

Mr. Editor.—The following pieces were written on two very different subjects, although in my mind both equally affecting to an Englishman.
SELECTOR.

ALL help is vain, my final hour draws near!
Parent belov'd, my King, my father dear!
But, when those eyes no more Amelia see,
Tho' the cold grave enclose—remember me!

Long & extreme the penal pangs I've borne,
E'en now my sinking frame is piecemeal torn,
But Hope, bright Hope, bids shadowy terrors flee,
Still thy lov'd daughter cries, remember me!

Yet, e'er the solemn, welcome word is giv'n,
E'er my freed spirit seeks its op'ning Heav'n,
Accept this relic:—this memento be
A sign, a token, you remember me!

"On two fond breasts my fleeting soul relies:
My Father—Sister—claim my parting sighs:
And these, I feel, when here I cease to be,
With tenderest love will still remember me!

"Oh, my lov'd Mary! name for ever dear!
My kind unwearied friend! at all times near,
When this faint head no more reclines on thee,
Thy kindred soul will still remember me!

And Sires, if disembodied spirits know
What passes here with those most lov'd below,
If guardian Angels, they're allow'd to be,
My Father—Sister—I'll remember thee!"

So spoke the filial Fair—nor knew the dart
Parental anguish fix'd in BRUNSWICK'S heart!

On Murat's summons to Sir I. Stuart to surrender Sicily, in order to spare the effusion of blood.

Says Murat to Sturat, "Of blood I'm so tender,

"I beg, without fighting, your force you'll surrender."

Says the hero of Maida to Murat—"Excuse me;

"And much your fine feelings amaze and amuse me;

"Here determin'd we stand, you may come when you will,

"Ev'ry drop in our veins we are ready to spill!"

Aside mutter'd Murat, "Parbleu! when I sent,

"'Twas my own blood to spare, and not yours that I meant!"

MISCELLANY.

FOR THE KINGSTON GAZETTE.

RECKONER—No. 39.

MY readers will perceive that notwithstanding the care of the writer, the two following papers are from the other side of the lake—one word discloses their country, but there is much good sense in the criticism.

SIR,

It appears to me that the numerous orations delivered annually in the neighboring States, contribute more to the declension than to the advancement of true eloquence. The little pains taken in their composition might lead us to suppose that the orators had, not only the greatest contempt for their hearers, but also for the subjects of their harangues, did they not affect their most profound reverence for both. These orators, Mr. Reckoner, seem to think that eloquence consists in words only—on the language, therefore, they bestow the little labor they are disposed to exert. They select such words as are of uncommon length, and gravely weigh the propriety of each by the number of its syllables. In their anxiety about rounding their periods, they forget, or rather perhaps are ignorant that sense is much more necessary than sound. The most quaint and affected language is preferred to simplicity of expression, and they deliver the most turgid emptiness in the place of good sense. When they pretend to rise with their subject, they are lost in the fog—to themselves they may appear profound, but it is not given to common minds to comprehend their meaning. Tell these orators, Mr. Reckoner, that their vague declamation, and the tawdry finery with which it is bedaubed, are peculiarly offensive to persons of the most ordinary classical attainments. Tell them that good sense is the first requisite—style only the second—that when a man addresses the public, he should convey some instruction to his hearers; he should inform their understandings as well as gratify their ears.

Were the topics barren and incapable of embellishment, the speaker might be excused, but this is far from being the case. What can be a nobler subject to these people than the anniversary of their independence? What more interesting than the birth-days of those men who sacrificed their lives in their defence?—Surely in addressing the public on such important occasions, there is no necessity for distorted combinations and turgid periods, nor will it display the talents of the

orator, nor the excellence of the character he describes, to hunt for meretricious ornaments, or to depress another chief in order to exalt the object of his praise.

You are not to learn, sir, what miserable productions teem annually from the press in the shape of orations and panegyrics, and the intemperate praise by which many of them are *satyrized*, and it ought to be one of the chief purposes of your meritorious publication, to check the bad taste which is so prevalent in this country, and to inspire the rising generation with due reverence for those classical models which all must study who shall aspire to elegance or fame. That you may promote this valuable object sooner, let me request you to analyze, with strictness, a few of these annual productions of our neighbors. By noticing their defects with becoming severity, and shewing how they might have been avoided, you will do an important service to the cause of literature. Tell them that if orations are necessary, it is not always necessary to publish them, and that the best informed persons in the district should be appointed to pronounce the address on solemn occasions, instead of leaving it to forward and ignorant young men, without knowledge, judgment or taste. Indeed, sir, I blush for my countrymen when I see a foreigner read even one of the best of our orations; the bombast and affectation with which they are filled, are sure to merit his contempt, and their common place and want of discrimination, his disgust.

