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The Massachusetts Gazette.

(VOL. VI.)

TUESDAY, June 19, 1787.

(NUMB. 340.)

BOSTON: Printed and published, every *Tuesday* and *Friday*, by S. HALL and J. W. ALLEN.

Extracts from the Travels of a Philosopher.

[Concluded from No. 337.]

Attention of the Chinese government.



HE whole attention, in general, of the Chinese government is directed towards agriculture. The principal object of the father of a family, ought to be the subsistence of his children. The state of the fields, in consequence, forms the great object of the toils, the cares and the solitudes of the magistrates. It may easily be conceived, that with such dispositions, the government has not neglected to secure to the labourers that liberty, property, and indulgence which are the great springs for the improvement of agriculture.

The Chinese enjoy, undisturbed, their private possessions, as well as those which, being by their nature indivisible, belong to all, such as the sea, the rivers, the canals, the fish which they contain, and the beasts of the forest: navigation, fishing, and the chase are free to every one; and he who buys a field, or receives it by inheritance from his ancestors, is of course the sole lord and master.

The lands are free as the people; no feudal services, and no fines of alienation; none of those men interested in the misfortunes of the publick; none of those farmers who never amass more exorbitant fortunes, than when an unfavorable season has ruined the country, and reduced the unhappy labourer to perish for want, after having toiled the year round for the sustenance of his fellow subjects; none of that destructive profession, hatched in the delirium of the feudal system, under whose auspices arise millions of procreants, which drag the labourer from his plough into the obscure and dangerous mazes of chicane, and thereby rob him, while defending his rights, of that time which would have been importantly employed in the general service of mankind.

The impôts established in China invariable.

In China there is no other lord, no other superior, who has power to levy taxes, but the common father of the family, the emperor. The bonzes (priests of the sect of Fo-hi) accustomed to receive alms from a charitable people, would be very indifferently received, should they pretend that this alms is a right which heaven has bestowed upon them.

The impôt called the tenth.

This impôt, which is not exactly the tenth part of the produce, is regulated according to the nature of the grounds: in bad soils it is perhaps only the thirtieth part, and so in proportion. This impôt, however, of the tenth part of the produce of the earth, which belongs to the emperor, is the only tax on the lands, the only tribute known in China since the origin of the monarchy; and such is the happy respect which the Chinese have for their ancient customs, that an emperor of China would never entertain the most distant thought of augmenting it, nor his subjects the least apprehension of such augmentation. The people pay it, in kind, not to avaricious farmers, generals, but to upright magistrates, their proper and natural governors. The amount of this tribute, though apparently trifling, must be immense, when we consider that it is levied on every foot of ground of the most extensive and best cultivated empire in the world.— This tax is paid with the greatest fidelity, as they know the purposes to which it is applied. They know, that part of it is laid up in immense magazines, distributed over every province of the empire, and allotted for the maintenance of the magistrates and soldiery: they know, that, in the event of scarcity, these magazines are open to all, and the wants of the people supplied with part of that which was received from them in times of abundance: they know too, that the remainder of this impôt is sold in the publick markets, and the produce of it faithfully carried to the treasury of the empire, the custody of which is intrusted to the respectable tribunal of Ho-pou, from whence it never is issued but to supply the general wants of the family.

Comparison of the agriculture of Africa and Asia with that of China.

Recollect, gentlemen, what I have said of the laws, the manners, and the customs of the different nations of Africa and Asia, the state of whose agriculture I have examined: compare nation with nation, and then judge, if the unfortunate Malabar, without property, subjected to the tyrannical government of the Moguls; judge if a race of slaves, under the iron scepter of the despot of Siam; judge if the Malais, ever turbulent, and fettered by their feudal laws; judge, I say, if these nations, though possessing the finest grounds in the world, can possibly ever make agriculture to flourish like the Chinese, governed as a family, and subjected to the laws of reason alone.—I shall again repeat, therefore, with confidence, that, in every country in the world, the fate of agriculture depends solely on the laws there established, on the manners of the people, and even on the prejudices which derive their origin from those laws.

