

dispart at the dissolution of the most tender connections. Life being only the beginning of our existence, and the separation only for a short time, our affections rest in hope of blending with redoubled freshness, and we carefully employ the intermediate space in such preparations as shall make us more worthy of the meeting we implore. Friendships in this view, when founded on virtue and esteem, a union of interests and affections, a sympathy of feeling and inclination assume a new value; they are not for a day but for eternity—they may be suspended for a short time, but they will be renewed. For we are not to suppose, that there are no friendships in heaven—every intelligent being augments his felicity by participation; he that has never had a friend is a stranger to some of the finest emotions and to one of the most exquisite affections of the human heart; and what augments our virtuous felicity here, must augment it hereafter. Yes, my friend, our connections will be renewed with a thousand advantages unattainable here; we shall be still more deserving of mutual esteem and we shall no longer be liable to change—Such are some of the reflections which establish the position that we shall know each other in heaven. They will soothe if they cannot cure our present afflictions, which will be no longer intolerable, but like a cloud obstructing the beams of the sun—you walk a few steps and get from under its shade.—The grave to the chieftain has little in it dreadful, it is a sleep till the morning of the joyful resurrection.

Dr. M. of Edinburgh lost his amiable partner whom he tenderly loved, at the birth of her fourth child. Being a man of exquisite feelings, his grief knew no bounds.—He took the greatest delight in cherishing it, and though he received politely the attentions of his friends, it was evident that they afforded him no consolation. His health began rapidly to decline and his friends were filled with anxiety and alarm. To himself the approach of death gave the greatest satisfaction. A dream restored him to himself and to society. The purified faint that he had lost appeared before him, and pointing to their children she seemed to say, "I adjure you by our tender affection to moderate the grief that consumes you. Look at the little odd innocent packages of our love. From them let your happiness spring—their claims are sacred. They have no other earthly protector. Prove your affection for me, not by shedding unavailing tears, but by animating them with the purest religious principles that when we meet again in the mansions above, they may be with us."

For the KINGSTON GAZETTE.

MR. EDITOR,

THE late fires which have threatened us a few days past at the barracks, within a few yards of the powder magazine, puts me in mind of our perilous situation, in case the magazine should take fire. The history of such events is not in possession of many readers; but few are able to calculate on the terrible and fatal effects of an explosion from a certain quantity of powder, at a given distance. The following well authenticated facts are submitted to public consideration. They are a few from a much greater number in the hands of the writer.

In the year 1769, the lightning set fire to the powder magazine at Brescia, in Italy, containing upwards of 800 tons.—This terrible event almost ruined that large and beautiful city; a sixth part of the houses were thrown down by the violence of the explosion, and the rest were so much shattered, that they threatened destruction by their fall, to those who inhabited them. Three thousand persons perished by this accident. A tower of cut stone, built over the vault which contained the powder, was carried wholly into the air, and in different parts fell like a shower of stones, which destroyed a great number of churches, hotels and private houses. By this explosion large stones were carried to the distance of a mile and a half.—The damage occasioned by this accident was valued at more than two millions of ducats.

On the 18th August, 1783, the powder magazine at Malaga took fire. A great part of the edifice was thrown down, and the whole city would perhaps have been entirely destroyed, had not the inhabitants by a spirited resistance, succeeded two years before in the removal of it, to a place a league distant from the town. This magazine generally contained six thousand quintals of powder.

On the 4th of May, 1785, the magazine near Tingers exploded. The building was blown up with a dreadful noise, and the greater part of the neighboring houses were thrown down. The shock was so violent that the whole city was shaken, and the doors and windows were all broken. Luckily a great part of the powder had been taken out a few days before, and there remained only two hundred and twenty quintals. Had not

this been the case, the whole city would have been a heap of ruins.

At Gravelius, in France, three thousand people were killed by the explosion of a magazine near the town; and at Dublin, one hundred men were destroyed by the blowing up of 218 barrels of powder.

On the 4th of January, 1649, sixty houses, including a tavern full of people, were blown up in the city of London, by the accidental explosion of a few barrels of powder at a ship chandler's. A child in a cradle was carried on the leads of a church, and found unhurt.

One thousand houses, and a prodigious number of inhabitants, were swept away by an explosion of the magazine at Abbeville, in France, one hundred buildings were thrown down, and no less than one hundred and fifty inhabitants perished in the ruins.

On the Island of Corfu, belonging to the Venetians, 1800 men were killed by the explosion of seventy two thousand pounds of powder; and more than three hundred lives were lost at the blowing up of a magazine near the town of Trinchinopoli, in the East Indies.

The powder mills in the plains de Grandis, in France, were blown up with so violent an explosion, that windows were broken at the distance of three leagues, and nearly 1000 people were killed or wounded.

