Ship Hudson, Capt. Folger, from Dublin, arrived at New-York.

L O N D O N, July 16.



HE letters from Utrecht paint the devastations committed by the Orange party at Middlebourg in the darkest and deepest colours. Fire and sword, they say, carry every thing before them. They accuse the Stadtholder of having encouraged the soldiers to plunder and pillage; and go so far as to assert, that it is by his sanction and authority, that a great number (*nombre infini*) of citizens of all classes have been massacred, robbed, plundered, burnt, and drowned. For these accounts there is no other authority than the *ipse dixit* of the Utrecht Gazette.

A letter from the Hague, July 7, says, "Whatever may be the event of our present struggles, France, which has proved herself the friend and faithful ally of the Republican party, continues to demonstrate the same generosity, the same intentions, equally worthy of her power and wisdom, in preparing openly, and with the tacit consent of other States, such a force as may prevent the effusion of blood. The fleet preparing at Brest, would be alarming intelligence, if the design was not the most humane. Sixteen ships, two of which are of 110 guns, two of 80, and the rest of 74, will be ready for the sea within a few days. The names of these ships are, the Royal Louis, and Majeux, of 110; Deux Freres, and L'Esprit, of 80; Le Neptune, Northumberland, Magnanime, Temeraire, Sceptre, Victorie, Achilles, Argonaute, Hercule, Illustre, Brave, and Superbe, of 74 guns. Twenty-eight more ships of the line are ordered to be ready in case they should be wanted. At Toulon, a fleet of six ships is preparing; and at Rochfort, three ships are ordered to be got ready. These preparations have for their object, to restore liberty to the Republicks."

From respectable authority, we can inform our readers, that an alliance, offensive and defensive, has been signed between Great-Britain and Prussia. It passed the Great Seal last week, and was forwarded to the Continent with the greatest expedition. This will in all probability accelerate the crisis of the tumults in Holland.

By the Pigou, Capt. Sutton, arrived at Philadelphia, from England, the 16th inst.

L O N D O N, July 6.

Extra of a letter from the Hague, June 26.

"The defection of the troops is become almost as considerable in the little Statholderian army, as it was in our line. The soldiers arrive in bands to profit by the amnesty, and the high pay which the commission of defence has granted to those who shall return to their duty, as well as to those who remained loyal. That defection has increased to such a degree, that the Prince has been obliged to form a line of cavalry, to prevent the battalion of Stuart and Grenier from returning to their old garrison.

"The States of Amersfort cannot agree; they quarrel among themselves, and also with their supreme dictator. Their forces are not so considerable as is given out, and the officers are obliged to keep their soldiers in awe with a pistol at their head, to prevent their deserting. They have but 30 pence a week, and their comrades (the Patriots) have now 50, in Holland and Utrecht."

Among the cottages of the village of Peterdale, in Westmoreland, there is a house belonging to a person of somewhat better condition, whose little estate, which he occupies himself, lies in the neighbourhood. As his property, inconsiderable as it is, is better than that of any of his neighbours, it has gained him the title of king of Peterdale, in



CASTALIAN FOUNT.

ORIGINAL POETRY.

The COLLEGIATE TRIUMVIRATE.

A TALE.

THREE sprightly youths, of ibining parts, Of judgment sound, and pious hearts, Did solemnly assemble ; By low chagrin and anger fir'd, They then to satirize conspir'd, And make all Hollis tremble.

Say they no more well use our force, To climb Parnassus' rugged course If merit's thus neglected ; Orations and sbrinsicks too In merit's scale are our just due— And what we all expected.

Recluse from friends we've spent our life, In toil and scientifick strife, To gain the palm of fame ; If caprice thus can justice turn, No more the midnight lamp we'll burn, But quit our honest claim.

In mad rotation then they try'd, And every spark of genius ply'd, To vent their indignation ; We'll blackour honour'd Ovesseers— Let fell injustice grate their ears, And rouse the Corporation.

When each had try'd—and try'd in vain, To lash in poor satirick strain— They struck up this condition ; That one should dictate all his spite— And one correct—the other write— To counteract suspicion.

Their tutor and their classmate too, Were swept away like morning dew, Before a summer's sky. Those lads in academick course, Like comets of resifless force, Shine not, except they fly.

Still conscious of their own desert, They fawn their Patron for a part, Upon some future stage ; But noble minds disdain applause, That merit, or demerit draws, From sycophantick rage.

