The NATIONAL INTELLIGENCE

AND

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Address to Subscribers

ONE year has elapſed ſince the firſt appearance of the NATIONAL INTELLIGENCER. During this period domeſtic events of the firſt importance have occurred. The political ſcene, ſo far as it relates to perſons, has been completely changed, and ſo far as it relates to principles and meaſures materially altered. Public opinion, deciſively expreſſed, has called for a reform, and a reform has been made.

There is ſomething ſo intereſting, and even ſublime in a Nation, now compoſed of millions, and deſtined hereafter to be unrivalled in numbers, ſhaking off by Herculean efforts the chains of foreign deſpotiſm, and then with unexhauſted vigor defending the rights of its citizens from internal invaſion, that the mind cannot too often pauſe, and trace the admirable connection between cauſe and effect whereby the intereſting ſpectacle is produced.

To obtain diſtinct views of the nature of our government, to diſcern its neceſſary connection with true national glory and perſonal felicity, i the baſis of the only correct patriotiſm that can animate the human heart. Such ſentiment, founded on the immutable principles of reaſon and truth, once embraced, becomes a permanent rule of action, and republicaniſm finds an impregnable fortreſs in every breaſt.

European philoſophers have told us "That man, to be free muſt be virtuous"—They have miſtaken the cauſe for the effect; and ſhould have ſaid, "That to be virtuous he muſt be free." For if virtue be a moral principle, and man be a free agent, can that be virtue which does not flow ſpontaneouſly from the heart? Can that be virtue, however ſpecious, which ſlavery compels? Away then with the falſe, the dangerous dogma the conſtant plea of tyrants, and the perpetual terror of ſlaves. It is the intereſt of all nations to be virtuous, and all nations would purſue their intereſt, did not political fraud lead them aſtray. To detect this political fraud, to guard againſt machinations, to inſpire man with a conſciouſneſs of his dignity and his power; theſe are [illegible] ends which true wiſdom ought inceſſantly to purſue, undiſmayed by adverſity, unelated by proſperity. Her means ſhould be reaſon and truth. Theſe are the only irreſiſtible weapons that rational agents can wield. The ſword may ſubvert an Empire. But reaſon alone can re-eſtabliſh and give ſtability to its glory.

The diſtinctive feature of American governments is the repreſentative principle. It is by the operation of this principle, that the nation can at any time expreſs its opinion of public men and public meaſures, and will their continuance or ſuſpenſion. It is by the operation of this principle that they have expreſſed ſuch opinion and by its expreſſion have ſilently and tranquilly produced a reform, which in other ſtates would have been denominated a revolution, whoſe atchievement could only have been imperfectly effected by the ſword. Cheriſh, then, fellow-citizens, a ſacred regard for this holy principle.—Let every heart habitually feel its value. Let every mind frequently reflect on the ineſtimable good that it produces. And when the wreck of other governments, falſely ſtyled republican, are held up as evidences of the periſhable nature of all political ſyſtems, and it is inferred that ours too muſt go to decay, recollect that our ſyſtem is the only one that has ever exiſted, whoſe baſis is a true repreſentation of the people.

To uphold this great principle, to recommend whatever tended to render its application more general, and to make it more the object of popular affection, has been the leading motive, which has decided the character of the National Intelligencer. Thoſe men have been ſupported with reaſon, with truth, and with moderation, who have often, and it is believed ſincerely, profeſſed their attachment to this principle, and whoſe whole political career has demonſtrated a hatred of arbitrary power, and a regard to the public welfare. And while ſuch men and meaſures have received ſupport, their opponents have been treated with invariable reſpect and candor. For, it is the belief of the Editor that neither excluſive virtue or talent are to be found on one ſide, and it is his hope, fortified by numerous recent illuſtrations, that the great maſs of each party only requires a temperate and rational diſcloſure of its errors to abandon them.—From the accumulating triumphs of republicaniſm, he hails with joy the dawn of national harmony, and does not deſpair of reaching the period, when the nation will be undivided in political opinion. We cannot, it is true, expect to be exempt from the occaſional intrigues of ambitious men; but the great body of the people may be ſo enlightened as to purſue their true intereſts, unmoved by the turbulence of ambition.

The ſame auſpices, under which the National Intelligencer has hitherto been conducted, will ſtill preſide over its character.

