

The Massachusetts



CENTINEL.

PUBLISHED ON WEDNESDAYS AND SATURDAYS.

Uninfluenced by Party, we aim to be JUST.

SATURDAY, JANUARY 5, 1798. [2s. per ann.] NUMBER 32, of VOL. VIII. Price Three Cents.

MISCELLANY.

From the CONNECTICUT COURANT.
To the Hon. RICHARD HENRY LEE, Esq.

WE have by several conveyances, received your laboured essay against the form of government proposed by the Convention, entitled, *Letters from a Federal Farmer*. We were at first ignorant to whom we were indebted for that various information which you seem zealous to afford. The Collector of Impost for New-York, with whom your pamphlets were left to be distributed, acquitted himself of his trust as well as could be expected from a man too violent to be prudent, and too ignorant of the characters he addressed, not to be frequently mistaken. It was easy to discover, that his intention was to have committed your books to a set of men who are wrong-headed from infancy, and who are ever grateful to those who furnish them with plausible arguments to justify the errors inherent in their understandings.—But it has happened in some instances, that the addressees were made to gentlemen who despised the affront offered to their reason, and who consider it as a great misfortune that they have been suspected to have been of your party. Your agent certainly cannot be accused of negligence, though by doing too much he has injured your cause.—He ought, when he distributed the hand-bills and pamphlets committed to his care, to have ascertained the nature of the objections they contained; for want of this attention, you have lost the support of several very respectable wrong-heads—the poison conveyed from the Philadelphia Centinel, has been counteracted by the different poison of the Federal Farmer, and the patients left in their usual state of sanity and dulness.

The active curiosity of the New-England character has been employed to discover the officious stranger who has thus familiarly undertaken to advise.—Whether the discovery has been accomplished by human or necromantick arts, cannot be material for you to know. We own that we were much surprised to find that a Delegate in Congress from the ancient dominion of Virginia, had descended from the imaginary dignity of a planter, to unite with the G—v—r of N—Y—, and a train of collectors of impost and excise, tide-waiters and bailiffs, to instruct us poor and despised Yankees in the arts of government—we did not expect from the owner of several hundred negroes such unusual anxiety for our liberties—still less from a person whom we well remember several years ago endeavoured to persuade us to degrade Gen. Washington and promote his relation Gen. Charles Lee—a man altogether unfit to command an army—of violent passions—unprincipled character—and one whom we had good reason to suspect was connected with our enemies.

In one respect only have you discovered your real character, we can perceive that you have a better opinion of your own sagacity and discernment than of ours—your comments and explanations of the new form of government, are such as would be very proper were you addressing the people of New-Zealand—but we can pardon your minute interpretations—by being accustomed to despise New-England, you probably thought we were as dull as the negroes of Virginia.

We however confess a dullness of apprehension when we attempt to conceive, what *bonis* motives could induce a Virginian planter to become the instructor and guardian of New-England—we have heard a rumour that you and your connexions have been for several years the personal enemies of Gen. Washington, and some shrewd men imagine, that your only motive to your present conduct arises from a low envy of the brilliant virtues and unbounded popularity, of that illustrious character. If we are not mistaken, all your cant about liberty, democracy and aristocracy, is hypocritical, or else arises from an ignorance of the nature of political liberty—in your practical sense, liberty can only mean a privilege for gentlemen planters to do what they please—in no conversation, in no intercourse with mankind, have you been known as the guardian or protector of that depressed race of men whose toils have enabled you to live in affluence, and at leisure plot dissensions and mischief to your country.

It is also very remarkable that your associates in New-York, should all happen to be persons whom we consider as our enemies and unworthy our confidence.

If those gentlemen who have printed a vast edi-

tion of your books, which they are distributing among us at their own expense, are as zealous friends as they represent, they have in their power to bestow a more unequivocal evidence of attachment, than a present of several thousand pamphlets containing the most evident misrepresentations and the weakest reasoning. We are not so wanting in sagacity as not to discover the motives of this extraordinary zeal. Those gentlemen in New-York who receive large salaries and have large sums to employ in speculations, are too well acquainted with human nature not to know that their offices will be more insecure, and their conduct more attentively observed, when the expenses of government shall be paid by their constituents, than while paid by us.

