

# THE GLEANER,

## AND NIAGARA NEWSPAPER.

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[VOL. I.

### LIBERTY OF THE CONTINENTAL PRESS.

[From No. 49 of the *Edinburgh Review*.]

*Continued from our last.*

But if it be desirable that the people should hold sound opinions on the subject of their government, it follows, by undeniable consequence, that they should enjoy free discussion—in other words, the unlimited use of the press. Whatever is taken from that unlimited use, is just so much added to the means of deception. Whatever is taken from this liberty, is all taken from one side:—it is all taken from the power of expressing blame. The other side, of course, obtains a false and unfair preponderance. Those who have an interest in deceiving the people into the mischievous belief that their government is better than it is, have the most unbounded liberty; those who would expose the delusion, and make known the vices and defects of the government, are alone restricted.—What is this, but securing to the depositaries of power an instrument of imposture—admitting, at once, that there is an intention to deceive, and that deception is necessary?

This short and conclusive reasoning, can be apparently evaded only in one way; by the assumption which we have already mentioned, that discussion is calculated to produce, not correct, but erroneous notions of government. It is really not a little singular, that an assumption so contrary to all reason and all experience, should be supposed to admit of dis-

cussion in such an age as the present. Two other assumptions are made for its support. In the first place, the people are very malignant to their rulers, and always disposed to resist them: In the next place, they are very ignorant. We answer, that the first of these is directly contrary to the fact; the fault of the people being to repose far too easy and too implicit a confidence in those who assume authority over them:—And to the second we reply, that if the people are ignorant, we have only to give them the inestimable advantage of discussion, equally free on both sides, and they will be ignorant no longer. This however, leads to the solution of the whole mystery. So long as rulers can prohibit free discussion, it is their interest to retain the people in ignorance and stupidity; because, the purpose is to deceive them. When free discussion has place, it is the interest of rulers, that the people should see clearly, and be incapable of being deceived. This advantage is unspeakable. Because, then, the powers of government will be employed, not in resisting the instruction of the people, but in promoting it, with their irresistible efficacy. The people will receive the best possible education; the best possible books will be provided for them; erroneous opinions will meet with their best antidote and check—a prompt and skilful reply, effectually circulated and made known. In this manner, it is undeniably certain, that the freedom of the press affords a complete remedy

for its own diseases; or, to speak more truly, it thus appears, that what have been called the diseases of the press, are but fictions in the mouths of those who have an interest in defaming it.

There is another view in which the very practice of free discussion, obviates the dangers which have been ascribed to it. Stimulants lose their efficacy by familiar use. When a people, long held in chains and darkness first hear the language of censure on their government or governors, they may be surprised and agitated. Let them become familiar with it, and they will hear it with the indifference of a daily event. At first they may be disposed to believe, that every censure on government is true; as children at first believe the truth of every thing which they are told. Afford them but a short experience of the chances of falsehood or error in the censures bestowed upon government, and they will meet every censure with scepticism, till probable grounds of belief are presented to their minds.

It is an impressive fact, that wherever there is least experience of free discussion, there the greatest readiness is found to expect from its evil effects. The French, it seems, tremble at the thoughts of free discussion, even in a judicial or legislative assembly; and M. Constant finds it necessary to adduce the example of England to encourage them. There is violent and even turbulent declamation, he assures us, in the two English houses of Parliament.

His observations are so just, that they recommend themselves to the conviction of every man who hears them; and so comprehensive, that they leave no room for any farther explanation. Suppose that the expression of blame by the press is allowed, in its greatest latitude, both with respect to persons and things, and suppose that it is abused to the

frequent expression of undue blame, it is a most indubitable fact, that as soon as false accusations become common, they immediately cease to be of any importance; and the chief mischief which they occasion is the very reverse of that which the enemies of the press hold up to dread. They render it of little consequence to be accused; and lessen the first impressions which are made, by the best founded imputations of guilt.

When doctrines which lay as solid, and as broad a foundation for the liberty of the press as those which we have quoted from the work of M. Constant, are published in the most popular works of the time; and when the people have fairly had the experience of so considerable a degree of that liberty, as has in fact existed in France during several months, we do trust, and with some confidence, that the impulse towards it in the public mind is too powerful to be subdued; and that even the return of the Bourbons, with augmented powers to spread the reign of darkness, will not be altogether able to prevent the multiplication and circulation of useful books.

If it should happen, that a family, claiming to hold its sovereign powers, not by the will of the people, but hereditary and indefeasible right; a family regarding every thing which it permits the people to enjoy as the effect of its grace and bounty, not part of that which the people ought to claim—and, if it is withheld, to take—be again seated on the throne of that great country, by the bayonets of a confederacy of sovereigns, there will certainly be great reason to fear, that almost every restriction which law and government can maintain, will be imposed upon the freedom of the press in France. Our hopes, therefore, are placed in what the state of the public mind may produce, in spite of law and of government. It formerly produced con-

siderable results, in opposition to both—and we have reason to conclude, that it is still more strengthened and enlightened at the present, than at any preceding period.

In other respects, however, the situation of Europe, we fear, is less favourable to this, or any other species of freedom. In former times, Holland was a republic; and enjoyed a press that was eminently free. From the press of Holland, issued books, composed in France and other countries in which they durst not have appeared, and thence made their way into every quarter of Europe. This was an advantage of unspeakable importance. Holland, by the power of the confederated sovereigns, who seem so eager to help all the world to kings, has been constrained to receive a king; and, under him, it is scarcely to be expected that the same liberty will be indulged. Germany, too, was formerly divided into a great number of little states. A book, which could not be printed in one of them, might often be printed in another. The free cities allowed great liberties to the press; and, upon the whole, the circulation of useful truth was considerably favoured in all that mighty empire. There is no chance whatever, that any such facilities will be granted under the arrangements which may be ultimately made by the sovereigns of the Congress of Vienna. Of all the ancient resources for the free expression of thought, on the continent of Europe, Geneva alone, appears to be reserved. But what powers of aiding this great cause, even she, may be allowed to exercise, yet remains to be seen.