While it fears not to examine with intrepid calmneſs the meaſures of public men, it will diſdain to notice the foibles or the vices of private life.

From the encouragement which the Editor has received, and from his deſire to render the paper a more comprehenſive vehicle of information, its ſize will be from this day greatly enlarged.—The original plan of the Paper will be preſerved with this addition that its maturity will enable the Editor to furniſh the earlieſt notices of many of the moſt intereſting domeſtic events, and of foreign events connected with the meaſures of the United States, in a ſhape of unqueſtionable authenticity. It will accordingly contain, beſide the ordinary contents of a newſpaper,

I. The official acts of the General Government, including the acts of Congreſs

II. The debates at large.

III. As far as a ſcrupulous adherence to truth will admit, an expoſition of the motives of the moſt important legiſlative and executive acts of the government.

TERMS.

1ſt. The NATIONAL INTELLIGENCER ſhall be printed three times a week on Super Royal Paper.

2d. The annual ſubſcription ſhall be five Dollars, paid conſtantly in advance by all ſubſcribers not reſiding in the City of Waſhington, and ſix Dollars paid by thoſe who reſide in the City who do not pay in advance; in which caſe the payment ſhall be half yearly. It being underſtood that ſubſcribers, reſiding at a diſtance from the City of Waſhington, are invariably to pay for a year in advance, and in every ſuch caſe the tranſmiſſion of the paper will ceaſe as ſoon as the period ſhall expire for which payment ſhall have been made. No paper will be forwarded in any inſtance until the money is actually paid.

3d. All letters to be poſt paid.

In conſequence of the laborious duties of the Editor of a public Print, and from the neceſſity of recruiting health, unavoidably impaired by a conſtant devotion to buſineſs, the tranſmiſſion of the National Intelligencer to diſtant ſubſcribers will every year, at the cloſe of the ſummer, be ſuſpended for four weeks; unleſs ſome very intereſting events ſhould occur, in which caſe an extra paper will be publiſhed.

As during the propoſed period of ſuſpenſion there is uſually a ſtagnation in foreign as well as domeſtic politics, but little intereſting matter will be loſt.

During the four weeks a ſmall paper will be regularly iſſued, on the uſual days, and delivered to the ſubſcribers in the City and in George-Town, containing advertiſements, and a conciſe notice of intelligence.

A NEGRO MAN

To be hired by the year, half yearly or quarterly,

A SOBER well diſpoſed man about 26 years of age, cleanly, and has been many years employed as a coach driver, ſtable boy, and occaſionally waiting at table, and working in the garden.—His maſter wiſhes to hire him out in or about the city of Waſhington, he having a wife living near the Diſtrict. He has never been accuſed or ſuſpected of diſhoneſty.—For further information apply to the printer.

October 23. eptf

FOR SALE.

A TRACT of land containing 2,500 acres lying immediately on the river Potowmac, in the county of Northumberland, Virginia, late the reſidence of PRESLEY THORNTON, Eſq. Seventeen hundred acres of which are of the moſt valuable kind of low grounds on the river; between three and four hundred acres heavily timbered, the remainder is wavy high land extremely productive. The ſoil of this tract is equal to any in the ſtate for cultivation of corn, wheat, tobacco, timothy, and ſmall grain of all kinds. On this tract are a large commodious two ſtory brick manſion houſe and two offices, a large brick ſtable, a valuable barn, cow houſe and many other out-houſes, all in good repair. The orchards and garden contain a variety of valuable fruit trees, and the waters abound with excellent fiſh and oyſters. It is ſituated about a day's ſail from Alexandria, Baltimore or Norfolk.—There are two good mill ſeats for griſt, or ſaw-mills on this eſtate, and plenty of cedar and cheſnut timber, excluſive of the heavy timber, which if ſawed up into ſcantling will command a price in the City of Waſhington, nearly equal to the value of the land.

The terms will be made eaſy to the purchaſer or purchaſers, and the tract will be divided into two or more plantations if neceſſary.—Apply to

RICHARD PETERS, junr.
No. 85, Walnut-ſtreet Philadelphia.

Philadelphia, Nov. 11. eptf

NATIONAL INTELLIGENCER.

Extract of a letter from a reſpectable character in Virginia to the Editor.