What industry have the inhabitants of the earth displayed, from one extremity of the globe to the other, in rendering themselves unhappy! created to live in society, to cultivate the earth, and enjoy from their labour the infinite blessings of the great Creator, they had only to listen to the voice of nature, who would have taught them happiness below: in place of which, they have strained their faculties in the invention of barbarous institutions, and perplexing legislations, which being ill adapted to the feelings of mankind, and discordant with that law which is engraved in every man's breast, their establishment could only be effected by force, deluging the world with blood; and which, once established, have continued to desolate the earth, checking population, by the oppression of agriculture.

The state of agriculture in Europe.

What an object for an attentive traveller, to observe the state of agriculture amongst the various people who divide the globe! In Europe behold it at present flourishing, in a country which, during many preceding ages, was reduced to the necessity of begging subsistence amongst the neighbouring nations, who possessed a happier climate, and a greater extent of territory. During those ages of barbarism, their loss of liberty and right of property brought along with them the ruin of cultivation; nor has the recovered those natural rights of mankind, and re-established the foundations of drooping agriculture, but through seas of blood, and outrages shocking to humanity.

In Africa.

Africa, in general, whose regions, known to the ancients, were considered as the granaries of the world, now present nothing to the view but grounds either entirely neglected, or wretchedly cultivated by the labour of slaves.

In America.

South-America, covered with marshes, brambles, and woods, beholds her extensive tracks hardened even by the sweat of her labourers in chains. The northern regions of that quarter of the world are inhabited by inconsiderable tribes of savages, miserable, and without culture; yet free, and in consequence less wretched perhaps than those nations who pretend to be civilized; but who, being farther removed from the laws of nature, by the deprivation of those rights which the heavens, make ineffectual efforts to procure that happiness, which a good agriculture alone can produce.

In Asia.

The vast continent of Asia offers to your consideration, in one quarter, an immense uncultivated region, peopled by a race of banditti, more intent on plunder than the cultivation of their grounds; in another, a great empire, formerly flourishing, and excellently laboured, now inhabited by the poor remains of a wretched people, perishing with hunger from the neglect of agriculture, and shedding their blood, not for liberty, but for a change of tyrants. This charming fertile quarter of the world (the cradle of the human race) now beholds her lands in slavery, her labourers in chains, subjected either to the blind despotism of unfeeling tyrants, or the destructive yoke of the feudal system.

But turn your eyes to the eastern extremity of the Asiatick continent, inhabited by the Chinese, and there you will conceive a ravishing idea of the happiness the world might enjoy, were the laws of this empire the model of those of other countries. This great nation unites under the shade of agriculture, founded on liberty and reason, all the advantages possessed by whatever nation, civilized or savage. The blessing pronounced on man, at the moment of creation, seems not to have had its full effect, but in favour of this people, who have multiplied as the sands on the shore.

Princes, who rule over nations! arbiters of their fate! view well this perspective; it is worthy your attention. Would you with abundance flourish in your dominions, would you favour population, and make your people happy; behold those innumerable multitudes which overpread the territories of China, who leave not a shred of ground uncultivated; it is liberty, it is their undisturbed right of property that has established a cultivation so flourishing, under the auspices of which this people have increased as the grains which cover their fields.

Does the glory of being the most powerful, the richest, and the happiest of sovereigns touch your ambition, turn your eyes towards Peking, and behold the most powerful of mortal beings, seated on the throne of reason!—he does not command, he instructs;—his words are not decrees, they are the maxims of justice and wisdom;—his people obey him, because his orders are dictated by equity alone.

