For the NATIONAL INTELLIGENCER.

No. I.

THERE are periods in the affairs of nations, in which it is not only the dictate of policy, but the command of duty, to review past events, to enquire into the error of particular measures, to trace them to their causes, and to endeavour to suggest remedies for them.

It is confidently believed that the present is such a period. The recent agitation of feeling which disturbed the harmony of public, and the peace of private life, is fast subsiding into a state of tranquility and security. No longer at war with any foreign power, but on terms of amity with all nations, and in the enjoyment of domestic happiness, the mind may be considered as free to pursue the useful deductions of reason, uninfluenced by passion and unalarmed by fear.

On the improvement of such periods, it is not rash to affirm, depend the permanent happiness of individuals and the stable respectability of states. Every thing announces an imperfection in the temporary policy that governs nations, as well as in the great political institutions by which they are guided. No man of candor and intelligence, whatever share he may have taken in past events, will, on reviewing them, say they have been dictated by the *most perfect* suggestions of reason. He will have the magnanimity to acknowledge, whatever portion of comparative merit he may claim, that either his own acts have been in some cases mistaken, or the constitutional or legal rules of action whereby he has been controlled, have been imperfect or erroneous. It is only in the mad paroxysms of party violence, in which the fury of assault demands equal vigor of resistance, that man, forgetting that he is a being of limited powers proudly says, "I am perfect. Question not the wisdom of my measures. They admit not of improvement." In such periods, man, boasting infallibility, is a madman; invested with power, he is an object of terror, but he inspires not respect. We look back, after such eras, with gloomy humility, at beholding the noblest powers of the mind, not merely lost, but employed in ignoble purposes.

Behold, citizens of America, in this picture, the delineation, not of any particular period, but of the mischievous effects of the violence of passion and the subjugation of reason.

The object of these remarks is to shew the *necessity* of viewing and examining with coolness and with candor, but with truth also, past errors. Consider not, fellow-citizens, such attention and enquiry as tending to amuse the fancy, or to employ unproductively the powers of the mind in trains of abstract reasoning. No. This were not only useless, but worse than useless. The objects of such an enquiry are deeply momentous. Their effect will be, if properly improved, the introduction of cures for those evils which have heretofore distracted our councils and agitated the nation. The people, I affirm, with our patriotic President, are all republicans, all federalists. They are all in pursuit of happiness. Their great interests are the same. They have every wish that early education inspires, and every reason that experience developes, to cement and confirm their union. They know, that united they stand, and that divided they fall.

With these feelings, with these views, what more do they require to be in fact united, than a correct knowledge of their true interests, and a vigilant protection of them?

To infuse this knowledge, and to inspire this sentiment is my ambition. Happy if I can eradicate one error from their minds, and implant in its room one useful truth, I shall feel in the consciously of doing good, the highest retribution that can be conferred.

One of the greatest sources of division among our citizens has arisen from the different, and in some cases, the opposite constructions given to the federal constitution. Each side has declared the other to be in error; and accordingly as different systems of national polity have been pursued, have different constructions and applications of delegated powers been transfused into the acts of the government.

Much, probably by far the greater portion of this difference, has sprung from error.—For it is sincerely believed that most of our rulers had at heart the public welfare, though from a partiality to preconceived ideas on dissimilar systems of government, they have too frequently lost sight of it.

That a division exists among many of our citizens as to the meaning of several of the most important members of the constitution, a division too which future events will probably rather widen than diminish, can be doubted by no one.

From what has this division arisen?

In part, it has certainly arisen from the ambiguity of the constitution, and from its not having anticipated all the cases which have occurred under it.

Is not this ambiguity susceptible of removal? That it is susceptible of removal, partial at least, if not entire, cannot, in my mind, admit of question.

A review of past events will expose the cases in which a diversity of opinion has existed. In these cases either certain powers, denied by the opponents of the government, have been exercised by it; or certain powers, declared by the opponents of the government to exist and to require exercise, have been neglected by the government, and have remained in operation. In both cases a more precise enumeration of powers, affirmatively or negatively stated, would lessen the existing obscurity.

In my next number, in order to attract the attention of the public to the subject I shall shew that the greatest evil under which a people can labour, is the existence of a constitution which confers, upon the government created by it, powers not properly circumscribed and defined.

SOLON.

[*CIRCULAR.*]

TREASURY DEPARTMENT,
July 15, 1801.

CIRCULAR—

TO COLLECTORS OF THE CUSTOMS.

SIR,

THE quarantine laws of some European nations have proven so oppressive to our commerce, that it has become necessary to adopt every measure which may induce a reasonable relaxation.

In order to produce that desirable effect, it seems requisite to impress a conviction, that the most strict adherence to truth always characterizes the certificates of health which may be granted to our ships; and to attach to those certificates the forms which are most usual in other countries, and such attestations as may give them the highest degree of authenticity.

It cannot be too strongly impressed, that no temporary cause should, at any time, induce a concealment of any circumstance whatever, however unpleasant an acknowledgment of any contagious disease may be to the officer obliged to certify it. Nor should any speculative opinion, however plausible or perhaps well founded, be indulged on the question of what is or is not a contagious disease; but bills of health being operative only abroad, those diseases, which, in other countries, have heretofore usually been considered as contagious, should be stated in the bill, whenever they do exist in the port or its vicinity.

