
THE
EMIGRANT'S GUIDE,

§c. §c.

TWO SHILLINGS AND SIX-PENCE.

THE

Emigrant's Guide;

OR, A

PICTURE OF AMERICA:

EXHIBITING

A VIEW OF THE UNITED STATES,

DIVESTED OF DEMOCRATIC COLOURING,

TAKEN FROM THE ORIGINAL NOW IN THE POSSESSION OF JAMES
MADISON, AND HIS TWENTY-ONE GOVERNMENTS.

ALSO,

A Sketch of the British Provinces;

DELINEATING

THEIR NATIVE BEAUTIES AND SUPERIOR ATTRACTIONS.

BY AN OLD SCENE PAINTER.

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&c. &c.

AMERICA has been considered, by those who have been dazzled by the infatuating sounds of democracy, independence, liberty, and equality, as the only happy spot upon earth; where all the necessities, comforts, and luxuries of life, flow spontaneously, or are to be obtained without that perseverance and industry which are required for their attainment in other civilized nations. Flattered, or rather misled, by this chimera, thousands have inconsiderately emigrated to the new world; and have experienced that disappointment which always attends premature conclusions drawn from false reasoning, or a want of that information which is necessary to ensure success in any undertaking. Others, less sanguine in their expectations, and relying on their skill and perfection in some branch of business, have hastened thither without considering the inconvenience and hazard they had to combat, arising from their ignorance of the manners, habits, and customs, of those with whom they would have to associate, or a knowledge of the state of that particular trade of which they were proficient. The present desire for emigration which prevails, arising, in addition to the above causes,

from a partial stagnation of some particular branches of employment, will, I hope, render the following sketch of the united states of America, a beacon to warn those who may too hastily conclude on emigration without exposing them to the fatal consequences of defeated hopes, loss, and ultimate ruin.

This extensive country necessarily includes within its boundaries, a wide difference of soil and climate ; and a great diversity of manners, habits, customs, and laws ; the northern states differing as much from the southern ones, in each of these particulars, as those of Great Britain do from those of Spain. The soil of the northern and midland states is fertile and capable of general improvement ; while the southern ones exhibit but a sterile prospect, produce but little grain, and are so destitute of meadows, that the cattle are constantly fed upon the stems and leaves of the Indian corn.

Every nation has some peculiar characteristic, and that of America has been very justly and appositely denominated *low cunning*. We give the appellation of Yankees to all the people of America indiscriminately, but only the inhabitants of the five New-England states are denominated so among themselves, who are noted for every species of dishonourable traffick and chicanery, so much so, that all unfair dealings, swindlings, and artful evasions, are called *Yankee tricks*. It would be unjust to include all the citizens of this portion of America in one indiscriminate mass of censure, many of whom would be ornaments to any country ; but it is my intention to give, occasionally, the opinions the Americans entertain of each other, which will, perhaps, come as near the truth as any that may be formed by myself, and more so than the hasty conclusions drawn by travellers who have had but a temporary residence among them. Most of

the industry, in every branch of business, is confined to the northern and midland divisions of the union, which the climate greatly contributes to promote. Here agriculture has its residence, and infantine manufactures their seats; the former predominately, and the latter exclusively: commerce claims an indisputable sway; and active and speculative enterprise a decided preponderance. It is in these states (particularly New York and Pennsylvania) where extensive farms may be seen, many of which are in the possession of Dutch settlers, whose industry and economy are proverbial; but whose simplicity of manners, and total ignorance of guarding against artful contracts, expose them to frequent losses from the inherent knavery of Yankee adventurers.

The inhabitants of the southern states are luxurious, indolent, and proud. They are represented by the other states, and very justly too, as always aiming to support a grandeur which their income is inadequate to uphold, and of involving themselves in debts without any regard to their inability to discharge them*: and the keeping their negroes in perpetual slavery, now the other states do not, is a constant source of just reproach on their avarice; and it exhibits a total want of humanity in not following the examples set them by their confederated neighbours. Indeed, their pampered mode of living, their inebriate revellings, and supine habits, all of which are supported by the abject slavery of thousands of their sable-hued fellow-creatures, place them

* Immediately after the late declaration of war against Great Britain, a law was made (in this part of America) declaring, That no person should be arrested for debt during the contest.

on a footing with the once-degraded state of our West-India colonies, and make their boasted cry of liberty and independence but an empty sound.

Each state being an independent sovereignty has its exclusive departments of government, which is supported by the land and direct taxes. The executive branch is vested in a governor; the legislative, in assemblies; and the judicial, in courts of law; which bear the same names as those we have in England. It will be inferred from this, that to support so many governments with all their dependencies, offices, and auxiliaries, an uncommon portion of taxes must be required, which is literally the case, for in no country are so many taxes levied as in America. A shoemaker, a tailor, or a carpenter, would be very clamorous against our legislature, were a tax of from two to five dollars a head imposed upon each of them, under the title of a *professional tax*, which would be the case were they to become residents of the state of Massachusetts.

The laws in every part of the union appear to be a model of our own, and decisions in our courts, anterior to the year 1776, serve as precedents to their's; and they differ only from our's, and each other, in the penalties annexed to their violation. Their acts of insolvency tend greatly to encourage fraud and create distrust in common dealings. And the penitentiary system, which prevails in most states, though sanctioned by a misapplied regard for humanity, is inadequate to the purposes of its institution: and, instead of preventing crimes, fosters and promotes the commission of them; for the youthful and inexperienced delinquent, after being some years an inmate in these seminaries of vice, returns to society an accomplished and systematic rogue. The criminal courts, in their exterior forms, are conducted with less solemnity than in Great Britain; consequently not

calculated to make an equal impression of reverence and awe on the mind of the culprit, nor command that respect from the multitude that attends them. Having no lawyers who follow the separate profession of counsellors, the pleadings are conducted by attornies and their apprentices, whose motley appearance would furnish matter for a caricature ; it being no uncommon sight to behold a pleader, not more than seventeen years of age, dressed in all the fopperies of fashion, and the whole court laughing and jesting while a cause of horse-stealing, burglary, or forgery, is being tried. It must be acknowledged that lawyers of eminence and professional skill are to be found in America ; but they are more than counterbalanced by the herd of pettyfoggers that infest it. And the inability and inexperience of those who are permitted to plead, in their different courts, must always expose them to ridicule and contempt, and lessen that reverential regard for jurisprudence to which it seems justly entitled.

The general, or federal government, for the support of which the whole commercial revenue is appropriated, vests its executive in a president, its legislative in two houses of congress, and its judiciary in district courts : the president is elected for four years, with a salary of twenty-five thousand dollars ; he can be twice re-elected, but must then retire from office never to return to it again. In his executive capacity he has the control of the army and navy, issues commissions, appoints judges, and grants reprieves and pardons ; can adjourn, but not dissolve the congress, and convoke it any time after giving its members a month's previous notice : he also appoints governors to rule over those portions of the union called territories ; which, when their population amounts to thirty-five thousand, become states,

form their own laws, and are governed by the same, until which time they are amenable to the federal law.

The congress is divided into two branches, called the Upper and Lower Houses, or the Representatives and the Senate. The members of the lower house are elected by the *direct* voice of the people, and apportioned to a population of every twenty-five thousand, hold their seats three years, have a salary of six dollars per day each member during the sessions, and are allowed twelve and a half cents, or seven-pence halfpenny, a mile travelling expenses when going to or returning from the city of Washington. Senators are elected *indirectly* by the voice of the people, or, in other words, they are chosen by the members of the local legislatures ; their number is limited to two from each state ; they are chosen for five years, have a salary of eight dollars per day, and the same travelling expenses as the members of the lower house. In framing the legislative department, the Americans appear to have copied the British in form though not in substance, else why have they divided their congress into two houses ? In Great Britain the aristocratical and democratical branches are mutual checks upon each other ; but in America, which is avowedly a democracy, no such distinction exists ; consequently both houses, call them by whatever names you please, must be constituted of the representatives of the people only : therefore, to consider the upper house a check upon the lower one, will be to say, that the people are a check upon the people, which must imply a contradictory absurdity that would baffle the whole art of Yankee cunning to reconcile.

Bills may be introduced in either the upper or lower house, but mostly originate in the latter. The three departments of the legislative *generally* concur in passing

them, previously to their becoming laws; but this is not absolutely necessary: for if the president refuses to put his signature to a bill, his acquiescence is dispensed with by two-thirds of each house agreeing to its enactment; it then becomes a law, as effectually so, as though it had obtained his assent.

America has had four presidents. The first was General Washington, a native of Virginia, who served two elections and then retired from office, declining to serve a third one. The second was John Adams, a native of Massachusetts, who, after serving four years, was discarded from office; the public voice refusing to re-elect him on the charges of aiming to overthrow the republic, and of undermining its liberties by raising a navy and a standing army, which, it was contended, were inimical to the interests and freedom of a democracy; though, in the year 1813, the very men who were so clamorous against such measures, voted the raising and supporting of them both. The third, who may be considered the *finger-post* of democracy, was Thomas Jefferson, who stands charged with being a Deist, from an exposition of his religious sentiments in his Notes on Virginia; and his friendly intimacy with, and cordial support of, that notorious apostate, Tom Paine: he was born in Virginia, and conducted the confederated union eight years; when, following the example of the first president, he resigned, and was succeeded by the present chief magistrate, James Madison, a native of Virginia also, and a pupil and follower of the political creed of his predecessor. His second election will expire the ensuing October; and it remains to be seen whether he will become a candidate for another election, or whether he will resign, and thereby comply with what seems to be the presidential etiquette of declining to serve the whole term which the federal consti-

tution assigns them. It fell to the lot of James Madison to preside when America declared war against Great Britain. And though the president can neither declare war nor make peace, without the concurrence of congress; yet his will, which is always expressed in his message to both houses, always controls the voice of those assemblies. But his incapacity to conduct the state, after being instrumental in precipitating it into an unjust and expensive war, was too apparent to be subject of doubt: and the partial successes which sometimes attended the contest in favour of America, are not to be attributed to any skilful prowess in him; but rather to fortuitous circumstances, a superiority of force, or the uncertainty attending that mode of warfare which was necessarily practised in America; where British skill and discipline had but an inconsiderable field in which to exercise their powers, and no opportunities of displaying their valuable ascendancy.