Under all the circumstances of the case, we cannot find reason to hope that the progress of the human mind will be very rapid during the years that are first to ensue. It will not, however, it may be easily foreseen, be either stationary or quiet; and ever again will it wear its shackles

with contentment. Arrangements, almost all unfavorable to human nature, may, in the present state of affairs, be expected to be made. But they will produce dissatisfaction, and, in the end, an irresistible desire of change. Henceforth, too, changes will be more easily effected. The superstitious reverence for princes and men of authority, is prodigiously weakened over all the civilized world. What is bad in governments will not much longer have any thing but the bayonet for its support; and, under the state of preparation, which in the more cultivated parts of Europe, the human mind has attained, it seems not much to be dreaded, that any set of arrangements which shall deprive it of the liberty of the press, will be of long duration. It is hard to tell how soon events may open a way for its triumphant establishment.

In our preceding reflections, we have sometimes expressed ourselves concerning the unlimited use of the press, in language which appears to ourselves to require restriction. We are far from meaning to say, that the press can never be employed for a bad purpose, or that such employments of it should not be repressed.

The press is merely an instrument of speech; and, as speech may be employed for the perpetration of almost every species of crime, so may the press. It may be used to effect a murder or a theft, or any other atrocity; and it is unquestionably necessary to repress these crimes, whatever instrument is used in their commission. Yet it would be something worse than affected, to call any of these crimes by the name of an abuse of the press. It would be just as proper to call a murder perpetrated with a knife; an abuse of the knife; and to make a law, accordingly, to punish abuses of the knife. The rational course is, to define all crimes correctly, according to their nature

and object, and to provide for their punishment, without regard to the manner of their perpetration. When this is done, there will be a law to restrain the abuses of the press, without so much as articulating its name. On the other hand, a law to restrain the abuses of the press, must obviously include a repetition of the whole criminal code.

Nevertheless, there are a few species of acts generally, in modern Europe, treated as crimes, of which the press may be considered as the natural or peculiar instrument. These may all be classed under the general description of unfavourable representation. The objects in respect to which unfavourable representation, whether true or false, whether deserved or undeserved, has been treated as a crime, are, 1. The religion of the country; 2. Its political institutions; 3. Its political functionaries; 4. The character of individuals.

1. With respect to religion;—its most zealous, able, and successful defenders, have condemned the law, which makes it a crime to speak or to write in opposition to it. Dr. Campbell, in particular, the acute and admired antagonist of Mr. Hume, deprecates the interference of the magistrate, which, he says, casts a greater slur upon religion, than all the efforts of its enemies; and implies, as strongly as acts can imply, that, in the field of argument, it despairs of victory. 'No,' says that liberal-minded man, in the genuine language of sincerity and conviction; 'if I thought that Christianity had any occasion for the chains and stripes of the magistrate, to make it maintain itself in the minds of men, it should be no religion of mine.' To the same purpose speaks a man not distinguished for mildness towards his controversial opponents. Bishop Warburton, who makes but one exception, relative to the weapons of ridicule. He was not afraid of argument against

Christianity—he was only afraid of laughter; but surely without a cause. If any opinions are sure of victory on the side of argument, they are sure of victory with all the rational part of mankind, whom, sooner or later, if they have no interest to the contrary, the rest always follow. Besides, if ridicule would be strong against Christianity, it would be still stronger against its antagonists; because false reasoning is naturally ridiculous—sound reasoning, the reverse.

It is surely unnecessary to remain upon the scandal which must ever rest on that species of justice which lets Hume and Gibbon pass with impunity, and brings ruin upon a man like the author of *Ecce Homo*. A law which cannot be executed in part, is radically unfit to be executed at all. We pass slightly the offences of the press against public morals, by which, in this instance, sexual delicacy is almost exclusively meant, because we think it comparatively of little importance whether they are punished by the magistracy or not. It is proper, however, to observe, that the books in this respect the most dangerous, that is, the most seductive, are not susceptible of punishment. And it is undeniably true that, against indecent publication the sanction of popular sentiment is the best, and in the long-run, the only restraint. It is not because the law punishes the printing of such works, but because it is disreputable to be found with them, that they are so little seen in this country.

2. On representations unfavourable to the political institutions of the country, the language of English lawyers, and even of English judges does not seem to us to be perfectly consistent with itself. The right of free discussion, they say, is the birth-right of Englishmen; it is the most valuable, perhaps, of all his privileges for on this they allow that every security for good government depend

But the right of free discussion implies that of unfavorable representation,—an exhibition of the arguments on both sides, and as little restrained on the one side as on the other.

It is, therefore, the language of lawyers, that unfavourable representation with regard to the institutions of government, ought to be free.—But it is also their language, that it ought to be altogether prohibited, and subject to some of the severest penalties of the law.

We quote Mr. Holt, both because his work is one of the latest, and because, it has been applauded by lord Ellenborough on the bench, as a transcript of his own sentiments, on this most important topic of law.—Observe what he says in praise of the right of unfavourable representation.

“Our constitution, in fact, as it at present exists, is almost entirely, under Providence, the fruit of a free press. It was this, which awakened the minds of men from that apathy, in which ignorance of their rights, and of the duties of their rulers, left them. It was by these means, that moral and religious knowledge, the foundation of all liberty, was refracted, multiplied, and circulated; and, instead of existing in masses, and in the single points of schools and universities, was rendered the common atmosphere in which we all live and breathe. It was from the press that originated, what is, in fact, the main distinction of the ancient and modern world,—public opinion. A single question, will be sufficient to put the importance of this subject in the strongest point of view. In the present state of knowledge and manners, is it possible, that a Nero or Tiberius, should be suffered to live or reign?”

Here, such unfavourable representations, as produced the greatest changes both in Church and State; the reformation of religion, and the

glorious revolution of 1688, are highly applauded: nay, such unfavourable representations, as would tumble a bad king from his throne, or even deprive him of life.

(To be concluded in our next.)

TO MR. GOURLAY.