He is the most powerful of men, reigning over the hearts of the most numerous society in the world, who constitute his family.—He is the richest of sovereigns, drawing from an extent of territory six hundred leagues square, cultivated even to the fumblings of the mountains, the tenth of those abundant harvests it incessantly produces; this he contiders as the wealth of his children, and he husbands it with care.—To sum up all, he is the happiest of monarchs, taking

every day the inexpressible pleasure of giving happiness to millions, and alone enjoying, undivided, that satisfaction which his subjects share.—His children I all to him equally dear, all living like brothers, in freedom and abundance, under his protection.

He is called the son of *Tien*, as the true and most perfect image of heaven, whose benevolence he imitates; and his grateful people adore him, as a God, because his conduct is worthy of a man.

For the Massachusetts Gazette.

To the FRIENDS of GOVERNMENT throughout the Commonwealth; particularly those of the THREE WESTERN COUNTIES.

(Concluded from our last.)

GENTLEMEN,

THE legislature will have too much wisdom and goodness to abandon faithful and loyal subjects to the rage and the vengeance of that arch rebel, and the crew of fugitive ruffians, and robbers, who are his associates. But even in that event, the friends of government in other parts of the commonwealth would not leave them alone to be plundered and murdered. Protection and allegiance are inseparably connected. When the former is withdrawn, our obligation to the latter ceaseth.

Neither can it be imagined, that our future representatives will ever patronise the cause of rebellion, or screen the persons of the guilty, from that punishment which the laws have awarded them. Some of them have been fairly and candidly tried; and by the verdict of an impartial jury, have been found guilty both of high treason and of murder. Others, who have voluntarily taken a sacred oath, to be true and faithful to the commonwealth, have since been detected either in open arms, or in clandestine seditions. In fact, among the greater part of those who have not gone such lengths, we find an inveterate enmity to the laws, and an implacable malice towards their neighbours. Will such men ever be patronised, or suffered to destroy society by those who are its guardians? certainly they will not.

The danger of the destruction of the constitution, if all arguments on the probable side are weighed, is, I think, but small. There are individuals who would rejoice at such an event; and possibly some of such who may have a seat in the General Assembly. But there are causes which will contribute to its preservation, and there are such hazards in attempting to overthrow it, that I presume few men of policy would risk. But let us for a moment anticipate the characters of those gentlemen who may make up the two branches of legislation. It is, at least, probable that a considerable number of them will be of those who have been staunch friends to government: and they from duty and principle would be opposed to such a proceeding. Others, who have affected to be disturbed at the measures of the late administration, when out of place and power, may have a serving conscience. Besides, commotions, however agreeable to them, when individuals seeking election from the popular voice and influence; yet as magistrates, invested with authority, they would show no greater fondness for insurrections than their predecessors. Other gentlemen, who disapproved of the late administration merely from a want of knowledge of the reasons by which they were actuated, which as private men, would not be so clearly investigated; yet, in publick stations, possessed of observation and experience, they will, I trust, be convinced of the fitness and necessity of their conduct. And last of all, if there is a fourth class who have procured their election for conduct for which they ought to have been *****; and who, as they have been, still continue inveterate foes to order and tranquility; yet we hope their number will be so small, that they will never be enabled to carry their wicked designs into execution.—And may we not expect that the influence of the former classes will be able to effect by persuasion, what hath not as yet been accomplished by constraint? Changes in men have not always been attended with changes in measures. In the Roman republick we find the same men troublesome and furious when tribunes, who supported the senate and the laws, as when consuls. And in some of the latest periods of British history we find some very demerit members of parliament, who were afterwards, when ministers, severe in the execution of the laws, and unrelenting adversaries to sedition.

Much may be expected from the wisdom, virtue, and ingratiating manners, of that gentleman who probably will be our commander in chief. A man, who for so many years past, hath been considered as the first of citizens; and who would if we been at the head of this commonwealth to this day, had he not chosen a temporary retirement; who is now again called into the most important office, by the voice and affections of the people. He who hath been to great an instrument in effecting the independence of America, will surely never so far stain his past glory as to abandon the most virtuous part of the community to robbery.