Considerable jealousy has been excited through the different states, from the circumstance of Virginia having furnished three out of four of the presidents that have ruled America; and at the last presidential election, the state of New York (now the most populous in the union) took a conspicuous part, in endeavouring to promote dissensions on this ground: designating the general government by the title of the *Virginian dynasty*, and aiming to control the public voice by shewing the dangerous tendency of confining the presidency to any particular state. But this was regarded as a feeble effort to support the cause of a York candidate; when, after agitating the public mind some time, it was consigned to rest; but may, perhaps, at some future period, rise with augmented force, and produce greater effects than might be expected from so comparatively small a cause. The local legislatures of America serve only to frame laws agreeably

to the ideas of legislation entertained in each particular province; and their existence incurs a load of taxation, without remunerating their supporters with any additional security, wealth, or happiness. What real and valuable benefits would similar institutions bestow on the inhabitants of Great Britain, or any other country? Suppose every county in England, or every province in France, was to adopt these measures of political phrensy, what would be the result? Like America, they would exhibit a checquered scene of political institutions, each claiming a superiority for wisdom in its constitution, mildness in its laws, and equity in its judgments: so, like the Columbian prototype, we should behold some investing their executive with more powers than others; some dividing their legislature into two branches, and others confining it to one. Their penal codes would also exhibit a striking contrast in the punishments annexed to their infringement; and some would extend a greater latitude, and more indulgence to acts of insolvency than others would be inclined to do. The variety such institutions would display; the offices, places, and pensions, they would afford; and the ease and luxury thousands would enjoy from them, might make them the subjects of interested eulogium; but they would be no sources of increased welfare, or additional happiness either national or individual. Provisional governments foster and support a host of petulant office-hunting demagogues, make political institution a trade, and take into their employ thousands of incapacitated bunglers. Bricklayers, carpenters, shoemakers, and other artificers (of which these bodies are composed), with scarcely mental endowments sufficient to conduct their professional concerns, can emit no great blaze of political wisdom; they would be more usefully employed, and con-

tribute more to the benefit of society, in the pursuit of their different professions, than in the exercise of an impotent, unnecessary, and supercilious legislation. The peculiar blessings the Americans enjoy from a multiplicity of political institutions are certainly not enviable. A population of little more than five millions of *free* inhabitants has to support *twenty-one governments*; the aggregate expenses of which considerably exceed the British civil expenditure, without one-twentieth of the commercial resources, or one-thousandth part of the manufacturing ones. The whole revenue arising from her curtailed commerce is exclusively applied to defray the expenses of the general government, which having been found inadequate, direct taxation has been resorted to. Personal, professional, and other direct taxes, are levied by the local governments for their support; whose existence affords no additional security, bestows no additional comforts, nor can they extend any additional freedom to those who support them. The life and property of a citizen of Massachusetts are no less secure than those of a Pennsylvanian; the comforts the former possesses (afforded by political institutions) are no more than the latter enjoys, and the citizens of one are equally and unquestionably as free as the other: therefore, the multiplied and increasing provincial governments can be no resources of wealth and happiness to the people of America, but incur innumerable taxes for their support, without having any valuable claims to a necessary existence. Nor can any increase of civil liberty, social happiness, individual or national security, flow from a compound, complicate, and confederate democracy.

As all offices are elective, even to a constable, elections of course must be frequent. And as the contending opi-

nions of federals and democrats* are brought to clash with each other on such occasions, they always produce tumults. A great portion of time is idly devoted to attend them by all conditions; for, in America, every man aims to be both a politician and a lawyer, and at these elective meetings you are sure to be edified with commendations on the acts of their legislative assembly; the most adulatory praises lavished on the exaggerate abilities of some popular demagogue, and the most reproachful epithets given to a more deserving character, whose creed runs counter to that of the party who are impotently deciding on his merits.

* Partisans in *general politics* are distinguished by one or other of these denominations. Local politicians assume various appellations, such as New School and Old School Democrats, Snyderites, Clintonians, and many others, mostly derived from the name or principles of some popular demagogue. A federal (in the more modern acceptation of the term) signifies one who wishes to extend the powers of the general government, and in its foreign relations to cultivate a friendly intercourse with Great Britain; likewise to support an army and a navy that may be ready to act with promptitude when the confederacy may require them. A democrat is an admirer of French principles; raves and contends for the sovereignty of each state; entertains a rooted hatred to Great Britain; and charges the opposite party with aiming to introduce innovations that will ultimately terminate in making the government monarchical. With a democratic president, and a democratic majority in both houses of congress, when the British Orders in Council, and the Milan and Berlin Decrees of Buonaparte, were thought sufficient causes to declare war against either France or England; a declaration against the latter was a natural consequence: had it been otherwise, war with France would have been the inevitable result.

The city of Washington, situated on the banks of the river Potomac, partly in the state of Maryland, and partly in Virginia, is the seat of the federal government. Its extent is ten miles square, and was ceded to congress by these states conjointly. It was *intended* to be the largest and grandest city in the universe ; but its grandeur is confined to a sheet of parchment, where, in all probability, it will ever remain. George Washington, whose voice acted like a charm on these vaunting republicans, was the active means of removing the general government from Philadelphia to this dreary spot, it being contiguous to his estates ; though it is asserted, that its almost central situation was the sole cause of making it so. And, on this occasion, the Americans appear to have entertained the idea, that cities, like mushrooms, may be raised on a sudden ; so without considering its disadvantageous situation, both in a commercial and agricultural point of view, they laboured to perpetuate the memory of their darling chief, by raising a city that should bear his name ; blindly overlooking its distance from the sea-board, the intricacy of the navigation up the Potomac, and the sterility of the soil that surrounds it ! A very small portion of this federal *wilderness* is either laid out or built upon ; the houses it contains not exceeding in number many of our villages.

The capital, the seat of both houses of congress, which was razed by a British force, was an extensive but irregular building ; cost immense sums of money in its erection ; and when destroyed was not completed. Here may be seen houses began years ago on a large scale, but left to decay after rearing them, some two, and others not more than one story high. All the officers of the federal government reside here, and have appropriate dwellings allotted them : also a house, built at the public expense, for the residence of

the president. It was here where Mr. Jackson, our envoy extraordinary, received the first marks of illiberal and unmerited insult, and that too from the constituted authorities of the country*. It was here where the British flag was made the footstool of a *Virginian milkmaid*. But it must be remembered that it was here also where republican courage was put to the test; where traits of British valour are still to be seen; and where future congresses will be cautious how they expose their capital to the retributive fury of an injured and insulted nation. And, without laying claims to the art of prescience, we may venture to assert, that this

* It was known, previously to his leaving England, that this gentleman was appointed minister extraordinary to adjust the existing differences between the two countries; but the controlling influence of the democratic papers, by abusing and misrepresenting his character, made him disrespected before his arrival; so much so, that it was the determined intention of the officers of the federal government not to treat with him; and they took the earliest opportunity to break off the correspondence, by asserting that Mr. Erskine (the late ambassador) had full powers to conclude a treaty, which he had fulfilled, but which his government had refused to ratify. To which Mr. Jackson replied, that he (Mr. Erskine) was not invested with full powers, and that they knew he was not. This was construed an insult, and denominated 'Giving them the lie.' When, finding his diplomatic functions at an end, and himself exposed to the insults of the democratic party, and wishing to proceed to Halifax by the route to Boston, he applied to the president for an escort, but this was refused on the grounds of its being contrary to the etiquette of democracy. On his journey he was grossly insulted in the cities of Baltimore, Philadelphia, and New York; but the *Yankees* exhibited more magnanimity, by giving him, during his stay in Boston, a tolerably welcome reception.

would-be-a-city will always remain in its present state of *embryo*, unless matured by a change of *political regimen*. The mental faculties are said to degenerate in the new world, perhaps from the circumstance of learning having never arrived to that degree of perfection in which it may be found in Europe, and there being no writers of eminence on any branch of literature among them. But, though original works are uncommon in America, British publications, *enriched* with Yankee criticisms and emendations, are numerous, particularly in the political and geographical departments; and reprinting is carried to a considerable extent in Philadelphia and New York.

Newspapers are numerous and industriously circulated, and exercise a dictatorial influence over the legislative assemblies, both local and general; for, degrading as it may appear (to those wiseacres), the speeches of members, in both places, are often the mere echo of these ephemeral productions. And the violent declamation against Great Britain, constantly and uniformly contained in the *Aurora*, *Democratic Press*, and other violent prints, most of which are conducted by Irish editors, contributed greatly to plunge America in the late unnecessary war. The *National Intelligencer*, a daily paper, published in Washington by the *Anglo-American Gales*, may be considered the *Court Gazette*, and is under the immediate control of the president. The *Baltimore Federal Republican*, the *Philadelphia United States Gazette*, the *Connecticut Courier*, and the *Boston Repertory*, are well conducted, and exercised a firm but ineffectual voice to save their country from the consequences of a state of warfare. Country newspapers are also numerous, there being scarcely a village that contains fifty houses but gives support to one. And many small towns have two weekly papers issued from them.

There are five established theatres in America, Boston, New York, Philadelphia, Baltimore, and Charlestown, having each one, where plays are exhibited three times a week ; and they are large in proportion to the population of these respective cities. The managers of them complain of a want of encouraging support, though, to gratify the public, they import new performers every season ; who are all, both male and female, of British growth, and who, at most, when in their native country, held but a second-rate standing in the Thespian corps. But American vanity sometimes dignifies an *Irish* comedian with the flattering appellation of ‘ The American Roscius ;’ or bestows on a favourite female performer the title of ‘ The American Jordan.’ These are more frequently obtained by flattering republican prejudices than by any theatrical excellence in those who obtain them ; for every candidate for public favour must make his *debut* reciting a piece of doggerel rhyme, written in praise of the unlimited discernment, discrimination, and judgment, of an American audience ; praising the bravery and fortitude of its heroes, and extolling the incomparable charms of the Columbian fair. In short, it must contain every thing but truth, which is dispensed with for the more gratifying sounds of fictitious praise*.

America has but few good roads, excepting those extending from Boston to Baltimore ; although turnpikes are

* Mr. Cooke refused to comply with this practice. “ I am an Englishman,” said he, “ and I shall retain and support the principles of one. My stay in America will be short, and on my return to my native country, I should feel myself degraded by having gained a few dollars at the expense of sacrificing my honour to a puerile and unnecessary custom.”

extensively established, at which great tolls are exacted every time you pass them, if it be twenty times a day. Those in the interior are intolerably bad, and in many places almost impassable on horseback. Our English drivers would be strangely confused in travelling through Pennsylvania, where they would have to keep on the contrary side of the road to that which, when in England, they had been accustomed to keep. But to refresh their memories, finger-posts are erected, on which are written, '*Keep to the Right as the law directs.*' How the law came to impose this dangerous practice I am at a loss to conjecture; but the advantages arising from the contrary one, and the safety it ensures, are perceptible on the slightest investigation.