We hope, with them, the time draws near— When justice plac'd in judgment's chair, Impartially decrees ; Their injured friend will bear the plume, And all their flattery will consume, Like bubbles on the seas.

Camb. Sept. 1787. STUDENTS.

* See their address in the Centinel of the 15th inst.

MISCELLANY.

For the CENTINEL.

Mr. RUSSELL,

DAMNOAH was kind enough, not long since, to inform the publick, through the medium of your paper, that he was amused with the advertisement of a certain book called Jachin and Boaz. He was merely amused, as he himself asserts, with the publication of this authentick key to the mylsteries of Free Masoory. Why, in consequence of his being amused, he should attempt to injure the Printer, by representing the publication of this book as a snelle to gull the publick out of money, by imposing on their credulity, is not easily accounted for. He says, that he should not have written on the subject, were it not for the observations of Calligator. These observations were never published, as I am informed, owing to their severity, invective and personal abuse. Adamnoah seeks a pretext in reprehending Castiga'or for noticing this catch-penny, as he terms it, to indulge his malevolence and ill-nature; and fruitlessly attempts to conceal his wishes that the publication may not be generally disseminated—as he must know, that it is in fact what it pretends to be, an Authentick Key, (however many absurdities it may appear to contain) to the mylsteries of malonry. Of its authenticity, the present writer, who was a purchaser, has from experiment and observation, received proofs recent and indubitable. He is far, however, from recommending this disclosure of the mighty and important secrets of Masoory to the attention of the publick. Though to the curious it may be amusing, and to those who wish to become Masons, instructive and useful; yet to those who had rather gain solid instruction than to explore the affected obscurity, mystery, unmeaning

jargon and ridiculous rites of any society whatever, it cannot be very entertaining.

It is true, Jachin and Boaz is not a late publication. It was printed in London, some years since, and followed by a tacit acknowledgement of its authenticity, the copies being purchased and destroyed by the Free-Mason society. Were it ever printed in Boston the republication must have been attended with a similar event. Adamnoah asserts that a greater part of it was printed. What that greater part contained, where, in what manner, and by whom it was printed is still unknown. Not a copy is to be found of the whole, or of any part. Adamnoah, it seems, having as much credulity as other people, has made the books written on the subject of Masoory an object of his study. He has selected a number and ventured to recommend them for republication. These it is probable would give all the insight into Masoory which is to be acquired by books. The practical part, such as the use of the trowel, setting-mall and hammer, must be attained by a long and practical course of attention under some experienced master. X. Z.

Boston, Sept. 17, 1787.

MILITARY ANECDOTE.

ONE of General Montgomery's Aids-de-Camp was Mr. Macpherlon, a most promising young man, whose father resided at Philadelphia, and was greatly distinguished in privateering, in the war of 1756. This gentleman had a brother in the 16th regiment, in the British service, at the time of Montgomery's expedition into Canada, and who was as violent in favour of the English government, as that General's Aid-de-camp was enthusiastic in the cause of America. The latter had accompanied his General, a day or two previous to the attack in which they both lost their lives, to view and meditate on the spot where Wolfe had fallen : On his return, he found a letter from his brother, the English officer, full of the bitterest reproaches against him, for having entered into the American service, and contained a pretty direct wish, that if he would not abandon it, he might meet with the deserved fate of a rebel. The Aid-de-Camp immediately returned an answer, full of strong reasoning in defence of his conduct ; but by no means attempting to shake the opposite principles of his brother ; and not only free from acrimony, but full of expressions of tenderness and affection : This letter he dated, " from the spot where Wolfe lost his life, in fighting the cause of England, in friendship with America." It had scarcely reached the officer, at New-York, when it was followed by the news of his brother's death : The effect was instantaneous—Nature, and perhaps reason, prevailed—a thousand not unworthy sentiments rushed upon his distressed mind : He quitted the English service, entered into that of America, and sought every occasion of distinguishing himself in her cause.

The WEEKLY MONITOR.