'I have juſt received a letter from one of my highly enlightened friends, who ſays, "The Grand Jury of Waſhington, have preſented SMITH for a Libel on the Federal Judiciary. It would ſeem that the friends of order being beaten out of the executive and legiſlative poſts, are about to mount their cannon *en barbette*, and play upon all the Republicans from the Gibraltar of the Judiciary Department.—Surely ſome amendments to the conſtitution of the United States, will be brought forward next ſeſſion."—' No doubt ſeveral amendments are deſirable, but a genuine republican conſtruction put upon the conſtitution would render amendments unneceſſary for ſeveral years. As to the particular object ſuppoſed to be in the view of my friend, there would be no occaſion for an alteration of the conſtitution if the people, the ſtate legiſlatures, the Preſident and Congreſs, and particularly the Senate, that high court of impeachments, would but think as I do, that Congreſs can give no powers to the Judiciary of the United States, which are not expreſſed in the conſtitution; that *they* have no more to do with libels than they have with ſheep-ſtealing, &c. that when they undertake to try the authors of libels, they encroach upon the rights and prerogatives of the ſtate courts, and are factiouſly introducing the common law of England as cognizable in our federal courts, where, eſpecially what relates to libels cannot poſſibly be cognizable, with any degree of ſafety to the freedom of the preſs, the ſovereignty of the people, or to the independence of their reſpective ſtates. The common law of England may and ought to guard its *Hereditary Executive*, and all its appendages, againſt libellous attacks, and its *eſtabliſhed Church*, the *Ally of the State*, againſt calumnies and criminations reſpecting its doctrine, diſcipline and worſhip. It muſt be wiſe in England to forbid all complaint againſt an hereditary executive, and an hereditary branch of the legiſlature; and even againſt laws enacted by a legiſlature conſtituted as the Britiſh Parliaments are. But in the United States, it muſt be the right and duty of every citizen, to cenſure and expoſe to public view every violation of the conſtitution, (or as general Waſhington, in his private letter to Mr. Baniſter a member of Congreſs, expreſſed it, to cenſure error whether committed by this or that man is the prerogative of freemen) and to point out error in the adminiſtration and even defects in the conſtitution. For by the conſtitution that inſtrument itſelf is open to amendments, and the people or their deputies having a right at certain ſtated periods to diſmiſs their Preſident, Senators, and Repreſentatives, and moreover to impeach the Preſident, Vice-Preſident, or any civil officer of government, at any time for *treaſon, bribery, or other high crimes and miſdemeanors*, who on conviction of any of theſe crimes *may be removed from office and declared incapable of* holding any office of honor, truſt, or profit under the United States, "and ſhall neverthleſs be liable and ſubject to indictment, trial, judgment, and puniſhment according to law:" I ſay in the United States where this is the caſe, it ſeems to me an abſurdity to ſuppoſe that the courts of the United States, ſhould have any check on, or controul, in the leaſt degree, over the preſs, or the opinion of citizens or others, reſpecting the Preſident, Congreſs, Judiciary, the Conſtitution, or in ſhort, reſpecting any ſubject whatever. From the nature of the government of the United States, it can not ſtand in need of any reſtriction of the freedom of the preſs: And as on the one hand it cannot ſtand in need of thoſe powers claimed by the Judiciary, ſo on the other they cannot be entruſted with them, and be enabled thereby to extend thoſe powers, and gratify the wiſhes of the legiſlative and executive, to whom they may look up for the rewards of their obſequiouſneſs. Some ſuch combination and treacherous plotting againſt the rights of the people and their conſtitution and laws, muſt be neceſſary where the government is that of a ſimple ſtate, and is founded on ſuch falſe principles as would endanger its exiſtence, were it not conſtantly ſupported by an armed force, aided by corruption, and by the powerful influence of religious and political deluſions, but no ſuch thing can be neceſſary or admiſſible in the government of the United States; which is not that of a ſimple ſingle ſovereign ſtate, intended to be permanent and unaltered; inveſted with powers neceſſary for its conſtant firm ſupport, and for its protection againſt attempts to change or diſplace its chief magiſtrate, and an hereditary branch of its legiſlature; or, even againſt a complete revolution, and change of government; but it is on the contrary, a complicated government, inſtituted for the expreſs purpoſe of ſecuring to a number of other governments their independence and ſovereignty, and their right to chooſe and enjoy a republican form of government; of governments too, which have with it, in ſome caſes, a concurrent, and in others an excluſive juriſdiction; and which have the appointment of one branch of *its* legiſlature, and the right of directing the mode of electing the executive of that government; governments within whoſe territory the inhabitants according to their reſpective regulations by their laws, do by their direct votes elect that branch of its legiſlature which can alone originate money bills: it is the *inſtrument* by which the people of the ſeveral confederated ſtates of America intended to preſerve to their reſpective ſtates their independence, and to ſecure to themſelves and their poſterity the bleſſings of liberty: and it is the organ by which they reſolved to expreſs their will whenever they ſhould think proper to alter the preſent form of their federal government; in ſhort it is the *ſervant and not the maſter* of the confederated ſtates; and therefore cannot be entruſted with a power to check enquiry into the conduct of the officers of government, and to controul the preſs, ſo as to make it an engine of deſpotiſm inſtead of a bulwark of liberty. But if the federal courts had the right to puniſh the authors of libels on them or the government, there could be no occaſion to exerciſe it; as the ſtate laws, and the common law as received in the different ſtates afforded ample means for the correction of calumny.—"Every libellous writing might receive its proper adequate puniſhment in the ſtate courts from juries ſummoned by an officer, who does not receive his appointment from the Preſident, and who is under no influence to court the pleaſure of the general governments, in courts which are alike open to all who conſider themſelves as injured," and I will add, which muſt be as willing to puniſh the authors &c. of falſe, ſcandalous, and malicious libels, and ſeditious writings, as the federal courts. The peace, harmony and happineſs of the confederated ſtates, and the honor and reputation of the general government and of all its officers, muſt be equally dear to the ſtate and federal courts. The only difference there can be as to any danger of a biaſs in either, is that the ſtate courts might be ſuſpected of having a fellow-feeling for the *people* and the particular objects of the proſecutions before them; and the federal courts of ſimilar feelings for the Preſident, officers of the general government, and all concerned in the proſecutions and trials before them. And as the *People* and *States* are with reſpect to the *United States*, the *Sovereign*, and not the *Preſident*, it muſt be juſt, and alſo politic, to run the riſk of that biaſs which is or may be in favor of the *People* and *States*, the many, and the ſovereign alſo, than of that, which may favor the ambitious tyrannical views of a few, and thoſe too the ſervants of the people."