Stage-coaches are the only public vehicles for travelling, which are literally very little better than stage-waggons; having no doors, passengers are compelled to expose themselves to considerable risk, by climbing over the wheels to enter them at the front; they are mostly driven by negroes, who, having no box to sit upon, always occupy the front seat.—Post-houses, post-chaises, and post-horses, are totally unknown here.

A breed of good horses is to be found in almost all parts of the United States raised from English stocks; and stallions from England, of the first quality, have been known to produce enormous prices. But that valuable and hardy breed which we denominate draft-horses are seldom to be seen, not being prized by the Americans. Blood-horses are everywhere here bred, but their number is inconsiderable. Each state claims the possession of a superior breed, which often gives rise to match-races, though several states prohibit the practice of racing, and strive to suppress it; nevertheless it is continued to be exercised, even in those states which have laws against it. But this species of amusement, which

is calculated to improve the breed of horses, is not so honourably conducted, nor so fashionably attended, as in England; nor are the purses obtained from so respectable a source. When a number of needy gamblers want to fill their pockets at the expense of the credulous, they subscribe from ten to twenty dollars each, which, added to the sums exacted from every carriage and every horse entering the race-ground, serves to make up a purse; from which it follows, as a necessary consequence, that, to remunerate themselves, these liberal *worthies* exhibit their *gull-traps*, where many an inexperienced and inconsiderate adventurer gets fleeced; and so numerous are these fraudulent pests, that it is no uncommon sight to see fifty or sixty of them at one meeting.—Horse-dealing is principally confined to the *Yankees*, who carry on this traffic in all parts of the union. They pay frequent visits to the *Canadies*; and though they are universally detested by the inhabitants of these provinces, they often contrive to impose old jaded hackneys upon that honest and unsuspecting people. This is mostly accomplished by barter, for so accommodating are these traders, that Canadian horses (a small but hardy race), watches, apparel, or fur, is taken in exchange, with which they soon decamp, and the poor Canadians are left to repent their precipitate and inconsiderate bargains at their leisure.

Travellers who confine their route to the main roads between Boston and Washington, have a view of the best parts of the union; but even there the contrast between the prospects exhibited, and those to be seen in England, are infinitely in favour of the latter. Art has nowhere lent a tasteful hand to heighten the charms of nature: no elegant mansions, beautiful villas, fine parks, and delightful gardens, present themselves to view. The eye is nowhere delighted with green hedges, nor the meadows dressed out in the finest

verdure; but the whole country (excepting those spots appropriated to arable purposes) remains just as nature left it; or, if some attempts have been made to diversify the scene, they have only tended to shade the rude beauties of that goddess, and display her works to a preposterous disadvantage. Journies on this route are performed in stage-coaches, and travellers are not so much troubled with that impertinent curiosity so prevalent in the interior. But if you travel from the sea-board to Canada, or to any parts of the Indian frontiers; you generally perform it on horseback, and are frequently pestered with idle and impertinent interrogatories. You scarcely get seated in an inn before you are visited by all the indolent and inquisitive people of the town (which are not a few), inquiring whence you came, whither you are going, your profession, the object of your journey, and even your name: and the host is not the most backward in these inquiries. Doctor Franklin, who was well acquainted with this propensity in his countrymen, desired the landlord of an inn, where he alighted for refreshment, to bring his wife, sons, daughters, and servants, into the parlour, as he had something of consequence to communicate to them; when seeing a considerable group had assembled, he inquired whether these were the whole of the family? "Yes," said the host, "excepting Jonathan, who is feeding the pigs." "Send him in too," said the Doctor. Jonathan being come, "Now," said he, "my name is Benjamin Franklin; I came from Philadelphia; I am going to Boston to see my brother, and in all probability shall be here again in a few weeks: so, as you are all acquainted with my name, the place from whence I came, where I am going, and the purpose of my journey, do pray get me some breakfast as soon as you can."

Every pot-house is honoured with the appellation of a

tavern, which, both in town and country, is not unfrequently kept by a captain, a major, or a colonel. But though characters so dignified condescend to entertain "all sorts and conditions of men," their houses have but indifferent accommodations, and are but badly attended. The few Englishmen who keep taverns have always more custom than the natives, for Americans are fond of being waited on; so finding more respectful attention paid them in the houses of the former than in those of the latter, they more frequently go thither. This is well known and lamented; but that unconquerable pride so inseparable from their nature makes their interest, when compared with it, but of a secondary consideration. These republicans (contrary to the true spirit of democracy) are passionately fond of military distinctions, it being no uncommon thing to hear almost every person in a common tap-room accosted with either the appellation of captain or major. They are also very lavish in bestowing these nominal honours on others, from a self-complacency in receiving them: for a stranger with a decently respectable appearance is sure to be addressed with "How do you do, Colonel?" but if his dress be plain, he is saluted with the clerical denomination of a dean; and if he wishes to please, he must be guided in his addresses and salutations by the same rules of courtesy. I was not a little disappointed in this particular, when going from Montreal to New York in company with a loquacious Yankee, "To-morrow," said he, "we shall be at St. Alban's, when I will introduce you to Colonel Jones." This both flattered my prospects and enlivened my expectations. I am surely a fortunate fellow, thought I, to be, on my arrival at the first town in the United States, introduced to a man of rank. I put on my best apparel, and began to study an address for the occasion. But to my surprise, when we arrived at the first

tavern in the town, I heard the person who held our horses while we alighted, accosted with the illustrious title of Colonel, accompanied with an order to mix two glasses of rum and water! At first I considered the affair a jest; and having been somewhat apprised of the nature and frequency of Yankee tricks, I considered this as one; but I was soon undeceived by hearing the colonel relate his revolutionary exploits, and confirm his claims to that exalted rank. Nor was I less surprised at the *elegant* sentiments, *easy* deportment, or *graceful* accomplishments of his lady, whose exterior habiliments were a yellow flannel half-gown and a linsey-woolsey petticoat; who, to shew a further contempt for the vanities of dress, wore no stockings. A judge (perhaps from motives of convenience) was also an inmate of this paltry dwelling, whose legal knowledge, if commensurate with his general sentiments, and other apparent acquirements, will never reflect many exalted honours on its possessor.

The females are also conspicuous in singularly blending meanness with pride. A lady in the southern parts, whose affected delicacy of frame seems scarcely sufficient to support her from the chamber to the parlour; who would faint at the sting of a gnat or the bite of a musquito, is the foremost to inflict punishment on the bare skin of her negroes, both male and female; and, from the perfecting hand of practice, these *petticoat-flagillators* have acquired an uncommon share of dexterity in their castigating prowess. From such a wife (I think I hear the reader exclaim) good Lord deliver me! to which I cordially respond Amen. In the northern and midland cities may frequently be seen females, elegantly dressed, with silk stockings, silk gloves, and other costly habiliments, returning from market with one hand supporting a parasol, and the other decorated with a calf's head or a shin of beef. A homely proverb asserts, "It is a bad

horse that will not carry his own provender ;” which is here not confined to the brute, but extended to the rational part of the creation also ; as magistrates, mayors, and judges, frequently carry from market the animal and vegetable productions of their purchase. But though the equallizing pretensions of democracy may sanction the custom, it serves to lessen, in the eyes of the multitude, that regard for such characters which their standing in society demands. It makes their official capacities less respected, and enfeebles the arm of executive justice. I was once witness to a corroborating instance of this in Philadelphia, where the mayor, in the execution of the city-laws, subjected a waggoner to a fine for trespassing with his horses on the foot-path. “ Aye,” said the clown, “ I suppose you have got nothing for dinner, and want me to buy you one. The last fine I paid you went away to the market with, and bought two fowls and a bunch of turnips.” This, of course, afforded considerable mirth for those who were present. But this contemptible charge (whether true or false) would never have had an existence but for that degrading practice, which every thinking person must reprobate.

The female servants of merchants, and tradesmen’s daughters, are in the forenoon mostly bare-legged, but in the afternoon ornamented and decorated abundantly. And when they visit a theatre, they never degrade themselves by going either to the gallery or to the pit, but must be seated in a box. For every white female is a lady by Columbian courtesy ; an equality of rank, therefore, entitles a *pot-wrestler* to a place on the same seat with her employers ; for you could not convey a greater insult to her dignity than to call them her masters and mistresses, as these are terms she never condescends to acknowledge.—Courtships are seldom protracted to any great length of time ; and many matches

are made and confirmed in the hasty despatch of a fortnight; which perhaps is the cause of so many separations taking place amongst the lower order of the American community. A woman is considered in England a *spoiled child*, but she is more so in America, as the law has hitherto neglected to empower the husband with that discretionary power called gentle correction. And the most trifling instances of assault and battery are sufficient to empower the wife to confine her husband in the common criminals' apartments until she pleases to liberate him.

Matrimony, in many states, may be made either a civil or a religious contract, by being performed either by a clergyman or a magistrate. In Virginia a licence is required for its performance; but in the northern and midland divisions it is sufficient only to repair to the dwelling of the magistrate or priest, or to send for one of them to your own residence, without any previous notice. If the ceremony be magisterial, and performed in Pennsylvania, twelve witnesses are required to attend, and to certify the same by signing the matrimonial register. This number is generally completed from the magistrate's family, which, if insufficient, the scriptural parable is resorted to, and passing strangers "bid to the wedding." Divorces are obtained by specific acts of the local legislatures; but the difficulty of obtaining them for trifling causes in most states, excepting Connecticut, makes many a weary couple become residents of that state, who, after residing there six months, are entitled to this *benefit*; very little more being required than a desire to annul the marriage-contract. Elizabeth Patterson, called the Baltimore beauty, a lady of considerable personal attractions, became the wife of Jerome Buonaparte in the year 1803. She followed her husband, in a forward state of pregnancy, to France, but was not permitted to

land by the imperious Napoleon ; when being unable to return to America in her fertile condition, she repaired to England ; from whence, after her *accouchement*, she returned to her native home, where she continued in a state of melancholy widowhood until the early part of 1813, when she obtained a divorce by petitioning the legislature of Maryland.