SIR,

I have perused your letters of October, and 10th ult. and have no objections to your plan; the people of the British isles cannot be too well informed with respect to this fine country, but it appears to me that you have introduced into your letters much extraneous matter, that had no connection with your subject, that some of us Canadians do not relish well. We are a happy people, and we know it; we have no dread of any disaster, nor do we consider ourselves in danger of losing our liberty, whilst we enjoy the privileges of British subjects, in its most pure state, the only misfortune we are liable to is a second visit from our neighbours in the United States, in that case, loyal able bodied men, who are able and willing, to assist us in defending our beloved country is what we want most, let them be rich or poor. We have had a W——s, a T——p, and W——x, who endeavoured to persuade us, that we were already unhappy, and in danger of being enslaved. The motives of those gentlemen, are now pretty well known, so that any other person sounding such alarms, may expect to be very little attended to: I shall, therefore, endeavour to point out something in your letters that I do not understand, and some that I consider exceptionable. As you want information, perhaps you may receive some hints that may be of use to you, in the report you intend to make. I am quite at a loss to divine, what the political restraints are, to be removed, I know of none: you say that the settlers we have had are poor, and can do no good to the country, now, if they can do no good to the country, perhaps the country can do them some good, which is a matter of great importance. The fact is, the country has been settled (with very few exceptions) by poor people; I could name a number, who settled in this country, who were not worth fifty dollars when they became settlers, from twenty to thirty years ago, who are now worth from two to five thousand pounds; now these people have done good to themselves and families, and who can say but they have done good to the country? if changing the face of the country from a barren wilderness to fruitful fields deserve that appellation, it is a well known fact, that, the poor, or those who had least to depend upon, did much the best, both

for themselves and country, why, may not the same result be expected to follow from the settlement of those poor people who are now finding their way (although with difficulty) to this country? You say you observed hints in the newspapers towards bettering the condition of the poor settlers, and for insuring their residence in the province, such hints (you coldly observe) are well meant, and may tend to alleviate individual distress, but can produce no important good to the country. Is it a small matter to alleviate distress in individuals, does it not confer the greatest honour on the inhabitants of Canada? to be able and willing to assist their poor brethren—may not those in their turn, after several years residence in the country be able and willing to assist new settlers? I consider it as a matter of great importance; never, surely could charity be better bestowed? I approve highly of endeavouring to encourage rich farmers to come and settle in the country, and to find that so many settlers could be spared from that country for one particular reason, that no pretext might remain for admitting citizens of the United States, indiscriminately to this province, but in your next, I was surprised to find your opinion was, that all would not do, unless we would admit every citizen of the United States that choose to come; our hopes of prosperity and independence must otherwise be at an end. You say, "that thousands, and tens of thousands of paupers, could be spared, who cannot now get off for want of means, but who would be brought over by men of capital, were confidence for adventure here once established." I am utterly at a loss to know what you mean by want of confidence? could you explain that I should be glad, as I know of no such thing.

I doubt the fact, that the settlements in the Genesee country, are any thing superior to those in the same climate in this province, were you to travel from Niagara to Charlotteville by the way of Ancaster, you would perhaps alter your opinion; far aware that much British capital was expended in purchasing lands in the Genesee country, and also from other European countries; but I should be extremely sorry to see money come to this province for the same purpose. The fact is, that company is made up of some of the leading characters of the State of New York, and some monied gentlemen from Europe, purchased large tracts of land from the State, which they retailed out to actual settlers, at a very advanced price, on long credit, upon condition, that, if the money was not paid at a certain time, it reverted back to the owners; the result was, (as was foreseen) that many who purchased, not being able to make payment at the time appointed, forfeited their

estates with all the improvements, after spending perhaps ten years of the prime of life, or perhaps, had the good fortune to dispose of his title for a trifle, to a more rich neighbour the consequence was, that one part of the community rose upon the ruin of others; some of these first, made splendid fortunes, while the rest have been obliged, either to advance farther into the woods, or become tenants or cotters to their wealthy neighbours.

The government of Canada, (to the great annoyance of land jobbers), generally deal out the land to actual settlers in quantity sufficient for a farm only; first for nothing, and still at a very low rate, so that every man, when he settled on his land, could call it his own, no lordling could turn him off his own estate, or dispute his title; every man was happy, and generally contented: while in the new countries of the State of New York, some made great fortunes, and some have carried farming and other improvements, to a greater extent than in Canada, their poor neighbours assisting as labourers to carry on the same; this may account for the superiority you state, (if it is so) with respect to true happiness, diffused through all ranks, there is no comparison; this province, I believe, is in this respect before any other country in the world.

You say, "The enquiries and observations which I have recently made on the subject of settlement assure me that neither in these provinces nor in the United States, has a proper system been pursued. The mere filling of the world with men, should not be the sole object of political wisdom. This should regard the filling of it with beings of a superior intellect and feeling." Could you, Sir, put us upon a plan of filling the country with beings of a superior intellect and feeling? I should be glad, but the fact is, these beings are sent into this world with powers of body and mind, such as the Almighty sees meet; all that we can do is, to endeavour to cultivate those powers as much as possible, first, as far as possible make them easy and comfortable in circumstances, then induce them to cultivate their intellectual powers. What you say, respecting bringing out only the weakest part of society, cannot be with any propriety directed to us, all that we can do is to use them well when they come, rich or poor, you pay us but a poor compliment when you say they can receive no aid, no example, there being in no fear of God or man.

The *two* made use of by his Excellency last session of parliament; the consequence of which, you point in such dreadful colours, is a word I have not been able to find in any Dictionary I can lay my hands on; perhaps many of our readers may be at a loss to understand what it means. The first revolts

tion in France, adopted a form of government nearly the same as that of the British, by which the King possessed a  *veto*, or in plain English, a negative on the proceedings of the other branches of the legislature; upon refusing his assent or making use of the  *veto*, a great outcry was made by the volatile French, which was improved so well by the demagogues of the day, that it was one of the causes assigned for bringing him to the scaffold. I have often seen the word made use of since, but as far as I know, it has never been admitted into any English Dictionary; my readers no doubt, all know that the only legal powers our King possesses in legislation, is a negative on the proceedings of the other branches of legislature, he can refuse his assent to any bill, he can prerogative from time to time their proceedings, this he can do legally, and it has frequently been done without creating any alarm among us steady Britons. Now I do not pretend to determine, whether his Excellency's  *veto* was good for the country or not, on that subject there is a diversity of opinions, but no doubt it was legal, and was saying no more than "stop gentlemen, we will take a few months to think on this subject."