It would exceed the limits intended for this communication, and be a trespass on the reader's patience, to detail the many shocking circumstances which accompanied the explosion of a powder magazine at Civita Vecchia, in Italy, by which it was almost totally destroyed; or to invite a more particular attention to the effects of the same accident, experienced some years since in the West India isles, and in the year 1762, at the city of Charleston in South Carolina. We only hint at those tragical events; tho' a minute detail of them would prove more interesting, and perhaps be more in point to the relative situation of this town. To write them is by no means a pleasing task; it may however not be unprofitable to hear them.

I cannot conclude this subject, Mr. Editor, without reminding you of an event that took place during the American war. A ship lying to the south west of Murray's wharf, and almost equidistant from New-York and Long Island shores, was struck by lightning, when her magazine, containing 300 barrels of powder, exploded. The effect was dreadful. A vessel, at the distance of about 200 yards, had thirteen of her deck beams shiver'd to pieces, and several of her timbers completely dislodged. She was a mere wreck. The city of New-York suffered much damage from this accident. Houses, from the centre of the explosion to Whitehall and to Peck Slip, were some of them unroofed, the windows generally drove in, glasses broken, china and crockery were demolished. A lady then at Burling Slip mentioned, that she was in a measure stupified by the violent concussion of the air, and that her young woman was driven by it the length of a large room.

The gentleman who informed the writer of those particulars, and whose veracity is unquestionable, was then sitting in a rear piazza of a house, and together with his friends, was cast down and driven some yards from his seat. The intervention of a large brick building, which lessened the force of air that rushed in upon them, he supposes the means of saving their lives. The vessel lay from this place, by the best computation, a mile. I only add, that the explosion was so violent, that at the distance of one mile and a half on the Long Island side, several doors and window shutters were unhinged and thrown down.

The reader should remember that these are the astonishing effects of fifteen tons of gunpowder! Quere—What effect would the same quantity produce in the event of explosion, on houses not more than a stone's throw from a magazine? How would the blowing up of 500 or a thousand barrels operate on the town of Kingston? There is no harm in answering these queries, nor in devising ways and means of safety; it is the first law of nature—Who will suppose it absurd in individuals to pay a decent respect to the preservation of life and property, and to mark those who endanger both? Is not this the language of

HUMANITY?

To the Editor of the KINGSTON GAZETTE.

I WAS exceedingly gratified by observing among the acts passed at the last session of our provincial parliament, the titles of which you gave us in your last Gazette, "an act to extend personal arrest to the sum of forty shillings," and presuming that the bill at the same time published has become a law of this province, I take the liberty of submitting to the framer or framers of it a few enquiries, which appear to me the more necessary, as the act is entirely silent on the

subjects to which they refer—That a man like myself, sir, but little acquainted with the duties of the office to which he has been appointed, and residing in a quarter of the country where it is difficult to obtain the advice of professional men, may, with the best intentions, do more harm than good, no one will deny. The legislature should therefore so word its statutes that the duty of the magistrate should be clearly defined, and by providing forms and declaring the amount of fees, guard against those errors to which the class of men to which I belong are particularly liable.

Without further preface, then, suffer me to ask, to whom is this warrant of detention to be directed? to the sheriff of the district, or to any constable of the town or township?—Is any and what form to be used?—Will the justice and arresting officer be entitled to any and what fees? or is it understood that the one is to issue the process and the other to serve it without compensation? The act does not authorise the magistrate to hold to bail.

Is it understood (for it were absurd to enquire if it be declared) that the person arrested is to be conducted to prison from a distance of sixty or a hundred miles, for the pitiful sum of forty shillings; or is he to be detained in the custody of the officer until a capias can be procured?

In the event of an escape, will the officer become liable for the debt?

I am, sir, yours,

A COUNTRY JUSTICE.

FOR THE KINGSTON GAZETTE.

MR. EDITOR,

WITH emotions of indescribable astonishment, I last week perused the communication of your correspondent W—D—, and though I should be sorry any one should suppose I am more afraid of a moderate danger than other people, yet I think the present occasion will warrant a confession that I feel considerably alarmed: For the purpose of obtaining for W—D— a degree of credit on the score of sagacity, it appears I am to be exposed to caltigation, to chevaliers de *Musquasho*, and three cubits and a span of *ad respondentem*! I entreat, Mr. Editor, that every possible publicity may be given to this my solemn denial of the charge exhibited against me. I declare, upon the word of an honest man, that I know no more of "editor's journeymen," or "the sanctum sanctorum of starvation," than if I had spent my life in Terra del Fuego. I therefore hope that both my "personal welfare" and "posthumous fame" will be taken into consideration by those aggrieved; as they must be aware that while such mischief-makers are suffered to remain at large in the world, they may themselves be rendered liable to the effect of similar misrepresentation.