The petulant of an inaugural oration, by a learned professor, has produced these observations, though they do not all apply to his performance. This composition was not written on any temporary or political subject, but on a topic which afforded room for the most exquisite embellishment, and supplied so great a fund of excellent materials, that the invention had almost nothing to do, it was only for the judgment to select from the mass, what appeared the most striking, and to combine them, by the assistance of good taste into an elegant whole.

The discourse was sent me, accompanied with the highest praises. I had seen the most unbounded panegyric pronounced upon it in a periodical publication; my expectations were raised to the highest pitch, and I sat down, with the greatest avidity, to this intellectual feast. Perhaps I expected too much in the first performance of a professor of eloquence, and it is seldom that our expectations are fully gratified. On this occasion, I must confess, I was sadly disappointed, and could not discover the parts which had drawn such praises from the critics. In the style, indeed, I perceived more correctness than usually belongs to such productions, but in other respects, the oration is far inferior to the subject.—As it has obtained a very considerable reputation, and been lately re-published as the first in a course of Lectures, permit me to make a few observations on its composition, for Mr. Adams, the ambassador to Russia, gives a degree of celebrity by his very name to every thing he writes, and to criticise obscure authors would be of no use.

The subject of the oration is the praise of eloquence, and the author candidly admits that it is a controversy among mankind whether it be worthy of cultivation. As the author is not of this opinion, I looked for a definition of rhetorick, and a precision of language that he might distinguish legitimate from spurious eloquence, and then shew that all those competent judges who have condemned the art, have only had false eloquence in view. I do not easily comprehend what the professor means by a reputation, which "even after death, vibrates upon the hinges of events, with which they have little or no perceptible connexion." But when he remarks that the same doubt existed in regard to the arts and sciences in general, as to rhetorick, in particular, I cannot exactly agree. The arts and sciences have never been condemned by any person capable of understanding them; they have, indeed, as the orator observes, had their periods of depression, but those periods were produced by barbarous ignorance after the loss of virtue and liberty, and surely never from the conviction that their cultivation was pernicious. I know that the wrong-headed Rousseau declaimed against the sciences, but this opinion, which he adopted rather from its singularity than its truth, can never weigh against the general opinion, or what is of more consequence, it can never weigh against the truth. "At the zenith of modern civilization, the palm of unanswered eloquence was awarded to the writer who maintained that the sciences had always promoted rather the misery than the happiness of mankind."

Those who are unacquainted with the motives that produced Rousseau's famous essay on the effects of the sciences, would infer from this statement, that the reward was given for the illustration of a truth. But it should be remembered that the professors of Dijon who proposed the question, were pre-

ceded to crown the best essay, which ever side was adopted. It did not follow as a consequence of this decision, that the discourse contained their sentiments, or was the best that could have been written, it was only the best presented on the occasion. There is a curious anecdote respecting this essay, related by Marmontel in his Memoirs, which it may not be impertinent to transcribe. This anecdote Marmontel had from Diderot. "I was a prisoner at Vincennes," says Diderot to Marmontel, "Rousseau came to see me there. He had made me his Aristarchus as he has said himself. One day as we were walking together, he told me that the Dijon academy had just proposed an interesting question, and that he was desirous of treating it. The question was, Has the re-establishment of arts and sciences contributed to the improvement of morals?" "Which side will you take?" asked I. "The affirmative," answered he. "'Tis the asses bridge," said I; all ordinary talents will take that road, and you will find there common ideas, whereas the contrary side presents a new, rich and fertile field for philosophy and for eloquence." "You are right," returned he, after a moments reflexion, and I will take your advice." It had been better for Mr. Adams to have declined mentioning Socrates as a decrier of true eloquence, as his censure was directed against the Sophists who made a very bad use of this art. He blamed only the prostitution of eloquence; he conceived it, as all wise men must, a very dangerous engine in the hands of bad men.—When eloquence is used to furnish crimes; to interest the passions in favor of a bad cause, and to bewilder the understanding, who shall say that on such occasions it is not pernicious? So very sensible have mankind been of its bad effects, that methods have been contrived to restrain its influence. In the Areopagus at Athens, artificial eloquence was forbidden. Laws have been multiplied for the purpose of contracting the sphere of its operation. I should indeed be well pleased to hear an orator like Cicero addressing a Judge, but I should not like to see the Judge so much intoxicated with the oration; as to pardon a guilty prisoner—such partiality is inconsistent with liberty, eloquence gains such triumphs at the expense of justice. To have the power of persuasion is always dangerous except in a good cause, and I think it none of the least advantages attending the diffusion of knowledge, that it has diminished the force of eloquence.