CERTAIN it is—but, alas ! little is it regarded—that nothing can give us lasting happiness and peace of mind, but GOOD WORKS—The wealth of the Indies will not purchase them—nor are they the attendants of the most brilliant titles. Strikingly illustrative of the truth of this, were the remarkable words delivered by Sir John Mason, who lived and flourished in the reign of Henry VIII. Edward VI. Queen Mary and Queen Elizabeth, of England, towards the latter end of his life—they contain more than is to be found in whole volumes. "Lo!" says he, "here have I lived to see five princes, and have been a privy counsellor to four of them.—I have seen the most remarkable occurrences in foreign parts, and have been present at most state transactions for thirty years together; and I have learend this, after so many years experience—that seriousness is the greatest wisdom—temperance the best physick—and a good conscience the best estate—and were I to live my life over again, I would change the court for a cloyster, my privy counsellor's buckler for an hermit's retirement, and the whole life I lived in the palace for an hour's enjoyment of GOD in the chapel.—All things else forsake me beside my GOD, my duty, and my prayer."

For S A L E,

A quantity of English SALT,

of a superior quality.

Inquire at No. 9, CORNHILL.

WANTS a PLACE,

A Young Man, with a good recommendation, to live in a family, or wait on a single gentleman—understands taking care of horses. Inquire of the Printer.

To be S O L D,

THREE FARMS lying in Stoneham, known by the name of Charlestown Farms.

A piece of LAND, of about thirteen acres, adjoining Mr. Timothy Wright's land in said Stoneham.

A piece of LAND, containing about two acres, known by the name of the High Fields, back of Ploughed-hill, in Charlestown.

About twenty-four acres of LAND lying in Charlestown, known by the name of Charlestown Common, lying one mile and one quarter from Charles-river-Bridge, and one eighth of a mile from Malden Bridge—Is exceedingly well calculated for a number of gentlemen's elegant seats, and most advantageously situated for carrying on the most extensive trade with the inland part of the country—and all heavy goods may be transported within twenty rods to their stores by water, there being a landing-place reserved by the town, for that purpose. Said COMMON will be sold in the whole or in lots, as will best suit the purchaser. Said LANDS will be sold for any of the securities of the town of Charlestown—such as have passed the approbation of the Selectmen. For further particulars inquire of MATTHEW BRIDGE, } Committee DAVID WOOD, jun. } for the sale EBENEZER BREED, } of lands. Charlestown, Sept. 17, 1787.

F. Mitchell,

JUST arrived from England,

has opened a Shop, at the Corner-House, at the foot of Back-Street and Black-Horse-Lane, leading to Charles'-River Bridge, Where may be had,

Sundry English Goods, just imported—Broadcloths, yard-wide Hunters, 10-4 scarlet Cloth, scarlet Knaps and Beavers, Shallons, Camblets, and other Stuff Goods—Buttons assorted, printed Cottons and Linens, Lawns, &c. together with a number of other articles, which will be sold at very low prices. Sept. 19, 1787.

To be sold, by Publick Auction, On THURSDAY, 4th October next, At TWO o'clock, in the afternoon, (if not sold before at Private Sale)

TWO valuable Farms, in the town of ANDOVER, near Mr. Symmes's Meeting-House, consisting of excellent mowing, tillage, pasture, and woodland—the one is now improved by Mr. James Frye, and the other by Mr. Levi Ames. The Farms will be sold separate, or the Lots will be so divided at the time of sale, as may be most convenient. For further particulars, inquire of the Printer, in Boston, or Colonel NATHANIEL LOVEJOY, of Andover. The sale to be at the House of Mr. Levi Ames, of Andover. Sept. 17, 1787.

By Permission of the Selectmen.

James Leach

HAS opened a SCHOOL in Stoddard's Hall, the bottom of Cross-Street, where he proposes to teach ARITHMETICK, and several other branches of the MATHEMATICKS.

N. B. His Evening School will begin October 1st—He wishes to take a few Youths in the day time. Sept. 14, 1787.

To be SOLD, CHEAP, THAT valuable Building, known by the name of CONCERT-HALL. Inquire of WILLIAM TURNER.

To be L E T,

A HOUSE in State-Street, now occupied by the Rev. Mr. BOWEN—Inquire of JONATHAN AMORY.

HIGH-WATER, RISING and SETTING of the SUN, &c. in BOSTON, Lat. 42° 25' N. Septem. | Hi. Wa. | Or. & f. | Remarks.

Table with 4 columns: Date, Hi. Wa., Or. & f., Remarks. Rows: 22 Sat. (7 46 | 5 58 | 7), 23 Sun. (8 32 | 5 59 | 7), 24 Mon. (9 19 | 6 06), 23 Tues. (10 5 | 6 16). 16th past Trinity. S. J. C. Springfield.

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