So much for my individual exculpation; but I must now advert to a matter of much more interest. On perusing the paper in question, some little time elapsed before I could possibly conjecture what might be W—D—'s motives for such a proceeding. I am now however convinced that there is a plot on foot to overturn the government. Those numerous portions of his letter which are to most of us perfectly unintelligible and void of meaning, are, I have every reason to believe, concerted modes of expression for the purpose of conveying information to the disaffected in this part of the province.—It is of course impossible for any but one of themselves to point out with certainty the exact meaning of any of the suspicious passages; I shall therefore, not attempt it, but I earnestly recommend that immediate steps may be taken to if possible circumvent their diabolical project: in my humble opinion a general meeting of the county should be immediately called, and a secret committee chosen to collect all the evidence that can be obtained. I need not hint that I conceive the militia should also be warned to be ready at a moment's notice.

When I recollect the foul attempt to implicate me in this traitorous undertaking, the longer I write, Mr. Editor, the more indignant I become, and my courage rising proportionably, I think I feel confidence enough to demand proper satisfaction; this I hereby do, challenging the said W—D— to meet me, with or without spectacles, at any time or place he may chuse to appoint.

I remain, &c. &c. &c.

ABSALOM RANDY.

COMMUNICATION.

MR. EDITOR—We hear from every quarter complaints of the bad state of the public roads, of neglect of duty on the part of the commissioners and overseers, and of obstinacy or remissness in those whose labor is to be applied under their direction. Yet no person comes forward with any specific charge, or is willing to become a prosecutor in what many others are interceding equally with himself; and thus, if these vague complaints are

to be believed, the laws respecting the highways become almost a dead letter, and wholly inefficient for the valuable purposes which they were intended to effect. Matters however are not quite so bad as all this; though I fear that in some instances, there is too much ground for the imputation of neglect; and as the Quarter Sessions will be held in a few weeks, I wish to direct to this subject the attention of those gentlemen who are summoned to attend there as Grand Jurors. Coming from different parts of the district, they must collectively possess much local knowledge on the subject, and can present defaulters without the obloquy and ill will that too often follow the most disinterested individual informer. But this does not devolve upon them as a matter of propriety only. They are summoned in behalf of the district for the express purpose of taking cognizance of these as well as other delinquencies. It is a duty therefore which they are most imperiously called upon to perform, and which they cannot neglect without disregarding the most solemn and impressive oath; which it is to be presumed they will not do to favor any offender.

By submitting, thro' the medium of your paper, these observations to all parties concerned, you will gratify many wayfaring men besides, Your humble servant,

VIATOR.

Foreign Intelligence.

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LONDON, Jan. 7.—A new decree has been issued by the Danish government, by which all trade with England is prohibited, under more severe penalties than any yet inflicted by the cruel Napoleon. It is declared a felony, punishable by death, in the capture of a ship maintaining intercourse with England.

Letters were received from Holland yesterday to the date of the 21st instant. The conscription was extended to children of the age of thirteen. The Scheidt fleet was moored in Ruppel. It is said that in Norway, 3,000 men, intended to man the ships of war there, had refused to proceed to Holland, and that the Danish troops which were ordered to compel them had declined any interference.

Jan. 11.—We have reason to believe, that at length the Marquis Wellesley had seriously applied his mind to the consideration of the important question of the Orders in Council, and has advised his colleagues in office to a final resolution on the subject. On Wednesday last an order was sent for an armed vessel to be ready at a moment's notice to carry dispatches to America, and we understand they were yesterday dispatched.

On Sunday last, lord Grenville had an audience of three hours with the Prince of Wales, supposed to be on business respecting the present state of the kingdom.

Jan. 12. Yesterday the deputation from both houses of Parliament went up to Carlton House to present to his Royal Highness the resolutions to which, after a long discussion, the two houses had agreed.

The first resolution expresses the necessity of providing for the exercise of the royal authority.

The second resolution states, that the power vested in the Prince of Wales, shall not extend to the granting of any rank or dignity of the peerage of the realm to any person whatever.

The third resolution prevents the regent from giving any office in reversion, or granting any office for any other term than during his Majesty's pleasure, except such as by law are required for life during good behavior.

The fourth resolution prevents the disposition of any of his Majesty's real estate, or renewal of leases.

The Prince of Wales, in a very handsome reply, observes, "I do not hesitate to accept the office and situation proposed to me, restricted as they are, still retaining every opinion expressed by me upon a former and similar distressing occasion."

To the lords and gentlemen, he observes, "You will communicate this my answer to the two houses, accompanied by my most fervent wishes and prayers, that the Divine will may extricate us and the nation from the grievous embarrassments of our present condition, by the speedy restoration of his Majesty's health."

The deputation then withdrew. A deputation also waited on the Queen with the address and petitions of the