I have the honor to be, gentlemen, with reſpect their, and your obedient ſervant.

C. GORE.

Benjamin Pickman,
Stephen Gorham, &
Aaron Putnam, Esqs.
Committee, &c. &c.

SKETCH
OF THE
STATE OF SOCIETY AND MANNERS IN LONDON.

FROM THE PICTURE OF LONDON FOR 1803.

As the prevailing characteriſtics of poliſhed life, take their impreſſion from example held forth by perſons of exalted rank in ſociety; ſo the cuſtoms, opinions, amuſements, and propenſities, of the community at large may be ſaid to derive their leading features from the purſuits and pleaſures which are practiſed and tolerated in the metropolis of a kingdom.

The wide expanſion of Literature has been an augmenting fountain of knowledge ever ſince prieſtcraft and bigotry became paſſied by thoſe energies of mind, which have, of late years, burſt forth with an invincible and gigantic dominion. Every man, nay, almoſt every woman, now reads, thinks, projects, and accompliſhes. The force of human reflection has taken off the chain which once ſhackled the mind; and the pooreſt peaſant is at this period enabled to trace the language of truth, in pages calculated by the plaineſt doctrines and the moſt rational reaſoning, to awaken, enlighten, harmonize, regulate, and refine, the human underſtanding.

London is the buſy mart of literary traffic. Its public libraries, its multitudes of authors, its diurnal publications, and its ſcenes of dramatic ordeal, all contribute to the important taſk of enlarging and embelliſhing the world of letters. The preſs daily teems with works of genius, and the public eye is ever on the watch for productions of every ſpecies, calculated either to amuſe, inſtruct, aſtoniſh, or enlighten.

The open ſchools of public manners, which exhibit at all times the touchſtone of the public mind, are theatres. It is true that the ſcenic art has been debaſed by the moſt vapid buffoonery; that true taſte has been cheated into a momentary deſertion from its natural tenor, by the ſplendour of pantomimical pageants, and the broad caricature of vulgar perſonification; yet we have ſeen refinement pleaſingly preſented in the very extent of faſhionable attire, and the heart has melted with ſympathy at ſcenes pathetically created by a romantic imagination. The dramatic boards have not been excluſively dedicated to productions of this ſpecies; for though the elegant and poliſhed have ſmiled through the lively ſcenes, and applauded the brilliant wit of a Sheridan; though manners have been delineated with a free and capable pencil by a Burgoyne, a Morton, a Reynolds, an Inchbald, and a Cowley; though taſte has at times turned from our own rich and national feaſt of rational ſentiment, to ſicken itſelf on the high ſeaſoned treat of the German ſalmagundi; ſtill we have ſeen, in the characters of a Penruddock and a De Monfort, ſuch tenderneſs, ſuch powers of diſcrimination, & ſuch expanſion of thought, as would have added a new trophy to the laurels of an Otway. Ought we not to bluſh then, when we reflect, that ſome of our firſt literary and dramatic writers ſtoop from their own native eminence, to follow the footſteps, and adorn their brows with wreaths, the produce of their leſs gifted, leſs enlightened labourers in the wide field of literary emulation?

The theatres have frequently exhibited the moſt ſublime efforts of the dramatic art, with advantages that are ſcarcely to be paralelled. The aſtoniſhing powers of a Kemble, a Cooke, and a Siddons, the magical faſcinations of a Jordan, have been the ſource of wonder and delight to the diſcriminating of all nations who have viſited the metropolis: while, by their exertions, even the moſt glaring violations of probability, and the moſt abuſed experiments of a vitiated taſte, have frequently paſſed current with the multitude.

Perhaps, on the habitable globe, there is not a more ſplendid aſſemblage of dramatic talents than is to be found at this period on the British ſtage.—And if the authors of the preſent day, condeſcend to mingle with genuine wit the buffoonery of dulneſs, it is because reflection flies to the theatres to forget the terrific ſcenes of warfare, and the gloomy intricacies of political manœuvre. Man when he is oppreſſed with melancholy bordering on deſpondency, flies to the broad outline of boiſterous mirth: the finer and more delicate minutiæ of ſentiment, and the ſweet, the intereſting, realities of domeſtic life, with their richer adornments of ſighs and tears, may ſoften mental pain, but will not extract the deeply driven thorns of diſappointment. The mind which is abſorbed in the contemplation of public events, has no leiſure to cheriſh the meliorating powers of ſober, rational delight. It is in the ſolitude of peaceful thought alone that man becomes ſomething far above the common horde of humanity.