No fairs are held in America, either for the sale of cattle, or the purpose of recreation ; but *frolics* are numerous and frequent. These series of rustic festivity are variously occasioned, and are intended as the rewards of a generous assistance, collectively given, to individual want. A farmer solicits the aid of his neighbours to cut down and carry home his grain, which being accomplished, the neighbouring females are invited, a fiddler procured, a barrel of whiskey tapped, and singing, dancing, and other amusements commenced. This is called a harvest-frolic. A housewife has a quantity of yarn, flax, or tow, to spin, which she distributes in equal quantities to all the unmarried females within several miles of her habitation ; a day is appointed for them to bring their work home, when the bachelors of the neighbourhood attend, and the night is devoted to the same recreation as those already enumerated. This is denominated a spinning-frolic. Quilting-frolics, apple-cutting-frolics, husking-frolics, and various others, similarly occasioned, serve the purpose of affording that assistance which the necessity of a newly-established settlement requires. But the immoral tendency of the nocturnal revellings that succeed, where the passions are inflamed by an immoderate use of spirituous liquor, and where the strictest regard to chastity is not observed, operates as a drawback on the praise we might bestow on the design of these undertakings, and casts a shade over a practice that

professes for its attainment the laudable abject of needful and reciprocal support.

The use of malt liquors is principally confined to cities, very little being used in the country. Philadelphia claims the praise of producing the best porter, and Albany (a city about two hundred miles in the interior of the state of New York) the best ale. The demand for this beverage is but small, compared with the population, and is consumed by Anglo-Americans more than by natives. Its limited consumption is occasioned by a want of encouragement in the general legislature, by not laying a heavy duty on the importation of foreign spirits, the cheapness of which is the principal cause of their general use. In cities and seaport-towns dram-shops are innumerable ; and gin, rum, and brandy, mostly in demand. In the country, whiskey, distilled from rye, is the principal drink. A great quantity of this spirit is exported, which by some adulterating process acquires the flavour of gin, and is sold under that name. An inferior quality of spirits is likewise distilled in the state of Massachusetts, known by the name of Yankee rum ; a partial distillation is also made from apples and peaches, the produce of the former is called Apple-Jack, and that of the latter Peach-brandy. A spirit produced from the last-mentioned article has a beautifully rich appearance, but a flavour the most nauseous and disgusting. Cider is made an intoxicating drink by boiling and reducing the quantity one-half ; it is then called cider-oil, is pleasant in appearance, and grateful to the taste. Mead, spruce-beer, and metheglin, conclude the list of American drinks, which are sold by the road-side for the accommodation of travellers.

Horticulture is nowhere brought to any state of perfection ; hot-houses, green-houses, and conservatories, have no place in America. The natives contentedly wait the

productions of the seasons, without forcing nature by any assistance from art ; nor are their grounds divided into the forcing, the culinary, and the pleasure-gardens ; for on this, as on most other occasions, the Americans (like the Chinese) have a propensity to ridicule that which their genius is incapable of perfecting, and their pusillanimity condemns. A garden, tastefully laid out with grass-plats, lawns, verges, &c., and scientifically managed, is nowhere to be seen : and as only a general culture of common vegetation is aimed at, but little encouragement is extended to this branch of national and individual grandeur. Gardeners are but few, and they but imperfect in their profession ; the whole number in the union not exceeding what are employed in ten villages round the British metropolis, and their knowledge of the art scarcely competent to the improved cultivation of cabbages. Apples and peaches are every where in abundance ; the latter, from the warmth of climate, require no support from walls or fences, but are what gardeners call standards, the trees which produce them growing like apple-trees. Apricots, nectarines, green, yellow, and blue gages, are seldom to be met with ; and the strawberries exposed for sale are mostly of the wild kind : in short, those fruits and vegetables only that require the least skill in management, and the smallest share of art to produce, are regarded and cultivated.

The gold coin of the United States are eagles and half-eagles, with the head of personified Liberty on one side, and on the other the American eagle ; its breast covered with a shield ; in one talon an olive-branch, and in the other a shaft of arrows ; its head irradiated with stars, and on a label, supported by the bill, the federal motto, "*E pluribus unum.*" The silver coin are dollars, half-dollars, quarter-dollars, dimes, and half-dimes ; and the copper coin cents

and half-cents : to which, for the purpose of accounts, is added the ideal one of a mill, and their value decimally progressive ; ten mills making a cent ; ten cents a disme ; ten dismes a dollar ; and ten dollars an eagle. The currency of different states has a nominal but no real difference. A dollar in Massachusetts is nominally six shillings ; in Pennsylvania, Delaware, and Maryland, seven shillings and sixpence ; in New York and New Jersey, eight shillings. This existed before the origin of the federal currency, and still continues blended with it. A stranger might imagine that much could be gained by receiving dollars in Boston at six shillings each, and paying them away in New York for eight ; but he would find that the difference consisted only in calling the subdivisions of a dollar by different names. Spanish silver coin is everywhere current, in dollars, halves, quarters, eighths, and sixteenths, which in New York answer to the several denominations of sixpence, shilling, two shillings, four, and eight shillings. In Boston the lowest division is called fourpence halfpenny, which, of course, is followed by calling the others nine-pence, eighteen-pence, three shillings, and the dollar six shillings. These distinctions serve to confuse the citizens of one state in their correspondence with another, without answering any useful purpose ; for a native of New York would only receive six cents for his sixpence in Boston, and a Bostonian would have just the same change given him in New York for his fourpence halfpenny ; only the former might feel mortified at hearing his sixpence degraded by the depreciating name of a fourpenny-halfpenny bit, and the latter agreeably surprised to hear his piece exalted to the title of a sixpence.

Banks are numerous, and variously denominated ; some from the states in which they are situated, others from the

profession of their stockholders ; and many from cities and towns in which they are placed. The United-States Bank (in Philadelphia) had a branch in every state in the union ; but its charter expiring in the year 1810, a renewal of it was lost in the senate by the casting vote of the vice-president. The existence of so many banks gives circulation to an extensive paper currency, the credit of which is greatly reduced by innumerable counterfeits on almost every bank in America ; this is carried to such an extent, that a stranger presenting a bank-note becomes an object of suspicion, nor will it be received until it has passed the ordeal, and received the approving voice of one or more discerning neighbours. A notorious gang of *Yankee* counterfeiters, to screen themselves from the local and general laws of the United States, made the British province of lower Canada their residence, where they continued to make paper, engrave plates, and print and sign bank-notes ; from whom a host of circulators received supplies, and proceeded to distribute them. This traffic has, sometimes, received a partial check from the apprehension of many of those who pursued it ; but the penitentiary system seems to be no way calculated either for its extinction, or general suppression. The law of Pennsylvania punishes this crime with two years' imprisonment, New York with fourteen, and the small states of Delaware and Rhode Island, with whipping, branding, and cropping. Counterfeit coin is unfrequent, owing to metallurgy being but little known in America. The Americans have a mode of enlarging their towns worthy of notice, if not example ; Boston, New York, Philadelphia, and Baltimore, though the largest cities in their respective states, are not the seats of their local legislatures ! When it is intended to increase the size, and consequently population, of a town, it is made the seat of government. Lancaster

was, for a number of years, the residence of the Pennsylvania legislature ; but, becoming the largest inland town in the confederacy, the source of its aggrandizement is withdrawn, and the legislative assembly now sits at Harrisburgh, where it will continue until that town shall assume an increased consequence, when, to augment the condition of one less flourishing, it will again be removed. This is a general practice, and exhibits a prominent feature in the character of the Americans, who are constantly striving to rival each other in the rise, progress, and increased population, of their respective states ; professedly with a wish to hold a respectable standing in the confederacy, and a proportionate share in the federal government ; but, with a secret desire of influencing its measures. As commerce is the principal source from whence it derives its support, those states that constitute the greatest quantum consider themselves entitled to a primary regard, and in some instances, have asserted, they ought to exercise a decided control. It was from this view of her importance that New York, the most populous and the first commercial state in the union, strove to place Dewitt Clinton, her native candidate, in the presidential chair. The New-England states also take uncommon pains to impress their consequence upon the general government, by reminding it that they, by their fisheries, contribute a considerable supply to its support drawn from a persevering and hazardous industry, exclusively exercised by themselves. This, they contend, is a source of *real* wealth ; while the exports of agricultural produce, bartered for, or balanced with, the imports of foreign commodities, are only so many acts of exchange, or at best but a transfer of property. Indeed, the commercial interest (mostly federal) has long exercised an ineffectual struggle to control the general assembly ; but the preponderating

weight of office-hunting demagogues, by rallying the common mass with the cry of endangered democracy, undermined liberty, and a charge against the federals of aiming to barter independence for slavery, continue to rule, and that too against almost all the wisdom, wealth, and respectability of America. Though the Americans affect to despise European institutions, they appear to have thought the adoption of a tutelar saint necessary to their happiness and existence. St. Tamany is the canonized hero of America, who presides over an extensive society bearing his name. His vicegerent (Michael Lieb) is denominated *Grand Sachem*, from which it will be readily inferred that he was an Indian. This institution, which is purely political, fashions itself to the complexion of the times; and, as occasions require, either presents the Wampum, or diverts its admiring partisans (through the channel of some party-newspaper), with a rhapsody called Long-talk or War-talk, which is conveyed in language imitative of the peculiar manner in which an Indian speaks broken English. This establishment is not so numerously attended, nor so extensively spread, as it was some years ago; but shortly after its commencement it assumed a threatening aspect, and was viewed with a jealous eye by the existing government. No dogma (excepting in matters of politics and religion) appears so much to confound the wisdom and baffle the research of democratic ingenuity, as that which endeavours to account for the cause and origin of the yellow fever. The contagion is confined to the circumscribed limits of large towns, beyond which it never rages. Various pamphlets have been written to prove this disease epidemic, while others have been published to support the doctrine of its importation, though no satisfactory evidence has been adduced in favour of either; yet each hypothesis

continues to have its advocates. Whatever may be the cause of this dreadful malady, its effects are guarded against by the removal of all the inhabitants of those cities in which it prevails. Houses are shut up; banks, custom-houses, courts of law, and all public offices closed, and every kind of business transferred to the most convenient spot within two or three miles of the town, where temporary residences are erected for the purpose. On these melancholy occasions a hazardous spectator may have a deserted view of a crowded city, where a nightly silence presides, and where human footsteps seem fearful to approach. This distemper has been a great drawback to the increase of population; thousands have fallen victims to its ravages, and, in the early part of its existence, medical professors were divided both in their opinion and practice respecting the mode of treatment necessary to relieve its victims, or promote their recovery. It was for condemning the practice of Dr. Rush, that Mr. Cobbett subjected himself to a lawsuit in Philadelphia, where, in a paper edited by him, called the *Porcupine*, he attacked the doctor on his mode of treatment, under the head of the *Rushlight*. This was adjudged a libel, and considerable damages awarded; and though Mr. Cobbett may never have felt the physical effects of the yellow fever, his purse will bear testimony to its pecuniary properties; and the doctor pocketed a greater fee for his legal prescription than ever he received for a medical one *.