T. B.

*Niagara, December 12th, 1817.*


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 FOREIGN.
 

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*Frankfort (Germany) Sept 20.*—We do not recollect having seen published a list of the States forming the *Germanic Confederation*, since the overthrow of its nominal Protector BONAPARTE. In a French *Kalender* for the present year, we find the League to embrace the following States:—Baden, Hesse-Electorate, Branch of Hesse-Philippstal, Branch of Hesse-Rothenbourg; Hesse-Darmstadt; Branch of Aesse-Homburg; Luxembourg; Holstein; Holstein Oldenbourg; Meaulembourg-Schwerin; Mecklenbourg-Strelitz; Saxe-Weimar; Brunswick; Nassau; Saxe-Gotha; Saxe Cobourg-Salfeld; Saxe-Meiningen; Saxe-Hildburghausen; Anhalt-Desau; Anhalt-Bernbourg; Anhalt-Coethen; Schwarzbourg-Sonderhausen; Schwarzbourg; Rudolstadt; Hohenzollern-Hechingen; -Lichtenstein; Hohenzollern-Sigmaringen; Waldeck; Rarow-Groitz; Reuss-

Schleiz; Lippe-Schaumburg; and Lippe-Detmold. All these States are independent sovereignties, having their Grand Dukes, Electors, Landgrave, Dukes and princes, each supporting a court of various degrees of splendor. They have given Empresses, Queens, and Princesses, to most of the powers of Christendom.

Under Bonaparte the Confederation of the Rhine included besides the above States, the principality of Ratisbon, Bavaria, Wirtemberg, Saxony, Westphalia, Berg-and-Cleves, Neufchatel, Wurtzburg, Salm-Salm, Salm-Rysburg, Isenbourg-Bristen, Armburg and Lingen.

*Paris, September 26.*—Mrs. Fitzherbert, known to all Europe for her estimable qualities, has arrived here, and proposes to stop some weeks. In her youth this lady was married to the British Prince of Wales, and much beloved by him; but the parliament declared the marriage illegal, and he was compelled to marry a Princess of Brunswick now Princess of Wales, but separated from him, and residing in Italy.

The French Papers contain a copy of a bull address by the Pope to the king of Spain, authorising him to levy a subsidy on the Spanish Ecclesiastics. This document has been obtained in furtherance of the new projects of Finance of the Minister Garay, and if acquiesced in by the Spanish Clergy, will transfer thirty millions of reals from the Church coffers to those of the state. By three others, his Holiness authorises his "dearly beloved son in Jesus Christ" to take to himself the profits of vacant benefices, first fruits, &c. and to raise upon ecclesiastical property an extraordinary contribution of 70,000,000 reals. It is asserted that Argules, one of the most distinguished members of the Cortes, has not only been pardoned, but has been promoted to high office. Two of his colleagues also are expected to be set at liberty.

The British consul at Tunis made a demand upon that regency in July, for the release of several prisoners, belonging to two Hamburgh vessels, which were captured by Tunisian cruizers in the British channel, and recaptured by the British, on the ground that the captures were made in sight of the British coast. The bey refused a compliance until the prizes were restored to him. The consul dispatched the answer to the naval officer at Malta; and the sequel will probably be a visit from a British squadron to enforce a compliance with the demand.

*The Mission to South America.*—The Baltimore patriot of Monday 17th, confirms the report (already published) of the appointment of the Hon. C. A. Rodney of Delaware, John Graham, Esq. of Washington, and the Hon. Judge Bland, of Baltimore, as commissioners to proceed to South America. It also adds, that the Honourable Judge would probably resign his seat on the Bench of Baltimore county, in the present week; and that he and the other commissioners would sail from Annapolis in the frigate *Congress*, in the course of a few days.

Mr. Gallatin Ambassadors from the United States to the Court of France, who had been charged with these negotiations, has returned from the Hague to Paris.

LONDON, OCTOBER 4.

Letters from the Hague state, that the conference for the conclusions of a treaty of commerce and navigation between the Kingdom of the Netherlands and the United States of America, are postponed until the American Plenipotentiaries shall have received ulterior instructions.

Ships continue to be equipped in the river for the purpose of conveying officers, non-commissioned officers and privates, to aid the Patriots

in South America. At present one vessel is quite ready to sail, having on board officers fully equipped, and 200 privates to form a rifle corps. Another is in a forward state of preparation, and has appointments for a cavalry regiment 600 strong; a third is freighted with equipments of a lancers' corps. The officers are all men who have seen active service, and are of every rank, from Lieutenant Colonels to Ensigns. The organization is so complete, and the arrangements so happily made, that they will be ready for immediate service on their arrival in America.

An Indiaman is now building at Ipswich, which will be launched on the 28th instant. It is the largest and finest vessel ever built there. The Dimensions are:—length of the keel 154 feet, the extreme length on the deck is 195, width 43 feet 3½ inches; height from the bottom of the hold to the upper deck, 31 feet; and rated at 1337 tons.

In 1810, the imports from Africa into England, exclusive of gold dust, were computed at 535,517 pounds; from the gold coast alone, an extent of 250 miles, the imports were from 120,000 to 180,000 pounds, and the annual import of gold from the same coast, 30,000 cunees, valued at 130,000 pounds.

In 1814, the Directors of the African institution, voted a piece of plate as a premium, to Messrs. M<sup>r</sup> Aulay and Babington, for the importation of 100 tons of white rice, the produce of Africa.

Africa then is not wholly a barren waste. It will be easy, if it is desired, to find places on the western coast eligible for the establishment of colonies.

So great has been the demand for the strong cloths lately at Leeds that in the Cloth Hall scarcely one piece was left. A criterion by which the inhabitants always judge.



The price of new wheat was advancing in London, while that of the old continued stationary.

Alderman Smith of London is elected Lord Mayor of that city for the ensuing year.