GIBRALTAR, Sept. 4.

In his majeſty's brig of war the Thomas Paiſley, which arrived here on Wedneſday laſt, came paſſenger, capt. Hallowell, lately commanding his majeſty's ſhip Swiftſure, captured by the French ſquadron under rear admiral Gantheaume. The Swiftſure ſailed from Alexandria with 2 cartel ſhips conveying French priſoners, and ſome other tranſports with invalid ſoldiers from Egypt. But captain H. having received intelligence, from a ſmall veſſel, of the unſucceſsful attempt of admiral Gantheaume, to land a body of French troops on the coaſt of Africa, judged it moſt adviſeable to leave this unimportant convoy, for the more eſſential object of endeavoring to form a junction with ſir John B. Warren. Soon afterwards the Swiftſure fell in with the French ſquadron, and obſerving two line of battle ſhips at ſome diſtance to leeward of thoſe neareſt to him, captain Hallowell bore down towards them, in hopes that if he ſhould ſucceed in diſabling one or both of them, he might have the good fortune to eſcape. Theſe two ſhips, which proved to be the Indiviſible and Dix Aout (tenth of Auguſt) opened their fire upon him, when at about half gun ſhot diſtance; and maintained a briſk cannonade until he came ſo cloſe almoſt to touch.

At this period, the other two line of battle ſhips approached near, and the Swiftſure having had the misfortune to have all her maſts wounded, her gallant and diſtinguiſhed commander, (whoſe juſtly eſtabliſhed reputation, did not require to be ſupported by an oſtentatious and fruitleſs diſplay of reſiſtance in ſuch circumſtances) had the mortification to find it neceſſary to ſtrike his colors to this greatly ſuperior force. The action continued one hour and 7 minutes, in which time the Swiftſure had 3 men killed and ſeveral wounded. We do not find that any officers ſuffered [illegible] the enemy had any of their ſhips [illegible] as we had reaſon to believe when ou[r] Chronicle went to preſs; though bet[ween] 30 and 40 men were killed in each of the two French ſhips engaged, beſides a proportion of wounded. The captain and officers of the Swiftſure, were treated in the handſomeſt and politeſt manner, by admiral Gantheaume, who did not permit them to be plundered of their private property.