* The democratic party was so elated at this affair, and so well pleased with the return of Mr. Cobbett to England, that the national song of "Hail, Columbia!" was parodied on the occasion, and run thus:—

"Hail, Columbia! happy day!

"Porcupine has run away."

A national religion, say the Americans, is a national curse ; it would, therefore, be vanity to look for an established church amongst these political and religious innovators : nevertheless, all the various sects that are to be found in Europe, with some of native origin, exist here. The most respectable establishment is the church of England with all its appropriate forms and ceremonies ; but, that part of the liturgy which supplicates the preservation of our sovereign and the royal family, supplicates the preservation of the president and officers of state. Lutherans and Calvinists are numerous, and have their appropriate churches ; Baptist, Universalist, and Methodist meeting-houses, are also numerous ; and an establishment denominated the African church, under the guidance of black bishops, has its principal seat in Philadelphia. Quakers are spread over a great portion of the union, but are in the greatest proportion in Pennsylvania, and hold their quarterly and annual meetings in Philadelphia. Deistical preachers are permitted to disgrace some parts ; and Socianism the spurious offspring of Deism has a limited existence. A sect denominated Bethlemites, from the name of a parish or township called Bethlem, which they exclusively inhabit, a few miles from Philadelphia, follow the example of the primitive Christians, by throwing their property into one common stock. They follow different professions, the profits and produce of which are deposited in a treasury, from whence individual supplies are drawn. This place is the seat of an extensive seminary for females, which, from its religious discipline and a more than ordinary seclusion, has obtained the appellation of a nunnery. Itinerant preachers, mostly methodistical, are numerous in the interior ; and assemblages in woods, of persons professing that doctrine, are very frequent. These assemblies are called camp-

meetings, and are composed of both sexes and of all ages, some of whom come a distance of two hundred miles, bringing with them provisions and their camp-equipage. These meetings greatly resemble, in appearance, our gipsy-camps : they continue sometimes a fortnight, and are numerous attended with preachers or exhorters ; who, the better to produce the physical effects of sympathy in their hearers, frequently erect pulpits in the branches of adjoining trees. Every religion is tolerated and protected by law, and religious tenets cannot preclude persons from holding offices in the federal and some of the local governments ; also the affirmation of those who are conscientiously scrupulous in the taking of an oath, is sufficient to make their testimony valid in many courts in America. I cannot but consider this exclusive indulgence as no way justifiable, either in its principles or its practice, in whatever country it may exist.

The only means we possess of impressing men with a regard for truth, and deter them from the consequence of uttering falsehoods, on occasions of moment and interest, is to oblige them to make a solemn appeal to the Deity. A truly religious and moral man, or one endowed with an ordinary share of common sense, will never contend that the occasions on which oaths are administered in our courts of law, can be taking the name of the Lord in vain : so that this privilege, extended to a particular sect, appears to have no valuable plea for its existence, but gives a sanction of moral and religious excellence to one part of the community in preference to the other ; for though that respectable body of people called Quakers, or Friends, are, in a great measure, indebted to a rigid economy for their wealth, and a simplicity and mildness in their manners, for the stand they hold in society, yet much depends on the

credulity of the rest of mankind, who, taken with the plainness of their dress, and the formal style of their language, conclude no deceit can lurk there, and give them credit for more probity than perhaps they possess.

The city of Philadelphia is the largest and handsomest in the United States, situated between the rivers Delaware and Schuylkill, which are its eastern and western boundaries, and are about one mile and a half distant from each other ; that portion of the city on the Schuylkill side is not yet much built upon. The former river is navigable for ships of any tonnage, and is the commercial channel to the states of Pennsylvania and Delaware ; the latter empties itself into it a little below the town, and is only navigable for small vessels, and that not far above the city ; the progress being impeded by falls. This city is said to have increased to its present extent and population with more rapidity than any other in the universe (St. Petersburg excepted) ; and its citizens boast that its unparalleled rise is to be attributed to the perseverance of its founder ; the legal purchase of its site from the Aborigines ; and the mild and moral character of its primitive settlers. These, no doubt, were highly instrumental to its advancement ; but we must remember, that it was a number of years the seat both of the Pennsylvanian and the federal government, which must have contributed largely to its extent and population also. It was likewise, till within these last twelve years, the first commercial city in the confederacy, and had no formidable competitor but New York ; which has, from its local advantages, obtained the ascendancy. The greatest impediments to this city's increase, are its distance from the sea-board ; and the navigation of the Delaware being obstructed in the winter by ice ; so that vessels from New York have been known to make voyages, while those in

Philadelphia have lain ice-bound to her frozen wharfs. The form is an oblong square, the longest sides of which extend along the banks of each river, and is laid out in the following simple and comprehensive manner :—twenty-nine streets extend north and south, parallel to the rivers and each other. The first street on the Delaware, is named Water-street ; the second, Front-street ; and the next, Second-street ; every other follows in numerical succession to the thirteenth street, when a spacious one presents itself, called Broad-street. The streets from the Schuylkill to the central one of Broad-street, have also the same numerical arrangement : so that the names and numbers are the same both ways, whether you proceed to the centre from one river or the other ; and two persons entering the town at points diametrically opposite, would pass over the same *nominal* ground till they formed a meeting. These streets are crossed at right angles by ten others, all of which, except the principal one, called High-street, are named from some tree, or its production : as Mulberry, Walnut, Sassafras, Cedar, Chesnut, &c. ; and the whole are spacious, clean, and well paved. Two rows of poplar-trees are to be seen in almost every street ; and few cities are better supplied with water, either from springs or hydraulic pipes. A stone building, called the Centre House, from its central situation, and which is considered an ornament to the city, contains within its walls a steam-engine, which, after receiving it from another engine on the banks of the river, conveys the Schuylkill water to all parts of the town. The hydrens, which serve the same purposes as our fire-plugs, are placed in most streets. They are raised about three feet above the surface, are situated by the path side, and have appropriate parts, to which a fire hose may be fastened in an instant.

The largest public building is the Court-house (formerly Congress-hall); the east wing of which is occupied as a museum, where the best collection of the kind which America affords, may be seen. The public library, instituted by Doctor Franklin, where, in a niche over the door, stands the statue of this modern Prometheus, is a neat building, and stored with a collection of valuable books. St.-John's hall is an elegant edifice of modern construction, appropriated to the use of the masonic brotherhood. The hospital, in an airy situation, is a commodious brick building; has a considerable garden annexed to it, and a bronze statue of William Penn, on a pedestal in the front yard. No persons, except seamen, are received into it without paying three dollars per week for their food, and security given for their interment, should they die within its walls. The theatre exhibits but an insignificant front view, but is sufficiently capacious to contain the audiences that frequent it; plays are presented three times a week, and the same company perform here and at Baltimore alternately. Here are several churches, chapels, and meeting-houses, where the different sects of Christians display their various forms of devotion; but only *one spire* rears its head towards the vaulted heavens, as a guide to the religious wanderer to direct his steps to the house of God. The United States and Pennsylvanian banks (the former now the property of a French merchant), are elegant edifices of Grecian architecture, and constructed of American marble. The city is bounded by two suburbs, Camptown and Southwark; or, as they are sometimes styled, the northern and southern liberties. Philadelphia has the largest and best market in the union, where every article, excepting fish, is plentiful, and superior in quality to almost every other. The population is about one hundred thousand, and the in-

habitants are represented by the neighbouring states, to be avaricious, proud, and unsocial; which characteristics are by no means confined to Philadelphia. Theatricals receive only one-half the support which New York extends towards them, although the population of the two cities is nearly equal. Public gardens, and other places of recreation, to which the inhabitants of large cities, more or less, resort; and which, in the environs of populous towns, furnish scenes of relaxation to those, whose pursuits confine them to a weekly seclusion from rural views and a purer air, have no existence here. That dreadful scourge, the yellow fever, first made its appearance here, where it raged with more than ordinary virulence: and in its visitations to the United States *, it never fails to exercise its dreadful ravages in this city of *brotherly love*. Two potters' fields, the burial places of those who have fallen victims to its fury, serve to record its destructive prevalence, and will ever continue melancholy records of appeal; particularly so, while the cause that produced those effects continues to revisit America.

Standing armies have always been viewed with jealousy by republicans, and their existence considered dangerous, from the possible ease by which an ambitious leader might make them the means of overthrowing the republic, and raising himself a despotic throne on its ruins. The United States, in times of peace, keep only so many regulars as are sufficient to do garrison duty; her defence, therefore, rests on her militia; the most unbounded confidence was placed in this source of security, previously to the late war, and it

* The British provinces have never been visited by this dreadful malady.

was thought sufficient for offensive as well as defensive operations. The repulses and disasters sustained in attempting the conquest of Canada, to which the views of the federal government were early directed, will ever remain a lasting proof, that, whatever reliance Columbia may place on her militia and volunteer corps for defence, an extent of territory will never be acquired by their means. The subjugation of the British provinces was anticipated with so much certainty, and its accomplishment to be effected with so much ease, that six months were thought more than sufficient time to dispossess Great Britain of all her American colonies. But democratic vanity found that, how flattering soever the contemplation of beholding a host of citizens burning with impatience to exhibit traits of patriotic valour, and rival each other in acts of heroic chivalry, might be in theory, when exposed to the practical dangers and privations attendant on a state of warfare, and opposed by courage, discipline, and loyalty, democracy lost its charm; existence became the natural object of concern; and to remove every apprehension which their friends might entertain for their welfare, four hundred volunteers have deserted in one night, and returned to their homes to give ocular demonstration of their safety. Although the militia is composed of every male inhabitant between the ages of eighteen and forty-five, and every person, not excluded by age, has either to attend military musters, or pay an annual fine of eight dollars; very little military discipline is thereby acquired. On these occasions, which in most districts occur but four times a year, and then only for a few hours; every person must appear furnished with arms and accoutrements at his own expense. But the total disregard paid to discipline by some, who consider their attendance a mere matter of form, and others a hardship, is equalled only by the motley ap-

pearance which the scene exhibits. Colonels and captains appear in the national uniform, which is blue turned up with red. Broken muskets, fowling-pieces, white, black, and pied belts, and the party-coloured garments of those in the ranks, are highly picturesque, and convey to the mind a clear idea of an armed rabble. Each state has the control of its militia, only in the appointment of the necessary officers, and the times of assembling it, which are vested in the respective governors, who, in time of war, must furnish a quota agreeably to the president's requisition; but the federal constitution was so much disregarded in this particular, that, at the commencement of the late war, the governors of Connecticut and Massachusetts refused to comply with it. In cases of invasion, any portion which the president may demand, must repair to the part invaded; but, on ordinary occasions, the militia cannot be compelled to march beyond the limits of their respective states. It is an abuse of the term to call the mass of the people assembled four times a year, and then only subjected to the mere shadow of military order and discipline, an organized militia, though democratic pride denominates them such. But though America may continue to flatter the vanity of her citizens by representing them her safeguards by their military prowess, she well knows that her remote distance from Europe is her only security; were it less, her arrogance and contempt to other powers would go less unpunished.