It is said that there has been already sold about 14,000 copies of Dr. Chalmers' Sermons; and it is expected that the effect of a favourable criticism in the Edinburgh Review will augment the sale to the prodigious number of 20,000; so that the profit to the author will be from 2 to 3000 pounds.

*Extract of a letter from Liverpool dated Oct. 8.*—"In Cotton there is little business doing.

The demand for Pot ashes is a little more extensive at 49s. to 52s. for New-York and Boston Pots, and 45s. to 46s. per cwt. for Montreal: pearl Ashes are very dull at 63s to 64s. per cwt.—Flour goes off more freely to day at 52s to 55s. per bbl. but the sales are still limited. Rye Flour 30s to 31s. per bbl. Rice 34s to 38s 6d per cwt."

## Poetry.

### LINES

*Written in Commemoration of the 18th June, the Anniversary of the Battle of WATERLOO.*

THE clarion of fame, and the trumpet of war,  
Have been kindled on earth and resounded afar;  
But the former shall stay, tho' the latter may cease,  
And encircle with glory the hero in peace;  
While the lay of the bard, and the praise of the sage,  
Shall add vigour to youth, and give valour to age.  
Oh Albion! rejoice in the strength of thy might,  
That thy sons were so brave—that their purpose was right;  
That while others have bow'd to ambition, thy crest  
Has risen unconquer'd—the star of the west:  
And the laurels shall bloom, which thy heroes have won,

As bright as the summer—as long as the sun;

Till mankind shall own thee, exalted in name—

Unconquer'd in fight, and unequal'd in fame.

Thou Briton, look round o'er the face of the earth,

Then turn thine eye home to the place of thy birth,

And say, if, in all the wide circuit you see,  
A nation so glorious—a country so free.

On England, both riches and happiness smile,  
While Scotland is bold, and unconscious of guile,

And dauntless and daring the emerald isle.  
In peace through all climates thy sails are unfurl'd,

Thy commerce extends to the ends of the world;

The Indies pour in all their treasures to thee,  
And thy flag is obey'd as the queen of the sea:

In war who can equal thy spirits of fire?  
Distress can but rouse them, and dangers inspire;

Yet their mercy has shown, in the onset of steel,  
That the boldest in fight are most ready to feel;

And France blushes deep, as she own you subdue,  
In justice, in valour, and clemency too!

Let the tyrant depend on the aid of his slave,  
But the shield of the free, and the sword of the brave,

In justice unsheath'd shall accomplish its soil,  
With the praise of the injur'd, and victory's smile!

The sun in the morning gleam'd palely to view,  
When the armies were thick on thy plain.

Waterloo;

And the rain-drops fell fastly, all piercing and wet,  
They seem'd tears of the sun, who might see,

ere he set,  
As boundless a carnage—as bloody a fray,  
As e'er was accomplish'd in one summer day:

Lo France rushes on, and her hosts, undismay'd,  
O'er the field like the locusts of Egypt are spread;

They cheer, and they charge, and the cannon and shot  
Rung deadly and drear, as the battle wax'd hot;

The charge is repell'd and retreat is made,  
known,

By the havoc, the crash, and the half-stifled groan;

The columns in darkness are hid from the eye,

And the bomb, like a thunderbolt, vaults  
through the sky :

They charge and they cheer, but 'tis fruitless  
and vain,

They are forc'd to retreat o'er the mounds of  
the slain,

And the masterless steed gallops over the  
plain !

Then, England, thy vengeance and valour  
were bright ;

Then, Erin, thy crest rose, unconquer'd in  
might ;

But chiefly, oh Albin ! in glory and gore,  
Shone thy broad-waving tartans, and flashing  
claymore !

No valour or vigour thy shocks could repel ;  
Undaunted, no danger thy spirit could quell ;  
And the tyrant beheld, in the sons of Fingal,  
An end to his empire—a path to his fall !  
'Tis past, and the fugitives heartless career  
Is gall'd by the Prussians inveterate spear :  
The night rushes downward in darkness and  
shade,

But no rest to the worn or the weary is made,  
But on hill, or in valley, on plain, or in  
wood,

Neither stay the pursuers, nor stop the pur-  
sued :

In disorder, amid their own valleys they roam,  
And the seat and the scene of their fall was  
at home ;

Till, oh Blucher ! to thee were repaid, e'er  
the morn,

In vengeance, the sorrows that Prussia has  
borne,

Till time crown'd the efforts of justice, and  
hurl'd

The foe of mankind, from the throne of the  
world !

And ye, gallant slain, to give valour its due,  
'Tis enough, that ye fell at the fam'd Water-  
loo ;

Thro' all after ages your names shall be  
known,

'Mid the warriors who conquer'd, the chiefs  
who have won.

Posterity, glowing, will glory to find  
That their ancestors died in the cause of  
mankind ?

And your memories embalm'd and recorded  
will be,

By history's pen, in the minds of the free ;  
And sure, 'tis a passport to fame, that ye  
died

On Waterloo's field, and at Wellington's side !

TO A RICH BUT IGNORANT MAN.

[From the Greek.]

Mind you have none—of wealth, indeed,  
a store ;

Rich for your heirs—but for yourself how  
poor !

FROM THE SCOT'S MAGAZINE.

Letter to a Friend on the loss of an  
Infant Son.

MY DEAR SIR,

I have felt strongly various bear-  
ings of the touching affliction which  
Mrs. \*\*\*\*\* and you have lately  
sustained, and I am sure you will for-  
give me for stating some ideas on the  
subject, as they arise to my mind.—  
They are unstudied, and may be de-  
sultory, but they are dictated by un-  
affected friendship.

How tenderly and clearly has the  
affliction taught the heart of you both  
that it is only the hope of immortali-  
ty, and the doctrines of religion, that  
can effectually support and sooth us  
in the loss of friends ! That loss it-  
self irresistibly reminds us, and com-  
pells us to feel, that all on earth is  
uncertain and transient, and under  
the control of a Being omnipotent  
and everlasting !—When you stood  
by the bed of your dying infant, lis-  
tening to his helpless moan, and see-  
ing medicine, care, and skill, all inef-  
fectual, every hour hastening, by in-  
creasing debility, the dreaded stroke  
of seperation, did you not feel the  
truth I have suggested, powerfully  
impressed ? Yes ! in such a scene,  
the soul naturally, in its helplessness  
and hopelessness, rises to, and repo-  
ses on, God.