From the theatres the mind naturally turns to thoſe exhibitions in which the painter and the ſculptor diſplay their rival excellence.—Theſe, alſo, are the delineators of men and of manners. They give the features, the *coſtume*, the ſcenery, of different nations. They repreſent the actions of great men, the victories of the brave, the harmonies of domeſtic life, and the faſcinations of perſonal beauty, with an effect at once pleaſing and powerful. The portraits of Sir Joſhua Reynolds, (who preſented not only the form, the feature, but the mind, on his magical breathing canvas;) will live with thoſe of Vandyke and Rubens; while the landſcapes of Gainſborough, Loutherbough, De Cort, Turner, and Sir George Beaumont, may without peril by compariſon, embelliſh the ſame gallery with thoſe of Claude de Lorraine, and Carlo Maretti.

A public exhibition is one of the moſt foſtering ſpheres for the expanſion of genius. But, in the world of painting as well as of letters, prejudice and partiality ſhould be diveſted of their poiſons, leſt they, in time, contaminate and blaſt the very root of genius. We have ſeen pictures of peculiar excellence placed on ſo unfavorable a light, that they have not only loſt their effect, but have even been precluded from obſervation; while the courſe daubings of more powerful artiſts have glared through their day of expoſure like the broad ſign poſts of arrogance and folly. Yet among the ornaments of the art we have to boaſt a Barry, an Opie, a Northcote, a Lawrence, a Weſtall, a Fuſeli, and a Linwood.

The travels of Mr. Flaxman have cultivated a taſte, pure and expenſive. His caſts, after the antique, are executed with an effect and preciſion which will embelliſh our public buildings and our private galleries for centuries to come. It is greatly to be lamented that this majeſtic art has hitherto been little cheriſhed in Britain. Statues, buſts, and vaſes, which moſt univerſally embelliſh the public edifices, and the private habitations of the nobility, and even of the middling claſſes, in Italy, are ſeldom ſeen in the halls or galleries of Engliſh houſes. There are, indeed, collections of the very firſt order in the poſſeſſion of individuals in this country. Wilton, the ſeat of the earl of Pembroke; Stourhead, the princely palace of Sir Richard Hoare; and the houſe of Mr. Townley, of Park ſtreet, Weſtminſter, have many exquiſite and valuable antique ſamples of the ſculptor's art. but (whether from the faſtidious delicacy of falſe taſte, or the force of habit, is yet to be decided) we ſeldom ſee this wonder-moving power of giving the human form with all its grace and ſymetry encouraged, or even approved, by the maſs of organiſed ſociety. Why cannot the Britiſh ſculptor exerciſe that divine ſpirit of emulation which immortalized the Grecian art?—Why does not a Flaxman, by an original maſter-piece, diſpute the wreath of fame which the moſt celebrated ſculptors of antiquity? To the labors and taſte of Mr. Flaxman, however, the public will ever be indebted; his exertions promiſe to awaken that guſt for the art in which he excels, which has not only been dormant, but has ſcarcely ever been cheriſhed into vigour in this country.

The beſt public ſpecimens of modern ſculpture are thoſe which embelliſh the gothic aiſles of Weſtminſter Abbey. Yet even there they are ſo crowded together, ſo mingled with awkward, uncouth, and heavy deſigns, ill executed and ill arranged, that more than half their beauty is loſt in the chaos of inconſiſtency; and it is a diſgrace to the ſculptor's art, as well as to the fineſt monument of gothic architecture, that Weſtminſter Abbey exhibits, even in theſe enlightened days, a wax work puppet-ſhew of kings and queens, which would diſgrace the booth of an itinerant mountebank.

Sculpture might be exhibited to the greateſt advantage in the ſublime temple of St. Paul; a building which though of more diminutive conſtruction than the far-famed St. Peter's at Rome, is infinitely more beautiful in the minutiae of its external decorations.—This ſplendid building would diſplay monumental trophies with conſiderable effect, provided they were taſtefully and judiciouſly diſpoſed. Our ſquares exhibit ſtatues, but they are not of the firſt order. One, indeed, preſents a gilded horſe and its rider, which conveys the idea of a gingerbread compoſition; while another has a ſtagnant baſon, which in winter is frozen over, and in ſummer ſends forth its putrid effluvia to poiſon and contaminate the air of the metropolis. Theſe deformities are, however, beautifully contraſted by the plantations of Groſvenor, Portman, Fitzroy, Leiceſter, Finſbury, and Soho Squares; and it is to be hoped that every open ſpace of ground in this great city, will, in the courſe of a few years, afford its inhabitants this ſpecies of ſummer promenade.