The Aborigines are less attached to the citizens of the United States, than to the inhabitants of the British provinces, both from a national and individual consideration. Great Britain employs every method to conciliate their friendship and esteem; and the traffic carried on with them by the agents of the north-west company is conducted with

probity and honour. Individual intercourse is likewise managed with no less regard to circumspection and fair dealing ; and a mutual confidence and good understanding, in general, prevails. The federal government, on slight occasions, and often with the mere pretext of justice for a cause, sends armed forces, destroys their towns, and compels the dispersed inhabitants to seek refuge in remote and more and sterile parts. Speculative adventurers practise the most unprincipled frauds upon them, by the agency of spirituous liquors ; the fondness for which makes them, when half inebriated, to obtain more, barter any thing in exchange for it : this is often attended with serious and alarming consequences, immediate and remote, individual and national. An Indian, in a state of intoxication, is the most dangerous being in existence : he becomes totally ungovernable ; and his mind, unenlightened by the precepts of moral and religious obligation, becomes the seat of hatred, cruelty, and revenge : influenced by these destructive passions, he sometimes plunges his tomahawk into the bosom of a faithful wife, destroys his own offspring, or sacrifices the life of an aged parent. When untutored reason resumes her seat, perceiving the losses sustained, and the misery occasioned, he diligently seeks revenge, which frequently falls on the innocent. The houses of white settlers, secluded and unprotected, are reduced to ashes, and every thing burnt that is consumable ; and the inhabitants, without respect to sex or age, are inhumanly murdered. This dreadful effect, heightened by exaggeration (but the cause withheld), becomes a national consideration ; soldiers are despatched to avenge the cruelties ; and the tribe, by slaughter and dispersion, rendered more ferocious than before ; and the seeds of eternal enmity too deeply sown to be eradicated. Family contentions, or the progressive improvement of an

industrious settler's lands, over those of one less persevering, creates jealousy, which sometimes vents itself in exciting the hatred of neighbouring Indians against the devoted sufferer, whose crops and cattle become the objects of ravage and destruction ; indeed, in most instances of outrage committed by the Aborigines, the settlers are either the offending, or exciting cause. An Indian, of modern celebrity, well known by the name of the prophet, formed an acquaintance with a Yankee adventurer, who visited the Indian settlements, to barter gew-gaws for furs, and who was a considerable proficient in the art of legerdemain. Perceiving the fondness shewn by the Indian for deceptive arts, and his desire to obtain a knowledge of them, the trader, for a proposed number of valuable skins, became his tutor ; and having an almanac with him, he was enabled to inform his pupil of the precise time at which two eclipses would happen ; when, having accomplished his purpose, and received the reward, he left the Indian, who soon turned his new acquirements to peculiar advantage, by exhibiting them to the astonished view of different tribes ; he was considered supernatural, and his claims to that consideration established by the eclipses happening agreeably to his supposed prediction. These circumstances obtained him the title of the Prophet, and his fame extended to the most distant tribes, many of whom, loaded with presents, came great distances to consult him on the necessary measures to be pursued for their welfare. Elated by the homage paid to his supposed greatness, he assumed a real one, and was the cause of bringing destruction on his deluded adherents, by predicting the successful result of attacking the invaders of their native soil ; open hostilities were commenced, which terminated in the defeat of the Indians at Tipicanoe, and the destruction of Prophet's-town.

The anti-federal prints, with their accustomed regard for truth, and a constant propensity to villify the acts of the British government, attributed the conduct of the Indians to British influence, which was alone the result of Indian folly and presumption, generated by Yankee cunning. Citizens, in every condition, have a propensity for gaming, particularly in the southern states: in the northern ones, the practice is prohibited by law; nevertheless, in most public-houses may be seen cards and dice; farobanks, billiard, hazard, and eo tables, are likewise numerous, as well as other ingenious devices, to entrap the unwary; nor are professors deficient in the knowledge of those dexterous arts peculiar to the profession. Species of fraud are practised peculiarly endemial, that would rival the proudest efforts of European ingenuity. Lotteries are innumerable, and scarcely any public undertaking is begun without recurring to them for supplies. The improvement of roads, cutting canals, erecting bridges, and even buildings devoted to the service of God, are accomplished by sums raised from this species of gambling.

Although tobacco is an indigenous plant of this continent, great quantities of it are imported from the island of Cuba, which bring considerable sums to the revenue. Segars made from this article, which is considered superior in quality to that of native growth, are in great demand, and vast sums expended to obtain this narcotic weed. Smoking is indulged, and practised by all conditions both at home and abroad: nor are public places of amusement exempt from the obtrusive visits of tobacco-smoke, though managers of theatres, and conductors of assemblies, take every opportunity to remind the Columbian loungers, that this habit is by no means essential in the composition of a gentleman; and close their bills of entertainment with ob-

serving, that smoking cannot be allowed, nor dancers admitted in boots. These notifications, to say the least of them, must operate as proofs convincive that republican manners have not yet received the last polish of polite excellence.

Public auctions are numerous, particularly in the cities of Charlestown and New York, many of which are held in the open streets ; at the latter, every species of low cunning is resorted to, and they give support to a herd of under-bidders, puffers, and sham-purchasers. Imported goods may often be purchased under prime cost ; but this is not at all times a criterion from which to judge of the quantity of such articles as are in the country ; goods are frequently sacrificed for cash to meet an immediate demand : and often, articles obtained at thirty, sixty, or ninety days credit, are taken to these marts and sold ; the produce pocketed and decamped with, and the creditor left to repent his confidence, and improve the lesson to his future advantage. When the embarrassed state of a trader's affairs are beyond the reach of redress, auctionary supplies are either directly or indirectly resorted to, as the means of obtaining cash for goods, which would otherwise be delivered over to his creditors ; so that at all times auctions are the resource of declining credit. Country dealers and shop-keepers resort to these places to make purchases ; where, relying on their own judgment, and trusting to the integrity of the auctioneer, their confidence enjoys repose, until an inspection exhibits to their view the damaged state of their purchase, and convinces them of their duplicity. Among the multiplicity of superior excellences which these republicans profess to enjoy, the use of our language is vauntingly included. It must be acknowledged, that so many provincial dialects are not to be found in America, as exist

in England : nevertheless, a great difference is perceptible between the natives of the New-England states and those of the southern division ; and it may, perhaps, be doubted, whether the inhabitants of any county in England, pronounce their words with less propriety than the citizens of the former ; whose droning, listless monotony, is highly characteristic : but in the misapplication of particular words, in regard to sense, and in the construction of sentences, the Americans are, in general, glaringly faulty. And false delicacy sometimes induces females to aim at the attainment of a ridiculous refinement. A Columbian female (for they are all ladies), to shew her abhorrence of the vulgar term by which we distinguish the male of domestic fowls, calls him a *rooster* ; the mind that can thus discard names, merely from their approximation to others of vulgar acceptance, can never be the seat of modest thoughts, nor chaste desires.

The Americans profess to have no national character (and they might have added, very little national honour), which must arise from its being originally peopled by emigrations from various parts of Europe ; and as the people of each nation carried with them their different creeds, both religious and political, it is not to be wondered, that we see that country the seat of political feuds and religious fanaticism. For how bitter soever may have been the rancour of an Englishman against the government of his native country, nine-tenths of those who have emigrated, strenuously support the cause of that land to which they are indebted for their birth ; indeed it seems almost impossible it should be otherwise *. Can a man divest himself of those ties which

* Many Englishmen, regardless of their individual concerns, and the dangers to which they were exposed, firmly and boldly reprobated the American cause, in the late contest, and despising

nature so powerfully enforces? Can he discard from his feelings those tender regards for his parents and relatives he so lately possessed? Or can he forget to entertain a respect for those habits and customs that delighted him in his infancy; charmed him in his youth; and controlled him in his maturity? If he could, the treatment he is sure to meet with in America would inevitably rouse him to vindicate himself and his country against the illiberal, false, and malignant charges, indiscriminately imputed to the nation at large. An Englishman cannot be in company, where he is known to be such, without being constantly compelled to hear the most invidious and contemptible attacks on Great Britain, the government of which is represented as tyrannical; its religion an intolerable burden; its liberty of the press a mere shadow; and the condition of the people wretched in the extreme: and when excited to repel these charges (the offspring of ignorance, falsehood, and hatred), he never fails to draw on him the most scurrilous abuse, and exposes himself to personal risk and danger; for these infuriate democrats forget, or have never known, that if a love of country be a virtue in an American, it must be equally so in an Englishman. But so deadly a hatred does the democratic faction entertain against Great Britain, that they exultingly seize every opportunity to predict and supplicate her downfall. Sometimes they divert themselves with the anticipated gratification of seeing her ruined by a national bankruptcy; sometimes her ruin is predicted from a partial dissatisfaction among her manufacturers; and at all times her navy (her only protector and the deliverer of Europe) has been represented the accelerating cause of her final overthrow, and figuratively denominated, a mill-stone round her neck that

to sacrifice national feelings, and a regard for truth, to personal interest, openly maintained that the British cause was founded in justice and enforced by necessity.

would ultimately drown her in her own element : and so fond are these annihilating theorists of indulging this propensity, that every molehill of dissension, that appears either in the parent country or her colonies, is magnified into a mountain of insurrection. Many more causes of Britain's extinction are framed, fostered, and circulated, but her existence is yet prolonged ; and to the discomfiture of her enemies, she now holds an exalted place in the rank of nations which nothing but her wise and persevering policy could have effected. Every trifling circumstance is sufficient to rouse the democratic hatred into action, when its malignity is exhibited by trampling on and burning the British flag, abusing and threatening every Englishman who may venture to reprove such conduct, and compelling our consuls to place their valuable effects in banks for security ; and to so pitiful an extreme was their malice extended on one occasion, that a house was assaulted in New York, only because it bore the title of The London Tavern. It may be contended that the outrages of a mob, in any country, are never guided by reason nor governed by prudence, and that it is unjust to impeach a nation for acts committed by an intemperate few in violation both of law and order : but when the executive authority refuses or neglects to repel such proceedings, they may be considered national ; and their existence becomes sanctioned by the tacit acquiescence of those who ought to suppress them. A degrading instance of the length to which hatred to an individual has been carried in America, for only refusing to bear arms against his native land, may be drawn from the following statement. A few days subsequent to the declaration of war, Captain Porter, commander of the American frigate Essex, then lying in the port of New York, informed his ship's company of the fact, and required to know whether any of them had an objection to fight against Great Britain ; every tongue was silent but one.