In himself, in his relation to the  
earth, and to man, by his procedure  
in the general system of his provi-  
dence, and by the peculiar measures  
of his grace in the gospel, God must  
appear to the considerate and serious,  
a solid object of appeal and confi-  
dence to his creatures.

By channels and means of com-  
munication, inscrutable in the nature  
of their operation, and undistinguish-  
able at the the moment of their in-  
fluence, by any palpable sign of their  
conveying to us support and conso-  
lation, he does, beyond question,  
strengthen and sooth his creatures

in their troubles. Reason, satisfies us of the possibility and likelihood of this occurring: revelation assures us, by its doctrines, of its certainty: experience supplies pleasing practical proof of its reality.

Ought we not, then, to be grateful to God, who shields and cheers us amid the storms of this vale of tears.

And should our gratitude decay and vanish, when time, and the enjoyment of the comforts that remain to us, again tranquillize our feelings and engross our pursuits?—The heart, yet rent and tender from the blow by which it has been smitten, sighs out sincerely, No!

How is that gratitude to be kept alive and warm? By one way, and one way only; that is, by cultivating a frame of mind habitually devout. And how, again, is that habitual devotion of frame to be maintained? Only by the regular recurrence of religious exercises: These exercises are encumbent on us as *duties*. We will find them rewards and blessings in their fruits.

Religious exercises maintaining a devotional frame, a devotional frame will render us incessantly and delicately sensible of every call to pious gratitude: and gratitude, ever wakeful and active, will make us live near to God, holding, as it were, close, and affectionate, and attaching communion with him. Gradually, by this process of employment and feeling, the mind is moulded into a fixed temper, holy in itself, admirably disposed at once to taste earthly prosperity, and to bear earthly evils with equanimity (as they come) and with increasing meekness, (when they close in time,) for more immediate access to the presence of God in eternity.

I think this general reasoning sound. Its practical results are very important. Far, very far, am I from thinking, that *your* character or habits

require that they should, with any *peculiar* earnestness, be started to you or pressed on your consideration.—Yet the best of us are not beyond the necessity of having remembrance on these points stirred up. And if I have been prompted to assume the office of *remembrancer*, on this occasion, you will in justice, I trust, ascribe the assumption to its true cause—a friendship made by the reason of sorrow, more anxiously interested in all that concerns a friend.

Your good sense and quick discernment will be quite aware, that in talking of religious exercises and their effects, I am not recommending that rigid and sanctimonious fierceness of outward religion, which zealous and fanaticks display. Christianity, in its substance and spirit, accords with the purest reason. Its tenets, sentiments, and duties, bespeak, in their author, and besfit, in man, the most perfect wisdom. The character of a real christian may be summed up in three traits. Believing and acting on the principles of the gospel—he is good as the creature of God and the servant of Christ—he is benevolent, and kind, and upright, as a member of society—he is pure in himself, and enjoys a happiness, to which *they* are strangers, who are without God, and without hope in the world.

To whatever extent, my dear Sir, you are conscious of a transcript of this character being verified in your own case, forgive the impulse which leads your friend to do his office as a minister, and for saying, that the scene of distress is a school, where such lessons as he is giving, should be impressed and improved. The visitation sent from heaven, is then teaching them—the heart is open to hear them, and it is soft, for admitting them to be engraven deeply and indelibly. Reducing these lessons to practice, is neither to alter the man-

ners in business, nor to debar from mirth amid innocent avocations. It is to hallow both, and to render them at once dignified and delightful. He who reduces them to practice the most constantly and the most completely, becomes thereby, in fact, the most worthy, the most amiable, the most universally loved, the best prepared for all the chances and changes of this mixed and fleeting scene—the most happy in himself.

After all, while I have been apparently addressing *you*, I begin, on reflection, to suspect, that I have been insensibly pouring out some views, and feelings, which consciousness makes me aware are needful to be at times reconsidered and improved by myself. But I shall at least have the prudent self-command not to make uncalled-for confessions.

I shall only tell you, what I shall myself do, leaving you to decide whether you will do the same, and also what suggestion you may give Mrs. \*\*\*\*\* to do.

Recalling, then, the sick-bed and the grave of an innocent infant, I shall think of the frail tenure by which the more advanced in life must hold it; and however, deeply convinced (by long and frequent reviews of its nature and proofs) of the truth and value of the Christian system, I shall seek anew, in "Porteus's or Beattie's Evidences," a brief and passing glance at its foundation—in "Butler's Analogy," the resistless demonstration of its credibility—and in Paley, at once the certainty of its claim to belief, and all the authority and beauty of its morals. Does not the reiterated perception of these aspects of Christianity lead to invigorate faith, and so to sanctify the heart and the habits of life, that one should become daily more and more fit for that heavenly kingdom, which shall consist, as the Saviour says, of little children, and of those who, in innocence, resemble them?

But, coming to the end of my second sheet, I am reminded that it is more than time to stop this unpremeditated and wandering scrawl.

You will notice that I have been moralizing as to the living, rather than discoursing as to the *dead*.—He is gone, without suffering the trials and sorrows inseparable from lengthened years, to taste the happiness in immortality for which survivors are yet left to struggle. The lapse of time healing the wound which his loss inflicts on affection, will teach at last, not only to be resigned, but, with a mild melancholy, to rejoice at his destiny.

May this be the effect of the lapse of time on Mrs. \*\*\*\*\* and you; and may happiness here and hereafter be the portion of both!—Confiding in your forgiveness for this grave epistolary dissertation, I remain, with great regard,

Dear Sir,

Yours faithfully.

LITERATURE.