The annexed form of a bill of health, in which are specified, the name of the vessel and captain, the number of persons composing the crew, and of passengers respectively, the species of merchandise, of which the cargo does consist, and the destination of the vessel, and which applies also to the state of health of the port and of the adjoining country, seems from information received, to be the most eligible, and it is recommended that the same should be uniformly adopted. If there is no prevailing sickness at the time of the vessel's sailing, the blank between the words *that* and *in*, is to be filled up as follows: *No plague or other contagious or dangerous disease at present exists.* But if the contrary should be the case, the blank is then to be filled up in such way, as to clearly and unequivocally express the nature of the existing disorder.

The practice of other countries renders it desirable that bills of health, so far as they relate to the health of the port itself and its vicinity, should be attested by other authority besides that of the custom-house officers. Those which, it is believed, will inspire most confidence, are the board of health, or any similar institution, whenever such one does exist, and the municipal authority of the proper city, borough, or town—it is not doubted that these will co-operate with you in granting such certificates, as may be requisite. You are, therefore, requested to confer with them, and to adopt, for the present, such forms as will appear most eligible.

But, as uniformity in all the sea-ports, so far as the variety of state regulations will permit, is desirable, you will be pleased to report the result to this department, in order to enable me to propose hereafter such practicable alterations as a general view of the subject may suggest. In the mean while it is perhaps superfluous to observe, that, in order to prevent any injury which might arise from the want of such attestation, it will be proper that the municipal authority should certify the non-existence of a board of health, whenever no such institution exists in the port, and that when they (the town or city officers or corporation) are *ex-officio* health officers, they should certify the same.

Whenever it can be done, it will be useful to obtain a certification of the facts stated in the bill of health, by the consul or agent of the country to which the vessel may be bound, and from a late public notification, this caution seems particularly necessary in respect to vessels destined for Spain. This attestation it will be the interest of the owners of vessels to procure. But in those ports where the distance from the place of residence of the proper consul may prevent its being obtained, you may, on application of the party, certify that there is not within the district, county or state, as the case may be, any consul or agent for that country to which the vessel is bound.

As you must be sensible that there is no law by which to compel the masters of vessels to take certificates of health, the probability is, that in times of sickness they will refuse to receive them. In such case it becomes your duty to inform them that the regulation has been adopted solely for the benefit of commerce, and that their arrival in foreign parts without those certificates, will be regarded as presumptive evidence of the existence of infectious or contagious disorders in the ports from whence they cleared out.

The President, by whose directions I have addressed you on this subject, entertains no doubt of your chearfulness in carrying into effect regulations, which may, in many instances, relieve our vessels from very injurious and useless detentions.

I am, with consideration,
Sir, your obedient servant,
ALBERT GALLATIN.

The schooners Dolphin & Kitty, now lying at Mr. Young's Wharf will constantly take freights every three weeks from this to Annapolis or Baltimore. For terms apply to BROHAWN and BOYS.

Washington July 15, 1801. 4

NAVY DEPARTMENT,
June 7th, 1800.

Regulations for ascertaining and fixing the Pensioners, and payment of pensions on the Navy establishment of the United States.

TO obtain a pension the party must produce to the Secretary of the Navy a certificate from the commander of the ship or vessel on board of which he sustained the injury, which incapacitates him; or in the case of a marine, from the commanding officer of the marine corps or commander of a detachment as the case may require; in the latter case however, if the injury happened on board a vessel of war, the certificate of the surgeon will also be required, if on shore, that of some respectable medical character of the place, that the same was received while he was acting in the line of his duty, specifying the nature and amount of the disability, the capacity or station in which he acted, and the monthly pay to which he was entitled at the time of sustaining the injury. On such certificate being produced, and it being ascertained to the satisfaction of the Secretary of the Navy, that the disability still exists and is likely to continue, he will at once direct the applicant to be placed on the books of the Loan Office of the state in which he resides, and the loan officer will make the payments half yearly, viz. On the 1st of January, and 1st of July, to the party in person or his legal attorney during his life or the continuance of his disability. But if the pension is to be paid on a power of attorney, the loan officer must have it ascertained by the certificate of a Justice of the peace of the county where the pensioner resides, that he was living, and that his disability continued, in the month next preceding that in which payment is to be made every year, and must transmit the same to the Accountant of the Navy with the necessary receipts as vouchers for his payments.

Each person to be placed on the pension list, must receive at the Navy Office a certificate in the following form.

A. B. Seaman, &c. having been disabled in the service of the United States, on board of the ship of war while acting in the line of his duty, is entitled to receive dollars per month, from the loan officer of the state of payable half yearly, on the 1st of January and 1st of July in every year during his life or continuance of such disability, to commence from the day of

The same will be paid to him in person or on his legal power of attorney. But no money will be paid on a power of attorney, unless the said A. B. shall send to the loan officer of said state the certificate of a Justice of peace of the county wherein he resides, that he the said A. B. appeared before the said justice in the month preceding that in which the ill continued to be made and that his disability st payment is

Signed

BENJ. STODDERT.