This man, who was sailmaker of the ship, objected upon the natural and legal plea of being a subject of his Britannic majesty. The captain became outrageously indignant, and in the first paroxysms of his madness ordered him to be hanged at the yard-arm; but, perhaps, recollecting that Great Britain never fails to demand ample retribution from those who dare to sport with the lives of her subjects, he commanded some of the crew to furnish the d—d English rascal with a *good Yankee Jacket*, which in plain English is a quantity of tar besmeared over the naked body, upon which an abundance of feathers is immediately strewed: in this condition the poor sea-worn patriot was conveyed to New York in the frigate's long-boat, towed stern foremost, accompanied by a drum and fife playing that disgraceful tune *The Rogue's March*. Thus, worse than a malefactor who had forfeited his life to the violated laws of his country, was this *true Briton* landed with a halter round his neck; and when the disgraceful and unmerited severity of his sufferings drew compassion from an Englishman, who resided on the wharf, to throw him a blanket, these inhuman persecutors assaulted his habitation and drove him from his dwelling. Then with malignant scoffs they forced the poor sufferer to parade the streets, surrounded by an unfeeling multitude shouting and huzzaing at every step, and at every public house compelled him to drink the health of the president of the United States. Several hours was this patriotic tar exposed to the scoffs, menaces, and marchings, of this cruel mob, before the feeble arm of the executive interfered, when, at last, nearly exhausted by fatigue, but with a mind undaunted, loyal, and brave, he was conveyed to the town *Bridewell*, from whence Mr. Forster, our envoy, released him, and took him to Halifax. What reward he met with for a brave example of loyalty, at a time when and in a place where he supported the dignity of a British tar at the hazard of his

life, without any means of defence, I am not informed ; but for the truth of the statement I can safely trust to the testimony of my own eyes. The principal countries from which emigrations are made to America, are Great Britain, France, Holland, and Ireland. The British, for the most part, are merchants, mechanics, and seamen. The French, jewellers, barbers, toy-makers, confectioners, and venders of all kinds of gew-gaws. The Dutch (whether high or low) generally retire to the interior, where they are employed in husbandry. And the Irish perform almost all the labour in the northern and midland states of America. English merchants are less numerous in the United States than they were ; mechanics but little increased, a great number having returned with loss, disappointment, and disgust, many more of whom would gladly return were they not destitute of the means. The Irish emigrants carry with them all their national prejudices, and a bitter hatred to the British government. It is these misguided papists, enlisted under the banner of democracy, that are the most clamorous in their invectives against Great Britain, and serve greatly to inflame the minds of native Americans against her. They never fail to give a false and exaggerated statement of the condition both of the rich and poor ; the latter they represent to be humble, loyal, and industrious, but rendered wretched by the tyranny and intolerably oppressive control of the former. But though their adopted countrymen pay attention to their lamentable falsehoods, and feign to sympathise with them in their sorrowful sufferings, every species of respect is sure to be withheld from them ; and on the anniversary of their tutelar saint, they are sure to be blest with beholding St. Patrick paraded about the streets, in effigy, in the same ludicrous manner as our boys do the Pope or Guy Faux, on the 5th of November, and with the same contemptuous

motives. These, and many more, indignities poor Patrick has to encounter; and so unfavourable is the idea entertained of Hibernian honesty, that the slightest suspicion is sufficient for the magistrate to commit and the court to convict him. If the natives of Ireland knew the reception they would be sure to meet with on their arrival in this boasted land of freedom; if they knew that pickaxes, shovels, and hods, are the only *gems* they may hope to find in America; and that every species of labour falls to their lot exclusively: they would certainly be deterred from emigrating. These are burdens not easily borne, particularly when they become embittered with the degrading epithets of Irish convicts, Irish slaves, and 'scape gibbets, which are sure to be lavishly bestowed, when Hibernians (roused by a cup of whiskey) aspire to assert their rights and chastise their abuses: and if that inherent spirit characteristic of their nation, be not totally extinct within them, how must it be wounded at hearing a Yankee assert that Irishmen and negroes are the only beasts of burden in America! Why emigrations, from Ireland, have been permitted to such an extent, I know not; perhaps ministers were glad to rid the country of as many refractory subjects as chose to leave it: but the instrumentality of those miscreants in producing the late contest, and the active part they took in it, must operate as a decided proof that such a measure is not dictated by sound policy.

During the late European wars, when America gave encouragement to our seamen, and seduced them from the allegiance which they owed to their lawful sovereign; at a time too when Great Britain, struggling for the emancipation of enslaved Europe, most required their assistance; the most unprincipled methods were resorted to, to procure them written protections which declared them to be

native Americans. Persons might be easily engaged for the paltry sum of one dollar, to swear that the applicants were born in any particular state, and that they had known them from their infancy : or spurious protections might be purchased for a trifling sum with all the necessary signatures, seal, arms, and motto of the United States prefixed to them. There were unquestionably forgeries, but, as it was impossible for a British officer to detect them, or identify the peculiar signatures of the different signing officers of protections or declarations, the existing evil was just as great as though they had been genuine, and issued by the president himself. The protection and reclamation of seamen have been bitter subjects of contention between Great Britain and America ; and whenever the former shall be engaged in war, I am afraid it will assume all its former virulence. It was to defend the unjustifiable pretensions of retaining our seamen, under the specious title of seamen's rights, that was the most prominent feature in the ostensible causes * assigned by America for her declaration of war ; and as the late peace was silent on that head it still remains in *statu quo* : and, indeed, no subject of dispute, between any two nations, appears so difficult to adjust as this does ; principally from the impossibility, in most instances, of distinguishing between a British seaman and an American one. There would arise no difficulty in pointing out an English sailor amongst fifty French, Dutch, or Spaniards ; but the Americans speaking the same language, subjected to the same technical phraseology, cannot be unerringly distinguished. Nor is a man's speech which is tinged

* The real cause was the expulsion of Great Britain from North America, by a subjugation of her provinces.

with the Irish or Scotch dialects, an infallible token of his being a native of either of those countries ; as I have known some who were really born in America, of Scotch and Irish parents, speak the English language as though they had been born in those countries respectively. Another obstacle seems to place this subject beyond the reach of conclusive redress. America having no national religion, nor any established church, there can be no regular baptismal registers, from which certificates may be attained by the custom-house commissioners, from the parish priest, specifying the justness or unjustness of each claimant's application for a national protection. This method, could it be practised, would place the declaration of citizenship in more respectable hands, and require no intervention of oaths ; for, how sacred soever the obligation, the Americans are apt to regard a custom-house oath as something no way solemnly binding. Any nation (not locally precluded) may become a maritime one in proportion to the extent of her commerce, provided she resorts to some compulsory mode to man her navy, without which it can have no extensive existence ; for experience has shewn us that every power that has had a considerable navy to support, has always been compelled to resort to force for this purpose. And, as artisans employed in the different branches of ship-building, with all its preparatory dependencies, are more or less numerous according to the encouragement and support extended towards them by commercial demands, so the building and equipment of a navy may be accomplished accordingly. Great Britain, from her extensive commerce, employing a greater number of seamen and nautical artificers, can, on any emergency, furnish a fleet with more expedition than any other country whatever. America has all the materials for constructing a navy within herself ; she

could build and equip a considerable one ; but she would never be able to man one of any magnitude without resorting to impressment, and that would overthrow her boasted liberty, and destroy her nautical creed ; which professes to extend peculiar protection to this branch of her community, and declares, that the whole body politic shall perish, before any one part of it shall be subjected to exclusive privations. She amused herself with the flattering idea that seamen and landmen, natives and foreigners, intoxicated with the ideal charms of democracy, and caught by the alluring *bait* of seamen's rights, would fly to her navy, and exhibit to the world a whole host of nautical patriots ; but by this time she is pretty well convinced, that how potent soever may be the sound of democratic independence, few can be found who, purely for the patriotic purpose of defending it, will voluntarily buffet the waves to assert its claims on the ocean. In their fondness for declamation against Great Britain, Americans seize every opportunity to stigmatize her acts of impressment with the epithet of tyranny, forgetting that all other nations that have a navy resort to methods more rigid ; forgetting also that the political, like the natural body, is composed of different members, which, in their several capacities, ought to contribute to the existence, safety, and security of the whole ; that if a partial or a total privation of any particular members be necessary to ensure the general safety : that power which enforces their compliance, can only be exercising a duty. If, at some distant period, America shall continue to be a democracy, and her independence shall stand in need of maritime support, this is the very logic she will use ; and impressment will be the means to which she will resort, and she may do it with less stigma to her delicate notions of liberty,

than is now reflected on her by holding a million of beings in slavery.

Though much has been said of the growing state of American manufactories, they exhibit but a pitiful appearance when contrasted with those of Great Britain. The inferior quality of wool will always leave the manufacture of that article in a state incapable of rivalling British productions, though great pains have been taken, and considerable sums expended, to improve its nature and extend its growth by the importation of Merino sheep ; yet the soil and climate are, in no measure, conducive to its perfection ; on the contrary, Merino fleeces degenerate every year, and will, in all probability, ultimately become no better than the native ones. The proper mode of treatment necessary for the nurture and increase of sheep is but little known in any part of America. The best breed anywhere is inferior to the worst which this island produces ; and, as the flesh is very indifferent in its flavour, has but a very limited sale, and is almost universally disliked *, the fleeces must be the principal source of remuneration to those who cultivate them ; which become so enhanced in their value, that commodities manufactured from that article will always bear an exorbitant price. The texture of American woollen cloths is greatly inferior to the British, and the dyeing infinitely so.