The collector of impost can well afford to pay fifty pounds for pamphlets to be distributed in New-England, to prevent any derangement in a system, which enables him to receive two thousand pounds annually of our property—perhaps he may expect to be reimbursed, for surely it would not be unreasonable in a state which receives a tribute of fifty thousand pounds annually from its neighbours, to expend so trifling a sum to convince them that they were thus seditious to preserve their liberties.—But know, Sir, the people of New-England are not willing to purchase your books at such a price, nor are they ignorant of political science that the collector of impost for New-York and his train of tide-waiters, need remit their usual attentions to business to give them information. The fact is, that the presses in New-England are open to all parties, and a greater number of papers are distributed weekly for the information of the people, than the whole number of persons of all colours in the ancient dominion, who are able to read.

As you have without our application undertaken to advise us, we on our part will repay you with some information, which if properly improved may be useful.

Know then that the people of New-England are a bold, hardy and intelligent race of men, who are attached from habit and principle to a republican government—there is not among us as you suggest, any party of men who wish to subvert our liberties—if any individuals with such inclinations exist, their impotence and folly is their protection from our resentment. We think that we have just reasons to consider, that the real strength and energy of the American character resides with us—we are proud of what we have accomplished during the late war—when we reflect that the armies of Britain never entered our borders without being compelled to flee—that they never resided one day within our confines when they were not protected by the cannon of their ships—that our hardy citizens have acquired glory for themselves and country, in every field of danger, from the bleak and inhospitable regions of Canada, to the sickly plains of Carolina—that our toils have reared the fabrick of American greatness, and that our habits of industry and virtue must preserve American liberty; it is surely not unreasonable for us to wish for such establishments, as may best enable us to grow great by peaceable and regular means and acquire property by directing the exertions of our industry to the best advantage.

Our country is more populous than any other in America, and though we have not any single article of commerce equal to either of the staple commodities of our southern brethren—yet the productions of our country are more various and in greater abundance than theirs—a greater variety of useful domestick manufactures are to be found in New-England, than elsewhere—we are under the best advantages to become the carriers of America, and to breed by our fisheries and commerce, a hardy race of men, who may constitute our wealth in peace, and our glory and defence in war.

Every useful object of business which we can propose for ourselves, happens to be in direct competition with the interest of Great-Britain, and in some degree opposed to the interest of the other maritime powers of Europe—we judge, and we know that we judge truly, that it is for our interest to combine our strength and resources against the encroachments of foreigners, and we are desirous that all the people of the United States may be connected with us for the establishment of the American empire.

These are our principal objects as a people, and we are not deceived in the characters of our publick men as you imagine—they are not richer

than most of us, or in any respect elevated above our controul, as you suggest—their offices depend upon our suffrages which we bestow upon persons with whom we are intimately acquainted.

It is true that we imagine that the establishment of a Federal Government will remedy some evils with which we find ourselves oppressed by the selfishness of our neighbours—we feel some impatience when we reflect on the conduct of New-York—we remember when the whole strength and resources of that state were not competent to reduce their internal enemies—we have not forgotten the assistance we afforded them—the immense property which they acquired by our exertions, and which has been converted to their particular benefit—the extensive region of new country which they claimed without title and which we have tacitly conceded to them, we thought would sufficiently evince the generosity of our dispositions, and that we did not fight for plunder, but for liberty.

When the misguided state of Rhode-Island refused to grant the Impost to Congress upon the first requisition, we well remember the curses which some of the first characters in New-York vented against the state—we admitted the absurdity of the conduct of Rhode-Island—but what shall we now say of the conduct of New-York, a state famed for political knowledge, a state under the highest obligations of gratitude to New-England, who have since the peace been invariably pursuing a system founded in the most unjustifiable selfishness—a system which increases their relative importance only by weakening and depressing their neighbours.