P O E T R Y.

THE FREEDOM OF THE PRESS.
A NEW SONG.

WHERE dwells the man who dare suppress
The noble freedom of the press?
Sure he that would attempt the thing
On Haman's gallows ought to swing.

The freedom of the press—
O how shall I express,
This grand important theme!
Which unto me doth seem,
To be of great and mighty weight
Towards the freedom of the state.

Ye patriot band of friends!
You scarce can guess how much depends;
How much depends ye scarce can guess,
Upon the freedom of the press.

The freedom of the press &c.

How pleasing to a free-born soul,
To speak, to write, without controul,
And his internal thoughts express,
Whilst freedom smiles upon the press.

The freedom of the press, &c.

How galling to the free-born mind,
To be by shackles to confin'd,
That he his mind dare not express,
Because a tyrant rules the press.

The freedom of the press, &c.

O Liberty! thou darling thing!
For thee I'd write from fall to spring;
For thee my warmest thoughts express—
May thou for ever rule the press!

The freedom of the press—

O how shall I express,
This grand important theme!
Which unto me doth seem,
To be of great and mighty weight
Towards the freedom of the state.

P A R O D I E S.

I. MINISTER.

TRUST not a minister by art made false,
Dissembling, fickle, cruel and inconstant;
When premiers pledge themselves, with caution trust
them;
But if they swear, they'll certainly deceive you.

II. SINCERITY.

Seek now Sincerity!
Hide thee in smile and affability;
For shouldst thou put thy native semblance on,
Not Erebus itself were dim enough
To hide the bloody deeds which could be done,
For want of art's prevention.

III. FALSE PATRIOT.

What is it that you would impart to me?
If it be aught against the general good,
Set smiles in one eye, and shame in the other,
And I will look on both indifferently;
For let the Gods so speed me, as I love
The sound of riches more than I fear shame.

IV. COURT SMILES.

Court smiles, like ice, full of the vain betray;
How few tread firmly on the slippery way?
Pleas'd with fine prospects, they slide swiftly on,
Nor see those snates they should with caution shun.

The following observations are deserving of serious attention at this day, by the rulers of this commonwealth.

ON GOVERNMENT.

GOVERNMENTS formed by chance, and gradually improved by such expedients as the successive discovery of their defects happened to suggest, are never to be tried by a regular theory. We must be content with them as they are; should we attempt to mend their proportions, we might easily demolish, and with difficulty re-build them.

No scheme of policy has, in any country, yet bro't the rich and poor on equal terms into courts of judicature. Perhaps experience, improving on experience, may in time effect it.

To hinder insurrection by driving away the people, and to govern peaceably, by having no subjects, is an expedient that argues no great profundity of politics.

To soften the obdurate, to convince the mistaken, to modify the resentful, are worthy of a statesman; but it affords a legislator little self applause to consider that where there was formerly an insurrection, there is now a wilderness.

The general story of mankind will evince, that law and settled authority is very seldom resisted when it is well employed. Grows corruption, or evident imbecility, is necessary to the suppression of that deference, with which the majority of mankind look upon their governments, or those whom they see surrounded by splendour, and fortified by power.

No government could subsist for a day, if single errors could justify defection.

Government is necessary to man; and when obedience is not compelled, there is no government.

P A R I S, March 10.

IT is imagined that all the plans submitted to the Notables will be in the end agreed to. The opposition has, however been warm. Mr. Dillon, archbishop of Paris, as chief of the clergy, declared, "that if the plans proposed were put into execution, France would fall into the anarchy of Boston, and the despotism of Constantinople."—A prince told him that it was scarcely credible that any subject should dare oppose the will of his sovereign: upon which the archbishop entered into a full explanation of the reasons which moved him to a patriotick resistance to the royal will, which he did in so clear a manner, that the prince was convinced of the justice of what he said.—Notwithstanding this, many sensible people are of opinion, that in the present situation of things, the territorial impost is at once the most simple and equitable mode of raising the revenue that can be adopted; it will be sure press hard upon the clergy and nobility, but all other subjects of the kingdom will be benefited, and the poor in particular relieved by it.