LONDON, Mch 10.

The political horizon is at this moment fraught with important matter, & events of the utmoſt conſequence to Europe may be expected. This ſtate of things has given riſe to innumerable conjectures and reports. The topic, moſt immediately intereſting, is the real or pretended conſpiracy, againſt the life of the Firſt Conſul. Till we are more fully informed on this ſubject, all conjecture muſt be nugatory. To deny the poſſibility of a plot being formed againſt the Corſican uſurper, univerſally deteſted as he is, would be abſurd. But we muſt revert to what we obſerved at firſt, that it is extremely improbably that ſuch men as Pichegru and Moreau would embark in ſo paltry and illconcerted a plan, as this is repreſented to be.—It might ſuit the genius and inclination of ſuch a man as Georges, and a few of his aſſociates; but if General Pichegru has really gone from England, it has been, we ſhould conceive, upon ſome plan of a much wider extent, and of more comprehenſive views, to take advantage ſo the diſaffection of the French people, and ſoldiery, and head them in caſe of a revolt. Still leſs probable is it that the cautious and retired Moreau, would commit his ſafety to the honor and fidelity of a handful of aſſaſſins. Either then the plot is an entire fabrication to cruſh Moreau, or the conſul has taken advantage of ſome petty conſpiracy to implicate this great man, and effect his ruin. In confirmation of theſe ſentiments, it will be remembered, that the brother of Moreau declared publicly in the tribunate, "that the whole was an infamous calumny;" which he would hardly have done, if he had been conſcious of a ſerious ground for a criminal charge.

PARIS, Feb. 29.

On Thurſday laſt, the Conſular Guard and the officers of the garriſon were preſented to the Firſt Conſul by general Cæſar Berthier, who ſaid—"We come to teſtify with what happineſs we have learned, that the fortune of France has made you triumph over the horrible plots laid for you by the miniſters of an hoſtile nation. If amongſt their accomplices be found men who had a right to the gratitude of the nation, they merit now all its hatred. Diſpoſe of our lives. Our bodies will ſerve you as ramparts againſt attempts of the enemies of your glory, of the happineſs of France and the tranquility of Europe."

The Firſt Conſul replied, that "the ſoldiers of the Republic, to whom the French people have given the honorable office of defending them againſt their enemies have more than other citizens to be indignant at plots formed by a cruel enemy in the boſom of the capital; that whatever may have been the ſervices rendered by citizens, they are but the more guilty, when they form criminal plots againſt their country; that preſent circumſtances offer to poſterity two inconceivable examples; that it was three days before plots ſo black and ſo ſenſeleſs could be credited; but that the union of all the French is conſoling to his heart."

Many other public bodies have preſented ſimilar addreſſes, and received ſimilar anſwers.

Further particulars reſpecting the

French Plot.

The following articles appear in the Moniteur of the 23d ult. in the form of a note upon an extract from the Morning Chronicle, relative to a poſting bill which was ſtuck up in different parts of London, ſtating the probability of the ſpeedy aſſaſſination of Bonaparte; and the reſtoration of Louis XVIII.

"In our paper of Monday laſt we inſerted an extract from another London paper (Courier de Londres) in which the aſſaſſination of the Firſt Conſul was openly ſtated as likely to take place in a ſhort period. Perſons who have arrived from England inform us that for the laſt fortnight, it was every morning announced on the Exchange at London, that the Firſt Conſul had juſt been aſſaſſinated; and on theſe occaſions the names of Georges, Pichegru and Moreau were publicly mentioned.

"Pichegru landed under the lighthouſe of Bevills on the 16th January. He arrived in Paris on the 25th of Jan. It was not until the 8th inſt. that the police knew of his being in Paris, and went in purſuit of him. He dined on Thurſday, the 9th with his brother, Lajollais, and Coucherry. This brother of Pichegru is in cuſtody, and in the courſe of his examination has admitted the fact.

"The firſt time that Pichegru ſaw his brother at Paris, he was accompanied by Lajollais and Georges.

"Georges and Pichegru had a joint interview with Moreau; Pichegru, unaccompanied by Georges, went twice in the evening to Moreau's houſe. Previous to the laſt interview, Frenieres, Moreau's ſecretary, went in queſt of Pichegru, and, as appears from a great number of declarations, took him along with him in a chaiſe belonging to the lady at whoſe houſe he lodged.