We mean not to be too general and severe in our censures—we believe the people of that state are as honestly disposed as any other, but we can by no means admit this to be true, as respects a majority of their present rulers—we have waited for the moment of calm conviction and we trust the period has nearly arrived, when that people will be willing to combine their strength with ours and grow great by the means of regular industry under the protection of an equal and just government—If we should be disappointed in this respect, we shall certainly examine the justice of those measures by which our labours are rendered conducive to their benefit. If then we are told as at present, *that the port of New-York is their property and they have a right to improve their natural advantages to their best particular advantage*, we shall certainly reply, *that the principles of reason and justice require, that states and individuals should so exercise their rights as not to injure and depress their neighbours*. If this should not induce them to adopt a proper mode of conduct, we have no doubt but arguments derived from our natural strength, operating on their natural weakness will produce the desired conviction—the opinion of any statesman is not much to be regarded who supposes that a powerful and enlightened people, uncontrouled by any tie of government, will consent to become perpetual tributaries to a weaker neighbour.

We admit that the adoption of a new form of government is a matter of great importance, and we pretend not to foresee all the consequences which may follow from its reception by the people. When we review the history of human events, we are disposed to acknowledge, that the most momentous affairs of society have owed their origin to accident—the best formed projects of the benevolent mind have originated systems of persecution and tyranny, and what was intended for mischief or a gratification of passion has established the empire of reason—the mad resentment of Luther first enabled science to triumph over superstition—the benevolent exertions of Las Casas in favour of liberty, have entailed slavery on one quarter of mankind!—All that we can know is, that the new plan of government appears to be well calculated to secure our liberty and promote our happiness—that the characters who framed it have given the most unequivocal evidence of their abilities and integrity—they are the ornaments of our country and of human nature—from what has already been accomplished we believe the people of America are capable of arranging the powers of government from a rational conviction of its necessity, and such is our patriotism, that we are willing to run the small risk occasioned by our ignorance of future events, for the sake of an experiment which if successful must greatly advance the dignity of human nature.

Your essay on the new Constitution is doubtless the utmost effort of your art, assisted by several



GASTALIAN FOUNT.

AMERICAN POETRY.

MINERVA'S PREDICTION

Of the future GLORY of our COUNTRY.

AN ODE.

Let earth's inhabitants heav'n's pleasure know,
And Fame her loud uplifted trumpet blow;
Let the celestial nine, in tuneful choirs,
Touch their immortal harps with golden wires.

MINERVA.

IN a golden balance weigh'd,
Have I seen Columbia's fate,
All her griefs shall be repaid
By a future happy state.

She with France in friendship join'd,
Shall opposing pow'rs defy;
Thus united, thus combin'd,
Heav'n will bless the sacred tie.

Freedom on her happy shore
Shall her banners widely display;
Commerce shall her richet' store
Through her numerous tides convey,

Heaven declares its high command,
Fate confirms the great decree,
IF HER SONS UNITED STAND,
GREAT AND PROSPEROUS SHALL
SHE BE.

She, like the glorious sun,
Her splendid course shall run,
And future days
Columbia's praise
Shall spread from east to west:
The Heavens decree
That she shall be
A nation great and free.

MISCELLANY.

For the CENTINEL.
Mr. RUSSELL,

HOWEVER strange it may appear, the public are assured that it is a fact, ascertained by accurate observation, that the minister and congregation, who were excommunicated in your last paper, are still in perfect health. Not a hand of a single voter for their novel ordination, has yet withered, not a tongue is palsied. Upon what principle to account for the inefficacy of the anathema against them, all good church-men are wholly at a loss. Whether the large doses of that wonderful spirit, which were administered by the Popes in the dark ages, to the kings of those days, who were sturdy fellows, and hard to work upon, has exhausted the fund; or whether there has been some irregularity in charging the bull which you published, is uncertain. Some pious, papal, high-church Christians, have thought that it has not been directed properly: That the curse should have been leveled at the different parts of the heretical body, beginning with the head and descending, by regular gradations, through the middle parts, to the feet, until it had seized upon every limb and joint. Others have suspected treachery in the case, and that a qualifying and alleviating ingredient has been secretly thrown in, to stop the effects, by some of the excommunicating Bishops, who have been, and but for want of courage and honesty to shew it, would still be greater heretics than the victim under sentence. There are others, however, whose faith does not fail them, and who think the time of operation is not come. They look with anxious expectation, to see the heretics fall like rotten sheep, and their church tumble down, like the walls of Jericho, at the sound of the trumpets. It is this should not be the case, what a fatal stock will Episcopacy receive.—Luther and Calvin, those rascals who plagued our mother of Rome, never deserved her curses so much as these modern infidels do our own. If they go on, every man will judge for himself, in matters of religion; and, instead of the political ass crouching between two burthens, the lion will rise to view, with the sceptre and mitre at his feet. Yours,
Jan. 3d, 1788.