L O N D O N, March 30.

The goldsmiths of London used formerly to prove the purity of their gold, in the court of requests, Westminster-hall, before the barons and attorney-general. Upon these occasions they had a pair scales which are called the *Prix*, upon so very nice a construction that 1-200th part of a grain would balance them. Upon one of the trials, Noy, attorney-general, said he should be sorry if all his actions were to be weighed in that scale.

The publick papers of Britanny, in France, observe that the small pox, which has raged for some time at Coue, in that province, has been very fatal to children. A farmer, in particular, who had nine was deprived of them all in the course of twelvedays: but it is remarkable, that the disorder has been favourable to persons advanced in years; several people aged 80 to 85, having happily recovered from it; and what is very extraordinary indeed, a woman named Marchand, who has completed her 103d year, having caught the infection attended by symptoms of the most dangerous kind, is now perfectly well.

C H A R L E S T O N, (S. C.) May 16.

The women under sentence of death at Savannah, for robbing messrs. May and Hills's store, are respited by the executive: one of them, named Smith, whilst subject to the finishing stroke of the law, which Mr. Jack Keich used to denominate exaltation, appeared so tranquil and indifferent as if he despised that fell spectre death, and all his attendant terrors, being no less stoical than Socrates of old who made the spectators laugh during his dissolution. When a carpenter took measure of him for his coffin, he desired that it might be made very large, in order that at the day of resurrection, there might be some room to rise; and the day previous to that on which he was to have been executed, he said to a dancing matter, "if you will attend to-morrow at the gallows, I will shew you a step which I hope you will never dance. A person who had the curiosity to visit him declared that Smith had been condemned in Philadelphia to the wheelbarrow, Smith promptly replied, "Yes, sir, the same day and by the same token you received twenty-nine lashes." It was observed to him, that, considering his unhappy situation, he was very jocosely—"Why, how can I be otherwise when to-morrow I am to be married?" To be married! vociferated the bye-standers—to whom?—"Why, to the widow Wood."

P H I L A D E L P H I A, June 4.

To the honourable Benjamin Franklin, Esquire, president of the supreme executive council of the state of Pennsylvania, and of the American philofophical society, &c.

The petition of John Churchman
Respectfully sheweth,

T H A T whereas he mentioned, in the month of July last, a slight account of some discoveries he apprehended he had made, which he rather attributes to accident than his own abilities, as he had spent little time on this subject, but has lately examined into the same more minutely, and finds, according to his sentiments every circumstance to correspond, he is encouraged in diffidence to mention the matter to a person whose reputation is universally established as the patron of all useful arts. Although he blushes under an apprehension that he must certainly appear an enthusiast, before the matter is explained, for daring to advance such opinions; he apprehends from the simplicity of the system, at the first view, it will appear consistent with reason and truth; and if any good should happen to arise from the same, he hopes to reap the advantage; but whether or not, he desires neither the affair nor the principles may be yet known. He wishes to have a certificate of this date, setting forth about the time of his first mentioning the first hints; and he will, as in duty bound, ever pray.

JOHN CHURCHMAN.

14th of 3d month, February, 1787.

The effects supposed to be produced by the discoveries above mentioned, are as follows:

1. A method for ascertaining the Longitude by land or sea, day or night, in any part of the globe.
2. In knowing the variation and difference of the magnetick needle in any place.
3. The use of the globes improved and enlarged, with the addition of several useful problems.

The request in the petition was granted by the president, who also sent the principles to some of his

friends in Europe, part of which have been published hithertofore.