"When the grand judge iſſued his warrant againſt Moreau, the police, who knew that a conſpiracy was going forward, apprehended citizen Moreau, the Firſt Tribunate, and the ſecretary Frenieres. The Firſt Conſul on learning this proceeding, enquired of the grand judge, whether the brother and ſecretary of Moreau were affected by the information received? And being anſwered that their names were not mentioned in it, he ordered that they ſhould be ſet at liberty—"for," ſaid he, "if the object of conſideration was an affair of ſtate policy, or any of thoſe meaſures in which the only thing to be conſulted is the ſafety of the country, the conſpirators would have been apprehended, tried by a court martial, and executed the ſame night; but this affair," added he, "is a ſubject only of ordinary criminal proceſs, and it is my deſire that all its forms ſhould be ſcrupulouſly obſerved." A few hours after, Frenieres was implicated by the depoſitions of ſeveral perſons; and the charges became ſufficiently ſerious to induce the grand judge to iſſue a warrant for the apprehenſion of Frenieres. But he had already fled, and has not yet been taken in cuſtody.

"It appears the John Bulliſh Leopards devoured their expected prey with eager anticipation. The news was expected before the meeting of Parliament, which was to take place in the beginning of February; but it was very probable that the Engliſh imputed to the difficulties of communication, the delay of the grand intelligence upon which they relied;—and they made themſelves ſo ſure of the event, that they rejoiced before hand in the aſſaſſination which they had meditated. Perhaps the moment may come, when the bear ſhall whiſper in their ears that his ſkin is not yet to be ſold.

"It farther appears that Pichegru, Lachauſſer and the Abbe Ratel, have been entruſted ſince laſt June with the honorable employment of conducting Engliſh correſpondence. General Savary and the Sub-Prefect of Abbeville have juſt ſeized ſome packets of letters and cyphers, and have apprehended the agents in this eſpionage. This correſpondence ſhews that Pichegru and the Abbe Ratel differed in opinion as to the places of landing, for the purpoſe of carrying on their communications. In the ſame quarter there has alſo been ſeized a certain number of bills of exchange. The intercepted correſpondence likewiſe furniſhed proofs againſt individuals taken up at Montreuil in the beginning of September laſt, for acting as ſpies between Boulogne and England. Theſe vile ſpies are to be tried by a court martial, or the ſpecial criminal tribunal of the department of the Lower Seine.

HOUSE of COMMONS, March 8.

Mr. Bond preſented purſuant to order, copies of certain orders iſſued by the Privy Council, for permitting the importation of certain goods from America in American ſhips.

AUGUSTA, April 10.

DREADFUL TORNADO!

On Thurſday afternoon, the 5th inſt. the apprehenſions of the ſpectators were ſenſibly awakened by the alarming appearances of a heavy and menacing cloud, that ſeemed to have received its origin (ſuddenly) ſouthweſterly, directing its courſe northeaſtwardly, diſplaying itſelf irreſiſtably and portending deſtructive conſequences. The misfortunes entailed on individuals by this hurricane are but partially received; and we fearfully apprehend that a general account will produce a catalogue not before witneſſed in the ſouthern hemiſphere.—We have been enabled to trace it as far back as Hancock county, through which it paſſed with great violence, taking Warren county in its courſe, aſſuming in its progreſs a more horrible aſpect.—In Warren the wife and child of Maj. Candler fell victims to its violence, the major himſelf having one of his arms twiſted off, and all his houſes demoliſhed; from thence to where it croſſed the Savannah river above Auguſta, nothing very particular hath been received. The firſt and moſt ſignal evidence of the reſiſtleſs influence of this ſtorm that happened on the Carolina ſhore, was a piece of hewed timber 45 feet in length 14 by 12, taken from its baſis and carried up or around a hill, a perpendicular of 20 feet. The conſequences were ſoon ſenſibly experienced by Col. Hammond, who had three of his negroes crippled and his plantation greatly injured; but they were too fatally experienced in paſſing on or about three miles, at the houſe of a Mrs. Butler; it was here that ſeveral travellers diſcovering the impending danger, convened for the purpoſe of taking ſhelter from the ſtorm: but no ſooner had they entered the houſe than it received the violence of a ſhock that totally carried away every log belonging to the houſe—three perſons were killed, ſeveral ſeriouſly crippled, and not one eſcaping without injury; ſeveral horſes killed and wounded ſtanding before the houſe belonging to the travellers. A waggon loaded with corn was entirely broken to pieces and a great part of it blown away.