PAPISTICEY.

On the LOVE of ONE'S COUNTRY.

THE love of one's country is nothing else but love of publick welfare. That love, if it was in the heart of citizen, would make the State as one family. Such was the effect that it produced among the Romans, instead of private interest, which prevails at this time almost every where, and makes every family a separate State, absolutely indifferent to the well-being of the Commonwealth. Every one looks upon himself as the centre of all; the general good seems not to concern any one; and the publick welfare is but a vain idea; every individual endeavours to forward himself by

separate ways, where he may walk alone, and meet with no competitor.

They are not united to the State by any real ties; at the least difficult they leave the service; and that disgust is very often founded only on surmise, or on some small preference being justly given to another.

The truly good citizen is he who is ready to sacrifice his own interests to those of his country; when the happiness of his countrymen is at stake, there is no danger that he would not undergo with joy; no trouble that he would not endure with satisfaction; no sacrifice he would not make with pleasure; fortune, friends, relations, the love of life itself, could not divert him from a duty so sacred.

The Lacedemonian Pedareus, seeing he could not be received in the number of the three hundred citizens who composed the Senate of Sparta; "Almighty Gods!" cried he, shedding tears of joy, "thinks be given unto you, that my country has three hundred citizens more worthy than me!"—This is the true citizen.

A woman of Sparta had five sons in the army, and impatiently expected news of a battle. She enquiring of an Helot who returned from the camp. "Your five sons are killed," said he—"Vile slave," replied she, "Is it that I ask you?"—"We have got the victory," said the Helot. The mother ran to the temple, and gave thanks to the Gods. This is the citizen.

THE WEEKLY MONITOR No. 195.

ALAS! with what heart's satisfaction do we, at this day, hear of wars and rumours of wars—with what eagerness do we inquire, if the accounts we hear of them are true—and if found not so, what a desponding gloom hangs on the countenance. It is distressing to the benevolent soul, thus to see mankind anxious for its destruction.—Let us for a moment consider of the miseries of war.—Let us hear what the benevolent French Philosopher Buffon, says on the subject; possibly it may correct his appetite for slaughter—"Man, says he, who is powerful only by numbers, whose strength consists in the union of forces, and whose happiness is to be found alone in a state of peace, has yet the madness to take arms for his own misery, and fights to the ruin of his species. Urged on by insatiable avarice, and blinded by ambition still more insatiable, he banishes from his breast every sentiment of humanity, and eager for the destruction of his fellow creatures, in effort destroys himself. When the days of blood and carnage are past, when the vapour of glory is dissipated, he looks round with a sorrowful eye upon the desolated earth, he sees the arts extinct, the nations dispersed, and population dead: His happiness is ruined, and his power is reduced to nothing." Let us then join in this prayer:

Great God! whose sole presence sustains the creative power, and rules the harmony of nature's laws! who from thy permanent celestial throne behold'st the motions of the nether spheres, all perfect in their course, which knows no change; who brought'st from out the womb of rest by endless re-production those never-ceasing movements; who rulest in peace the infinity of worlds: Eternal God! vouchsafe at length to send a portion of that heavenly peace to calm the agitated earth. Let every tumult cease: At thy celestial voice, no more to be heard around the proud and clamorous shouts of war and discord. All-bounteous Creator! Author of Being! each object of thy works partakes of thy paternal care; but chief of all, thy chosen creature man. Thou hast bestowed on him a ray of thine immortal light: O deign to crown that gift, by penetrating his heart with a portion of thy love. Soon will that heavenly sentiment, pervading his nature, reconcile each warring and contradictory principle: Man will no longer dread the sight of man: The murdering blade will sleep within its sheath: The fire of war will cease to dry up the springs of generation: The human race, now languishing and withering in the bloom, will bud afresh, and multiply: Nature, which now sinks beneath the scourge of misery, sterile and desolated, will soon renew her wasted strength, and regain her first fertility. We, O God of benevolence, we thy creatures, will second the blessing. It will be ours to bestow on the earth that culture which best can aid her fruitfulness; and we will pay to thee the most acceptable of sacrifices, in endless gratitude and adoration.