A French journal states that letters in England are without encouragement, public or private! now it is well known that a living writer of poetry has received a sum for his productions which it would startle a Frenchman to name. We believe we may safely state that his gains for one year, by mere literature, amounted to six thousand pounds. In England, we know nothing of government encouragement of literature, with the exception of the Laureate's shabby two hundred a year;—we keep the government to its proper business, and leave the remuneration of our writers to the booksellers, who very wisely buy nothing that will not sell. What they can afford to give, therefore, and do give to our authors, is good and faithful proof of the means and intellect of our people, and hence it affords important information as to our general national condition and charac-

ter. Thomas More's new poem is eagerly expected, and the booksellers, we believe, hold themselves prepared to give two or three thousand pounds for it. Madame D'Arblay (late Miss Burney) is now living in France; she can declare, we apprehend, that for her last novel, which was not her best, she did not receive less than fifteen hundred pounds. Mr. Coleridge's caprice of *Christabel* procured him, we are assured, a bank note for one hundred pounds. The copy right of *The Rejected Addresses*, and a few parodies of Horace, was purchased for one thousand pounds of the authors,—and 16,000 copies, at least, have been sold. Lord Byron's poetical works have produced to one person or another a sum that may fairly be described as forming a considerable fortune. Mr. Southey has amassed a large and most valuable library, and lives in comfort and great respectability, solely by his literary exertions. The *Edinburgh Review* sells nearly twelve thousand copies four times a year:—it is a splendid property to its editor and its publishers,—while forty, fifty, sixty, and a hundred pounds are given for each of the *Essays* of which it is composed. We believe we have said enough to make our French author lick his lips at English encouragement of letters. He has been most unlucky in his assertions—for almost each of them admits of a denial as to the matter of fact. Ignorant, indeed, must he be, who represents literature as neglected and unsupported in England of late years. If he had said that the popular eagerness and liberality had done mischief in the opposite to that of starvation, he might have written to the prejudice of the country, which he hates for its superiority, with some effect.

The learned Dr. Burrows is preparing for publication, *Commentaries on Mental Derangement*.

*From the European Magazine.*

*From the*

BUFFALO GAZETTE OF DECEMBER 9.

*Lands sold for Taxes.*—On Thursday last, the time expired which was allowed for the redemption of lands, sold for taxes, and it is much feared that many an honest farmer, has suffered by neglecting to attend to the repeated calls which have been made on him, to look into this business.—Many persons, who have been long resident on lands, and supposed them to be clear, have, on examination, found that they had been sold for taxes that were due prior to their taking possession.—No doubt there are many parcels of land that were unredeemed on Thursday, that have now become forfeited to their present occupants for want of attention to this subject. Such lots have irrevocably passed into other hands according to law; and we shall be happily disappointed if there are not some honest men ruined.

*British Port Wine.*—Take of British grape wine or good cider, four gallons; recent juice of red elder berries, one gallon, or of the juice of red beet-root, two quarts, brandy, two quarts; logwood, four ounces; rhatany root (bruised), half a pound.—First infuse the logwood and rhatany root in the brandy, and a gallon of the grape wine or cider, for the week; then strain off the liquor, and mix it with the other ingredients. Keep it in a cask well bunged for a month, when it will be fit to bottle.

*London, October 7.*—The morning consols opened at 81½ for the account, and at 12 o'clock the commissioners for the reduction of the national debt were served at 81 7-8 by the jobbers. So confident are the monied men of another considerable advance, that the policies were this morning opened that consols would be done at 90 on or before the November account. India, bonds were this morning at 111 pr. and Exchequer bills 32 pr.

*Prices of Stocks.*—3 per cent consols, 81½; cons. for account, 82½.

## NIAGARA.

DECEMBER 18th, 1817.

Our selection of news for this day is not very interesting, what we have, however, is of the most pleasing kind; trade of all kinds is very brisk in the Mother Country, and provisions are reasonable; flour in London was lower, by the latest accounts than at Philadelphia.

*Niagara River.*—Arrived, on Saturday, the schooner Jane and Ann, Smith, from Kingston, via York; cargo merchandize, and sailed on Monday for Kingston. Sunday, sailed for York, the schooner Mary Ann, Mozier; with cyder and passengers.

### BOUNDARIES.

It is stated in the *Albany Daily Advertiser*, that "the survey on the River St. Lawrence has been completed about 40 miles, at an expense of 30,000 dollars;" and that the "Commissioner for running the northern line, has with his Attornies exploring parties, &c. been at the expense at least of 50,000 dollars for running 20 miles."

The whole length of the boundary line between the United States and the British provinces is estimated at 2000 miles. What is the fixing of this line to cost the United States? At the rate of 40 miles on the St. Lawrence a million and a half of dollars! or take as you rate the twenty miles on the Northern line, and you will pay the round sum of five millions!

*Albany Dec. 5.*

A letter from an officer of the 6th regiment, says it is in contemplation to erect a strong fortified post on the St. Lawrence, in such a position as to enable us, in case of another war with Great Britain, to cut off her communication, by water, between the two provinces of Canada. The utility of a military post at that point, was very apparent during the late

war; and some of our most distinguished officers urged its construction as a measure of the first importance. A fort on the St. Lawrence, and the one erecting at Rouse's Point connected by a good military road, will add greatly to our security, on the northern frontier, in the event of any future war.

The Cincinnati papers of the 10th November, state that the waters of the Ohio, had rose 40 feet in perpendicular height, and had brought down a vast number of emigrants.

*From Porto Cavello.*—By the brig Active, Bowers, arrived at Norfolk, from Porto Cavello, we are informed that previous to her sailing, it was reported and believed, that the Royalists had suffered a severe defeat at Cumana and Barcelona. Several Spanish transport ships with troops, which had been in the action, arrived at Porto Cavello, two or three days before Capt. Bowers sailed, but every thing relating to the affair, which might enable the public to judge of the magnitude of the disaster was kept a secret.

It appears from the *Boston Patriot*, that the commissioners under the 4th article of the treaty of Ghent, have agreed on all the subjects submitted to them, and, that the particulars will in a few days be laid before the public.

Capt. Luddington, at Norfolk on the 28th Nov. in ten days from St. Augustine, Capital of East Florida, informs, that the Royal Garrison there consisted of from 12 to 1500 troops—that the brig of war, San Fernando, (formerly the Reindeer of Boston,) had arrived from the Havannah, with troops, military stores and money—and that no apprehensions existed of danger from the revolutionists at Amelia.