Mr. Aſhton's plantation, contiguous to this houſe ſuſtained very conſiderable damage in the loſs of houſes, fences and other improvements; fortunately, no lives were loſt, and but one negro injured. Col. Carter, alſo received conſiderable damage. We can trace this ſtorm down as far as Mr. Richardſon's, laying waſte every thing before it; but here again the reſult proved fatal to the family of Mr. R. a woman with 3 children were killed, Mr. R. being the only ſurvivor to witneſs the misfortunes that were but too ſuddenly felt. The hail ſtones that fell in ſeveral places are ſaid to have meaſured from 9 to 10 1 2 inches in circumference; which, independent of the injury experienced by the wind, muſt have operated a conſiderable damage to owners of cattle and other ſtock.

From the appearances exhibited by this ſtorm, and from its aſſuming additional violence and force, ſo far as accounts have been received, we are fearful that it has continued for a great diſtance.

Philadelphia, April 23.

We are indebted to the polite attention of a commercial gentleman of this city, for the following

Copy of a letter from Captain Samuel Lewis, of the ſchooner Sukey, of Philadelphia.

"BERMUDA, April 8th, 1804.

Dear Sir,

Incloſed you will find a copy of my PROTEST. The moſt cruel and unjuſt decree of the Judge of the Court of Admiralty in this place, in condemning and wreſting from me our property, muſt excite your aſtoniſhment; fourteen days have elapſed ſince the trial. All the papers I have been able to obtain are my Proteſt and the Judge's Decree, which has juſt been handed me.

"I have with the advice of my friends, determined to return home immediately, as remaining here is attended with heavy expenſes; and the neceſſary documents can be obtained as well in my abſence as if I was preſent. My friends promiſe me to do all in their power to get them as ſoon as poſſible, and forward them to you.

Yours, &c."

The Sukey belonged to captain Lewis and a merchant reſiding in Philadelphia; both native citizens of the United States. She loaded in Philadelphia laſt fall with a cargo of proviſions, for the Weſt Indies, which was ſold at Curracoa, and took in a return cargo for this port, all of which (except 1000 hides, declared to be on freight) was the ſole property of the owners of the veſſel, and accompanied by proper proofs to that effect.

At Bermuda the whole has been condemned, under what pretence we are at a loſs to ſurmiſe. Even a pretence of the blockade of Curracoa could not be urged, as the Sukey left that port for Philadelphia ſome time before, the Britiſh appeared there.

The Sukey was captured by the Britiſh ſloop of war Driver, captain Compton, on the 21ſt January laſt, on her paſſage from Curracoa to Philadelphia; her trial was not had until the 24th of March following. Captain Lewis was detained in cuſtody two days after his arrival at Bermuda, and not ſuffered to hold converſe with any perſon. His mate, alſo a citizen of the United States, and having a protection, was ſent and detained on board a Britiſh ſhip of war on a cruiſe one month. This conduct calls loudly for the immediate attention of the adminiſtration of the United States, and redreſs from ſomewhere.

Columbian Library.

MR. WILEY, having employed an aſſiſtant teacher of experience and ability, for the Engliſh department, feels himſelf juſtified in inviting an additional number of ſcholars into the ſeminary under his care. The ſtricteſt attention will be paid to the improvement and morals of the youth. The branches taught in the Columbian Academy, are reading, writing, arithmetic, Engliſh grammar, geography, Latin, Greek, mathematics and natural philoſophy, &c. The terms of tuition are, from 16 to 26 dollars and 67 cents per annum, paid quarterly, beſides 2 dollars a year for fire wood and other incidental expences. Boarding may be had for boys at from 100 to 150 dollars a year.

The high and healthy ſituation of George Town are well known—and its immediate vicinity to the capital of the United States may be expected to afford peculiar advantages to youth, for enlarging their acquaintance with men and things.

Acceſs may be obtained to a valuable Library, globes, maps, and various mathematical inſtruments are provided.

George Town, May 2—w3t

FOR SALE.

The ſubſcriber will ſell on reaſonable terms all the lot No. 5, and improvements in ſq. 289 north F ſtreet—alſo lot No. 13 in ſame ſq running parallel from F to G ſtreets, is in an eligible ſituation for buſineſs of any kind.

CHARLES M'NANTZ.

May 2—3t