N E W Y O R K, June 9.

By late accounts from Kentucky it appears that five persons have lately been killed by the Indians on the north side, among whom were a son and overseer of general Scott, who were out on a fowling party. That three women were killed at a place called the Rich Valley, near the head of Holston, and many others killed on the waters of Clinch. Several of the Indians have been seen near the great road that leads from Holston to Winchester, which has alarmed the people very much.

By a gentleman from Charlottesville, we are told that there is a Chickaw chief, and a Chickesaw, on their way to Congress; they passed through that town about the 20th of May.

On the 17th and 18th ult. arrived at Charleston (S. C.) upwards of twenty Indians of the Catawba nation, with two scalps of the fugitive slaves who have been so troublesome for some time past in that and the state of Georgia, for each of which scalps, we are informed they received from his excellency the governor twenty pounds. Two of the Indians were wounded.

P O R T S M O U T H, (New-Hampshire) June 9.

A gentleman who arrived here on Sunday last, in nine days from Quebec, informs, that lord Dorchester is using every effort to have the militia of Canada well regulated, and under proper discipline. All the male inhabitants, from 16 to 60 years are enrolled as militia men, out of whom are to be selected all the able bodied unmarried men, from 18 years to 45, who are to be embodied as occasion may require, for the security of the frontiers, and to be in readiness to march in four days from the time of notice being given; that the frontier posts have been strengthened by an additional regiment—that five regiments were daily expected to arrive at Quebec, three from Ireland, and two from Portsmouth, in England—that the British were preparing to equip and fit out their shipping upon the Lakes, one of which (a ship of considerable force) was actually fitted out—that the administration of lord Dorchester was very pleasing to all ranks and orders of the citizens of that province; that the inhabitants of which have been lately favoured with that inestimable privilege, the right of trial by jury; a blessing which they have been deprived of ever since they became a province to Great-Britain.

On Thursday next, the 21st June inst.
WILL BE SOLD,
By PUBLICK VENDUE,

On the Premises,
A HOUSE, BARN and LAND, situated in Back-Street, Charlestown, with a good Well of Water, and a Cellar under the whole House—which is 32 by 36 Feet, and the Land 40 by 150 Feet. The Sale will be at Three o'Clock, P. M.

For further particulars inquire of the Printers, or of Richard Trumbull, Inholder in said Charlestown.

Cheap for Cash,

At the STORE of
JACKSON and HIGGINSON,
No. 40, on the LONG WHARF,
An Assortment of
FUSTIANS and JEANS,
JUST ARRIVED.

Where, also, may be had,
Brandy, West-India Rum, Coffee, Raisins,
IRISH LINENS, &c.

On the most reasonable Terms, by Wholesale.
N. B. CASH, and a GOOD PRICE, given for
Pot and Pearl Ashes, and white-oak Barrel Staves.

C A S H

Given for SALTS and unmerchantable
POT-ASH,

By Thomas Perkins,

At his Pearl-Ash Manufactory, opposite the Bottom
of Archmuty's Lane. (3W)

On Thursday the 5th of July next,
At Three o'Clock, P. M.

Will be sold at Auction,

[By Order of the Court of Common Pleas]
At the House of Miss Eunice Brady, in Cambridge,
ALL the remaining real Estate of Thomas Ireland, deceased, insolvent.
(3W) SAMUEL SWAN, jun. Administ.
Charlestown, June 4, 1787.

IF Henry Arabsmith, alias Henry Smith, be living, and will call on Russell and Clap, in Court-street, Boston, he may hear of something very greatly to his advantage. He served his time with a captain that sailed out of Philadelphia, in the Jamaica trade, before the war. He is about 40 years of age, of a swarthy complexion, black eyes, and black hair; hath had one leg broke and badly set.—He served on board a British man of war, the beginning of the disturbances in America. Any one who can give information of the above person, dead or alive, will do an act of kindness to the concerned.