*Amelia* is becoming a place of commercial speculation. Our northern merchants are flocking there with

provisions and supplies, to buy up the prize goods. A prize with 3000lbs. coffee, and 600 boxes sugar, and another with 117 slaves, were lately brought in. A court-martial was in constant session, and had banished some of the disaffected.—The government is completely military, and there is no probability of a change.

*Albany Argus.*

*Basseterre, (St. Christopher,)*  
Nov. 4.—On Friday, the sloop *Gig*, *Simmons*, arrived here from *St. Vincent* bringing a paper of that Island of the 25th ultimo, containing the particulars of the late storm there.—In all parts of the country considerable damage had been sustained, particularly among the plantain-walks and canes: “but we apprehend, upon the whole, (says the *St. Vincent Gazette*,) that the mischief which has befallen this Island will prove light when compared with what has been suffered in those to the northward, from which, we fear the most distressing accounts will be received. Vessels since came in, that were at sea during the gale, represent it to have been most severe to windward of the Island, as also throughout the Grenadines in this Government; but from Grenada we learn, that its effects were but partially experienced there, and that no injury of any consequence was sustained.” Accounts had also been received at *St. Vincent* from *Tobago*, at which Island, nothing of the gale was felt.

“The French men-of-war at *Fort Royal, Mart.* are wrecked in the Bay, and we learn that a transport from *France*, has met the same fate to windward, and, with the exception of a few hands, every soul on board perished.

Major *Burdet*, his lady, and family are said to have been killed at *St. Lucia*.

Devastation has exhausted itself through *Martinique*, and at a moderate calculation, it is affirmed, the

Planters alone, are sufferers to the extent of 35,000,000 of livres.

Many hulls of vessels have been seen at sea, some surviving hands were picked up off the wreck of an American vessel as she was drifting to leeward past the Bay the day after the gale.”

At a late hour this day, we obtained a sight of a *Martinique Gazette* of Wednesday last, containing the Proclamation of the Governor, by which the ports of that Island are opened for six months, (and not for twelve months as mentioned in the preceding letter;) and in the same paper there is a proclamation of Major-Gen. *R. A. Seymour*, Governor of *St. Lucia*, dated the 22d of Oct. by which the port of *Castries*, in that Island, is declared open to the vessels of all nations in amity with Great Britain for the importation of flour, &c. lumber and cattle, for three months. There is reason to hope, from the circumstance of this Proclamation having been issued the day after the storm, that the account of Governor *Seymour's* being killed will prove incorrect. *St. Christopher Advertiser.*

According to the testimony of travellers there is now growing on one of the sides of *Mount Etna*, a chesnut tree (*Castanea Visca*,) called by the Sicilians, *castagno decento cavilli*, (chesnut of 100 horses) which measures 204 feet round. This tree is mentioned by several writers, and is considered of great antiquity.—It received its name from the circumstance of its having sheltered 100 men on horseback, from a storm. In the department of *Cher*, in *France*, says *Michaux*, there is a chesnut tree 30 feet in circumference, which for 600 years has born the name of great chesnut, and is believed to be 1000 years old. Its trunk is perfectly sound; every year it yields an immense quantity of fruit.

*Balt. Fed. Gaz.*

The following Books, are for sale at the shop of Andrew Heron.

	£.	s.	d.
Life of Bishop Porteus,	0	4	6
Drelicourt on Death,	0	6	5
Newton's Sermons and Tracts	0	6	5
Stennett's Discourses, 2 vols.	0	12	5
Brown's Catechism,	0	7	0
Wilberforce's View of Religion,	0	5	0
Brown's Journal,	0	6	5
Booth's Reign of Grace,	0	7	6
Secker on the Catechism,	0	7	0
Brook's Apples of Gold,	0	5	6
Reformed Pastor,	0	4	6
Law on Perfection,	0	7	6
Romain's Walk of Faith,	0	6	7
Marshall on Sanctification,	0	5	0
Meikle's Maxims,	0	5	0
Dornay's Contemplations,	0	7	6
M'Ewen's Essay's	0	5	0
Reflection Essential to Men,	0	4	0
Meikle's Solitude,	0	8	0
Bennet's Meditations,	0	8	0
Meikle's Remains,	0	8	0
Pilgrims Progress,	0	4	6
New Manual of Devotion,	0	8	0
Johnson's Letters,	0	6	5
Colquhoun on Spiritual Comfort,	0	5	5
Owen on Spiritual-Mindedness,	0	5	6
— on Love,	0	5	0
— on Justice,	0	5	6
— on Communion with God,	0	7	6
— on the Glory of Christ,	0	6	0
— on the Person of Christ,	0	8	6
Mathew on the Death of Christ,	0	5	5
Blair's Lectures, 3 vols.	1	16	9
— do. Abridged, 1 vol.	0	6	6
Religious Courtship,	0	6	5
Young's Night Thoughts,	0	5	0
Hive of Modern Literature,	0	5	0
Leadbeater's Dialogues,	0	10	0
Beattie on Truth,	0	7	6
Shaw's Immanuel,	0	4	0
Jay's Life of Winter,	0	6	5
Seneca's Morals,	0	5	6
Zimmerman on Solitude, contain his Life with notes,	1	5	0
Do. without notes,	0	12	6
Watt's on the Improvement of the Mind,	0	7	0
Carite and Polydorus, by Barthelemy,	0	5	0
Joyce's Natural Philosophy,	0	15	0
Law's Serious Call,	0	8	9
Juvenile Pieces, with cuts,	0	6	5
Dodd's Comfort for the Afflicted,	0	7	0
Newton's Letters,	0	6	5
Description of 300 Animals, with cuts,	0	5	6
Travels in France in 1814, 15,	0	18	0
New Week's Preparation,	0	4	6
History of Fiction, 3 vols.	1	16	9
Witherspoon's Work, 9 vols.	3	1	0
Letter's of a Manckle,	0	17	6

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Niagara, Dec. 4.

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