The foregoing regulations are still in force.—
By order,

An. THOMAS, P. Clk.

Navy Department, June 17, 1801. 3taw2a

The subscriber respectfully acquaints the public, that he has removed to the corner of Ninth and E streets, where he continues to manufacture and sell all kinds of Ornaments for Chimney pieces, Door Caps, Frontispieces, Metal Sashes, &c. which may also be had at his store No. 51, Barclay street, New-York, and at Mr. WILD's store, Market street, Baltimore.

GEORGE ANDREWS.

Who has gold leaf for sale by the package or book

May 8. 1801 1y

City of Washington, July 24, 1801.

The Subscribers

HAVING on hand a number of house frames of different dimensions, also, a large quantity of the various kinds of lumber requisite for building, and having made such arrangements as will ensure a constant supply thereof, and enable them to sell the same on very advantageous and moderate terms to the purchasers, hereby give notice, that on application, accompanied by a memorandum or bill of the frames or lumber wanted, they will cause the same to be delivered as soon as may be, at any of the wharves in the city of Washington, George-Town or Alexandria. The circumstances under which the subscribers enter into this business, authorize an assurance that the strictest punctuality in their engagements may be relied on. They are therefore induced to believe, that many persons who are engaged in building, or who may intend to build, will find a great convenience and advantage in making timely application, and being thus supplied with the whole of the lumber necessary for their buildings by the time it may be wanted for use.

JOHN CONNER,
Somerset County, near Princess Ann, Maryland.
THOMAS MUNROE,
City of Washington.

July 27. f

A GREAT BARGAIN.

I WILL sell or lease for ten years, a valuable Farm, in the county of Culpepper, and state of Virginia, on Flat Run, containing 750 acres the land is extremely fertile, and yields abundantly in the production of corn, wheat, and tobacco, there are about 100 acres of meadow land, 50 or 60 of which are cleared, and 15 acres well set in Timothy, about 350 acres of the tract are cleared and well inclosed. This land is distant from Fredericksburg about 28 miles, and 55 miles from Alexandria and the City of Washington. There are several valuable merchant mills, in the vicinity, one within the distance of a mile, where the Fredericksburg prices are given for all kinds of grain.

I will also sell the Reversion of 250 acres of land adjoining the above, on which are erected a number of valuable buildings, among them a large dwelling house of 60 feet by 40, with four rooms on a floor, with fireplaces, and every necessary out houses—A valuable peach and apple orchard.

A further description is deemed unnecessary, as any persons desirous of purchasing or leasing, will doubtless wish to view the premises. For terms apply to Robert Brooke Voss, Esq. who lives adjoining the premises, or to the subscriber.

I will also Sell or Rent.

Two three story brick houses in Alexandria, completely finished, on King and Columbia-street, with sundry valuable property near the same, possession whereof may be had immediately. The situation for the flour and grocery business is equal to any in Alexandria.

For terms apply to Henry Thomas Moore, Alexandria, or to the subscriber.

NICHOLAS VOSS.

City of Washington, July 13, 1801.

N. B. I wish to hire by the month, or until the 1st day of November, ten or twelve labourers, for whom liberal wages will be given.—Apply to N. Voss, on F street, or W. C. Voss, at the Navy-Yard. 2awtf

THE SUBSCRIBERS

HAVE just received from Baltimore and Philadelphia, a handsome assortment of Spring and Fall goods, which they are now opening adjoining Dr. Thornton's upon F street, & which they offer for sale upon the most reasonable terms either for cash or country produce, viz.

Printed and plain marseilles,	Tambouring silk,
Dimities of various kinds,	Ladies gloves, long and short,
Counterpanes,	Stuff and Morocco shoes,
Striped nankeen,	Balasore handkerchiefs,
Bandanna and plaited handkerchiefs,	A handsome assortment of muslins, India chintz,
Brown camlet,	White sheeting,
Rattinets, tammys and durants,	Brown Holland,
Moreans and Jones,	Irish linens,
Cloths and cassimeres,	Humhums and ginghams
Swansdown,	Platillas, creas &c.
Lace and edging,	Janes, &c. &c
Men's Ladies' and boy's thread and cotton hose,	Muslinets, fans, &c.
Buttons assorted,	Ivory combs,
Taffitas, Persians, Senshaws and sattins,	Shirt buttons, button moles,
Black mode,	Elastic suspenders,
Ribbons well assorted.	Stationary of various kinds,
Shoebinding first quality,	Hyson tea,
Thread of every kind,	Muscovado and loaf sugar,
Curtain cord,	Coffee, old spirits, gin & pepper,
Dutch lace,	Osnabrigs, dowlas,
Silk and twist,	Carpetting, &c.
French chintz,	

The best James River chewing tobacco, with a variety of other useful articles too tedious to mention.

ROBERT CAMP, & Co.

☞ Who offer their services to the public in the Auction and Commission business.

City of Washington, July 10, 1801. 2aw3w