WINEs, Old Jamaica Rum, and Brandy,

Which will recommend themselves, may be had at

WELLES'S Wine-Cellar,

Under the Old-South Meeting-House—Where attendance is given from Morning until eight in the Evening.

N. B. Cash given for empty Bottles.

December 16, 1787.

COMPLETE sets of the CO-

LUMBIAN MAGAZINE, containing a fund of literary entertainment, may be had of Mr. SAMUEL HALL, and Mr. BENJAMIN LARKIN. The price to subscribers is 16s. per annum. Single numbers 1/6. The November Magazine is just come to hand.—The December one will be ornamented with a prospect of the town of Boston.

January, 2, 1788.

To be SOLD, or LET,
Cheap for Cash, or Publick Securities, by
Daniel Austin,

A Small brick Tenement, in Union-Street, well situated for business, and will answer for a Dwelling-House or Store. *Asks,*

A Farm in Sandwich, of one hundred acres land, with a large double House, Barn, and out-houses—this place is also well calculated for business, it being within a quarter of a mile of the landing place—It is now occupied by Mr. GIDEON ALLEN, who formerly carried on trade very largely at this place.

And has for sale, at No. 47, CORNHILL,

Teas of all kinds, loaf and brown Sugars, Coffee, Chocolate, W. I. and N. E. Rum, Molasses, Madeira, Malaga, Lisbon, and Sherry Wines, Logwood, Copperas, Allum, Ginger, Pepper, Mustard, Allspice, Raisins, Currants, Starch, Wool and Cotton Cards, Spices of all sorts, Spanish, French, and Carolina Indigo, Philadelphia Snuff, in bladders and bottles, a small assortment elegant Looking Glasses, &c. &c.
Boston, December 29, 1787.

FLAX-SEED.

WANTED, a quantity of FLAX-SEED, for which Cash will be paid. Inquire at No. 23, LONG-WHARF.

Where may be purchased very cheap.

A quantity of low and middling priced IRISH LINENS.

Boston, January 2, 1788.

Elijah Williams

INFORMS his Friends and

Customers, that he has REMOVED from the Store he lately occupied in Cornhill, to

No. 38, in STATE-STREET,

Where he has for sale,

A general assortment of Piece Goods, which he will sell very low. The smallest favours will be gratefully acknowledged. Jan. 2.

Thin Sheet Lead

May be had at

JOSEPH CALLENDER'S Ship Chan-
dler Store. Jan. 2, 1788.

THE subscriber intending

soon for Europe, calls, in this PUBLICK MANNER, on all those indebted to him, or by estate of the deceased Mr. WILLIAM DENNIE, by Bond, Note, or otherwise, to make immediate satisfaction to HENRY JACKSON, and BENJAMIN HICHBORN, Esquires, his Attornies: To whom those he is indebted to, are requested to apply for an adjournment and settlement of their dues. JAMES SWAN.

New-York, December 15th, 1787.

To be SOLD, or LET,

A Well-finished Brick DWEL-
LING-HOUSE, fronting the south, with four rooms on a floor, situate in Hanover-Street, a little to the northward of Cole-Lane.—Inquire at Shop No. 4, UNION-STREET.

To be LET,

A Dwelling-House and Shop, adjoining south Mr. Adam Colson's—upon good security, and very moderate terms. Inquire of the Printer. Jan. 2.

To be LET,

TWO front and three back CHAMBERS, with a KITCHEN in Cornhill. Inquire of the Printer. Jan. 2.

Table with 4 columns: Day, H. W. A., O. R. & L., Remarks.

| Day | H. W. A. | O. R. & L. | Remarks. |
|---------|----------|------------|-------------------|
| 5 Sat. | 9 30 | 7 31 5 | |
| 6 Sun. | 10 24 | 7 30 5 | Epiphany. |
| 7 Mon. | 11 27 | 7 30 5 | Moon apogee. |
| 8 Tues. | 12 18 | 7 29 5 | New Moon 7h. mor. |

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