I read, with pleasure, the orator's observations on reason and language, but the pains he takes to prove what nobody ever doubted, that eloquence was highly praised by the Greeks and Romans, might have been spared.

FOREIGN INTELLIGENCE.

From a Cadix paper.

Decree of the Spanish Cortes.

1. The Mediation offered by Great Britain, for the purpose of conciliating the Provinces of America, is accepted.
2. The indispensable basis must be, the submission of the Provinces to acknowledge and swear allegiance to the Cortes and the government, and to name Deputies who shall represent them in the said Cortes, and shall incorporate themselves with the other Representatives of the Nation.
3. That all hostilities shall be reciprocally suspended, and that all persons, of either party, who are prisoners, shall be set free.
4. That the pretensions of the Provinces at variance with the mother country (*desidentes*) shall be heard, and attention paid to them as far as justice will permit.
5. At the expiration of eight months from the commencement of the negotiation, or sooner if possible, a report of the progress of it shall be made to the Spanish government.
6. Great Britain shall be permitted, during the negotiation, to trade with the said Province, it being left to the Cortes to consider whether they shall be admitted to a share of the trade with all the Provinces of America.
7. The negotiation must be concluded within fifteen months.
8. If, at the expiration of that time, it is not accomplished, Great Britain shall suspend all intercourse with the Provinces at variance with Spain, and shall assist the mother country in bringing them back to their duty.
9. The government, in its answer to the English minister, shall previously explain to him the motives which have induced it to accept the mediation, and to preserve its honor.

London, September 24.

A very brilliant affair has been achieved by the Thames frigate and Cephalus sloop, having taken from under the batteries near the coast of Naples, 11 gun-boats, 1 armed felucca and 14 merchant vessels without the loss of one man!

We have seen a letter which states, that at Ruggea, Walde, a town in Pomerania, the peasants, no longer able to endure the severity of their privations, had risen en masse, and had put to death every French soldier they could meet with. Their example had been followed by the Peasantry throughout Prussian Pomerania, and particularly in the vicinity of Colberg.

The following is a copy of a letter from Mr. Furze, late Midshipman of the Semiramis, dated Brest, July 19, 1811.

"No doubt you will be surprised at the date of this, from Brest. Being very lucky in the Semiramis last cruize, in the way of taking prizes, I was sent from her on the 6th inst. to take charge of an American brig, which capt. Richardson detained, having with me six men from the Semiramis, as also five belonging to the brig—the captain, mate, and three boys. Out of six that came with me, two were Americans. These and two others of our crew, having most of their friends living in New-York, joined with the captain of the brig to take her from me on the 9th inst. about 12 o'clock, binding me & two more with cords, hands and feet. The next morning they hoisted out the long-boat, giving us our clothes, and some bread and water. Still keeping our hands tied, they put us into the boat, which was then very leaky, and sent us adrift in the Western Ocean, about 300 miles from land. One of my men whose name is Rawlinson, untied me with his teeth, which was the means of getting us all free. Not knowing the distance exactly at the time they let us go, I did not know what course to shape; the wind being W. S. W. I thared my course S. E. supposing it to be, as near as I could guess, for the Eddystone; but unfortunately for me and the others, the first land we made was Ushant; the wind then blowing very fresh, and we in an open boat, and on a lee shore, thought it best for our safety, to run into a small island called Morlaix, after being six days drifting about in the Western ocean, almost dead with fatigue, and having nothing to eat, our bread being spoiled with salt water. On our landing we were made prisoners, but exceedingly well treated. I forgot to state that at the time we were seized, we were asleep, having but a short time previously left the deck.—Those that succeeded us in the watch on deck were those that were bribed."

The original, from which the above letter is copied, has been sent to the Admiralty, in order that proceedings may be instituted against the four mutineers, who seized their officer, and assisted the Americans to recapture their ship; one of our frigates having fallen in with and taken them again the day after they performed the enterprize.

Boston, Nov. 6.

Latest from Portugal.

Capt. Milnervey from Lisbon, has brought the Gazettes of that city to the 28th September, and verbal accounts to the 2d October.

The papers from the 24th to the 28th September do not contain a line of information from the grand armies; and the last reports were, that no war event had occurred. The Anglo-Lusitanian army was in cantonments on the eastern frontier of Portugal, between the Tagus and the Douro, excepting one division, which