Captain Hallowell is exchanged for capt. Beaulieu, late commander of the Carrere. The Carrere of 40 guns was captured by his majeſty's frigate the Pomone, off the iſland of Elba, after an action of 20 minutes. She had a quantity of ordnance ſtores on board, and was convoying a number of tranſports, to Elba, ſeveral of which were alſo taken, loaded with guns, mortars, the[ir] ſhells, &c. for the ſiege of that place. The Carrere is now in commiſſion; and commanded by capt. Maitland.

Elba is defended by a garriſon of about 2000 men, and likely to hold out a conſiderable time.

September 11.

To ſhew how generouſly the privateers and gun boats on the other ſide, treat veſſels belonging to nations at peace with them, we inſert the following account of the capture of the American ſhip Molly, commanded by John Miller, from Philadelphia, laden with flour and bale goods.—This ſtatement was given by him to an Engliſh officer, likewiſe captured and carried into Algeziras.

Ship Molly, at Algeziras, July 26, 1801.

At half paſt one P. M. we diſcovered 3 gun boats under the land, ſtanding out for us. The headmoſt bore down upon us, having a French flag, and a red flag flying. When within muſket ſhot, he fired a ſhot at us; upon which we hoiſted our colours, and fired a ſhot. He immediately began firing upon us, under the above mentioned colors, round and grape (without ever having made an attempt to hail us) from a 24 pounder. We immediately gave him the contents of our broadſide, and drew two of the aftermoſt guns for ſtern chaſes. A quarter before two, we diſcovered ſeveral other boats, coming out on us, as well as a fleet of them from the Barbary ſhore. The wind being light, they came up with us very faſt, bearing down upon us in ſucceſſion, keeping up a continual fire of round and grape, from 9 to 32 pounders. We having good ſteerage way luft up, and fell off to get our guns to bear, and gave them the contents of 7 broadſides of round and grape double headed ſhot, which they not reliſhing, ſhortened ſail, fell upon our quarter and ſtern, ſtill keeping up their fire. Finding they were determined not to look at our beam, and it being out of our power to get our main-deck guns to bear, we were obliged to maintain a running fight with our ſtern chaces.—The guns being much too light for the weight of ſhot, recoiled with ſo much violence, as to tear the carriages to pieces, drawing the bolts from the ſtanchions, and diſmounting themſelves every 5th or 6th ſhot. In this ſituation we were obliged to conſtantly replace them with the quarter-deck guns, by which we loſt conſiderable time. At a quarter before three, finding the gun boats encreaſed to the number of 16, and more bearing down upon us under a conſtant fire, having eight of our carriage guns diſmounted, and rendered totally uſeleſs, the wheel carried away by the capſizing of one of the ſtern chaces, our ſails, ſpars, running and ſtanding rigging conſiderably damaged, the wind light, and no proſpect of eſcaping, we thought it moſt prudent to ſtrike. As ſoon as our colors were hauled down, the commander of the gun boat under French colors (by this time he had alſo hoiſted a Spaniſh flag) notwithſtanding he ſtill kept his bloody flag flying, ceaſed firing; but the Spaniards kept up the fire, after we ſtruck, and we received fifteen ſhot before they ceaſed firing, the ſhip rounded to immediately. Upon boarding us, they began pillaging every thing they could lay their hands upon, and in the courſe of an hour, there was not a bed or a hammock, or a ſecond change of clothes left in the ſhip. The number who boarded us, we ſuppoſe, amounted to 100 men, ſtanding over us with piſtols and drawn ſabres to our breaſts, while they were taking our watches from us, and our handkerchiefs from our necks, threatening to take our lives if we attempted to make the leaſt reſiſtance. Being exceedingly exaſperated at the reception they had met with, not ſuſpecting we ſhould have maintained an action againſt ſo many boats, they inſulted us, driving our men below with their ſabres and ſtripping their clothes from their backs. After having pillaged what they could from the cabin and ſtate-rooms, moſt of them returned to their boats, and the ſhip was ordered to Algeziras, where ſhe arrived at 7 P. M. The commander of the French gun boats, when on board, inſulted me, ſtruck