Although cotton is produced in abundance in the southern states, the manufacture of it is brought to no degree of perfection ; nor is the great variety of branches of which this

* Butchers' shops are not scattered through most parts of an American city as they are in English ones. Meat is nowhere exposed for sale but in the public markets ; and the city of Philadelphia, with a population of one hundred thousand, has not a dozen butchers who sell mutton.

article is susceptible anywhere known or attempted; a partial manufacture is accomplished inferior in quality, and much higher in price, than those of the same kind in Great Britain. And though the general government may extend encouragement and support to this and other branches of manufacture, their existence will be languid, and their decline no less certain. It requires a succession of years before any country can attain perfection in manufactures; it requires more public spirit than our trans-atlantic competitors entertain on undertakings of this kind; it likewise requires a native genius, which the speculative, bartering, roving, and unsettled, disposition of American citizens is no way calculated to effect. Driven by necessity to a partial establishment of manufactures, when her commerce was annihilated, and her intercourse with those countries from whence she received supplies was precluded, America supplied her own consumption with some articles inferior in quality and high in price. But her commercial and agricultural pursuits having now their usual channels open, this resource, which had its existence in necessity, and which, from its imperfect state, ensures but little profit to its promoters, will be abandoned for a more interested application of capital. The superior quality of British goods will always ensure them a demand; for though these democrats affect to despise titled dignities, ostentation is a peculiar trait in their character, and a fondness for dress commensurate with a desire of supporting an apparent equality.

The simple branches of mechanical art promise no supply or support to adventurers who may emigrate thither; for it must be remembered, that in no single instance can be seen the following stimulus to mechanical genius, *Wholesale, retail, and for exportation*; every trade depending for its support on home consumption, many of the productions

of which are surpassed in quality, and undersold in price, by imports : and though the Americans incite and cherish emigration, they extend but a small portion of support to foreign tradesmen, and confine their dealings principally to their own countrymen, with the professed desire of encouraging native genius. A herald-painter would starve to death in America ; nor would landscape, portrait, miniature, or marine painters, meet a much better fate ; in short, any profession connected with the fine arts would find no asylum, unless it were a premature grave. Shipwrights, caulkers, and seamen, by the comparatively extensive commerce America possessed when she had exclusively the carrying trade to France, Holland, and Spain, should remember, that at that time the ports of those countries were blockaded by our navy, consequently those nations were unable to trade for themselves ; but a universal peace has removed the obstacle, curtailed the demand for American shipping, and left those powers to trade in their own bottoms ; from which considerations not more than one-half the number of those men connected with ship-building can now be employed, and, for the same reasons, one-half the seamen navigating their shipping must have been dismissed ; who, perhaps, together with those misguided men who have since inconsiderately emigrated, are now sweeping the streets, confined in penitentiaries, or toiling to clear the woods in the inhospitable regions of the Indian frontier. There cannot be a more striking proof given of the helpless condition in which aliens are placed when in the United States, and the frequent assistance they stand in need of, than by noticing the different societies established for their relief. The Sons of St. George, the Hibernian Societies, the Friends of St. David, and the Caledonian Societies, extend support and relief to their countrymen respectively. Too much praise

cannot be bestowed on the liberal founders and supporters of these institutions who are natives of the different countries which their titles express ; but the frequent applications made to them for pecuniary aid leaves them an exhausted fund, and the applicants are frequently obliged to take advice for relief.—We (say the vaunting demagogues of America) are the only free people upon earth, and in no other country can be found the same indiscriminate equality. If they mean an equality of condition, the boast serves only to falsify the assertion. Surely a great inequality presents itself between the condition of the rich and poor ; and, can the miserable state in which a back-settler exists, and the means he possesses of obtaining a scanty, insecure, and precarious subsistence, be compared to the ease, comforts, and luxuries, which a merchant enjoys. And a comparison between the condition of English and American farmers, collectively considered, would be infinitely in favour of the former ; the latter, placed hundreds of miles in the interior, receive imported articles of consumption at an advance of a hundred per cent., and the great distance they have to send their produce before it can find a market, makes the expense of conveyance a great drawback on the profits. And though an American farmer may claim the possession of more land, he is secluded from the comforts, nor does he receive one half the reward of his industry which an English one enjoys. If an equality of political right is meant, of what avail is it to extend the privilege of election to the indigent part of the community, when the punishment for the violation of a statute is sure to fall on them alone ? For in no country in the world is justice evaded and polluted so much as in this. A rich man never suffers for the infringement of a law ; indeed, he is exclusively protected by the general and provincial constitutions, which declare that bail shall be taken for any

crime. The apparent consequences of such a provision are, he who is enabled to give bail flies from the reach of penal justice, and evades that punishment which he merits; while he, whom poverty consigns to justice, is left to feel her effects, and support her inflictions. An equality of rank is strenuously contended: but though the general constitution provides against the adoption of titled dignities; and the term citizen embraces for its object the exclusion of *nominal* grades in society, does not the enslaved condition of a million of souls exhibit to the world the enjoyment only of a partial and defective liberty? There can be no equality of rank where freedom and slavery exist. It would be a source of inexpressible happiness to the inhabitants of colour, were this land of ideal perfection to follow the example of Great Britain, which never suffers its native soil to be polluted by the footsteps of enslaved humanity. Slaves, in some states, receive manumission between the age of twenty and thirty, but in the southern division of Georgia, the two Carolinas, Virginia, and Maryland, slavery ceases only with their lives. Numbers of this unhappy race abscond from the severity of their unfeeling masters, and frequently reach the state of Pennsylvania, which is the nearest province through which they can travel unmolested; though much circumspection is necessary in such an undertaking, every place through which they have to pass requiring negroes to produce either a certificate of freedom, or a permit from their master, specifying that they have permission to proceed to the place therein mentioned, but, if they cannot produce these requisites, they are lodged in the common jail, advertised with a particular description, and if not claimed in six months *sold* to defray the expenses they have incurred. Some incautiously seek an asylum in Philadelphia, where advertisements are sure to follow them, with

the general reward of a hundred dollars for their recovery ; this excites constables and others to be vigilant in their researches, who, in cases of success, place the poor negro in the county prison, and send notice of his apprehension and detention to the advertiser, who identifies and claims his property. He is then secured with a chain round his neck with sufficient scope to permit him to run by the horse's side, just as our huntsmen secure perverse dogs : in this manner has the poor slave to retrace his hastened steps to his accustomed seat of slavery ; and to expedite the journey he feels the lash of his tyrant's whip more frequently than the horse. This exhibits a lively picture of American liberty ! If there be any consistency in the character and principles of democracy, how must it stand impeached by this inhuman practice ! Can that be the seat of freedom where a million human beings groan beneath the scourge of slavery ? Or can American citizens lay any just claims to philanthropy, who, regardless of human woes, sanction the existence of a practice that produces so much misery ? If political mania considers twenty one governments necessary to the partial enjoyment of political rights, surely humanity alone should influence them to invest the general government with powers, if not to make the manumission of slaves total and unconditional, at least, to compel the proud and indolent planters in the southern states to follow the example of their northern fellow-citizens by emancipating their negroes at a certain age. Europeans would then be inclined to consider the freedom of Columbria a reality ; as it is, they can perceive one part claiming the substance of liberty, and the other denied the mere shadow. Whatever view a dispassionate observer may take of this portion of the new world, he will never be able to discover any degree of superior excellence. Nor will adventurers find any just cause to make this country

an enviable seat of adoption, who mostly, to better their condition, precipitately determine on emigration. And having heard exaggerated and false praises bestowed on it, for encouragement and support to manufacturers, artisans, and others, which it never could, nor perhaps ever will be able to give; they hasten to partake of comforts which never existed, and leave their native homes, family, friends, and many real blessings, for a precarious support, surrounded with difficulties which they could not foresee; and exposed to want, or a miserable dependence, which they thought were strangers to this land of ideal bliss. Many of our fellow-subjects, misguided by notions of aggrandizement, or the ease of acquiring a competency, have experienced melancholy disappointments; who, perceiving themselves the victims of credulity have hastened to regain the happiness of their native soil, from which they had been shamefully seduced and grossly misled. What prospects can the imperfect and declining manufactories of America hold out to those whose professions confine them to seek subsistence from this branch of employment? Let not the British manufacturer mislead himself with the flattering hope of receiving that employ which his native land affords; nor deceive himself with the expectation of receiving that prompt payment for his labour which he is sure to meet with at home. The proprietors of manufactories engage men for a specific term, and keep stores of such articles as are calculated to supply their wants, of which spirituous liquors is sure to make a part. Every man is compelled to furnish himself from these stores or shops, with articles inferior in quality and exorbitant in price: a credit and debit account are kept, but the balance mostly leaves him a debtor to his employer; many finding the difficulty and almost impossibility of obtaining any other reward for their labour, draw as many

articles as they can obtain, sell them for one fourth the price which they cost, and to rid themselves of an engagement that promises nothing but an impoverishing dependence secretly abscond. Or if habits of frugality are observed by a portion of those employed, so as to leave the employer indebted to a considerable amount, a transfer of property, insolvency, or some other *Yankee* trick, makes a sweeping discharge of the debts, and leaves them, who thought to profit by their economy, and receive the just rewards of their industry, the deluded sufferers of fraud and dishonesty. What cherishing hope has a mechanic of succeeding in this land of milk and honey? He must remember that the American population does not amount to one half the British; that mechanical arts afford no employ to professors only in cities and large towns, of which the United States have, comparatively, but few; that the elegancies of their production are not so generally used and distributed as in England; that he is not emigrating to a land of exhaustless wealth, but, to the poorest country in the world either nationally or individually. The sources of extensive employ, and the principal means that foster, invigorate, and encourage mechanic genius, are, foreign exports and individual opulence. America has no exportations of the productions of art; and independent wealth has, hitherto, bestowed its favours on so few of her citizens, that their pride stands checked with only a limited enjoyment of the elegancies with which European nations abound. Home consumption is, therefore, the only support to artificers, and that so restrained that many who expected encouragement, have, after incurring expenses and sustaining losses, returned to Great Britain unable to obtain employ, and many more reduced to the necessity of submitting to servile drudgery for subsistence. The farmer, from the vast extent of land which presents itself to his

view, may amuse himself with the certainty of obtaining a comfortable settlement. But it must not be forgotten, that a Yankee knows the value of land as well as an Englishman, and that here, as well as everywhere else, land bears a price in proportion to its goodness.—Many an honest and unsuspecting purchaser has been duped by land speculators, who are very numerous in this land of promise. Doctor Priestley and most of his political followers and partisans, who suspected no deceit from the sons of democracy; and who fled from *imaginary* evils in their native land, to experience *real* ones in that which their phrensied imagination depicted a paradise, bartered their English guineas for a quantity of republican soil worth nothing! The doctor, chagrined at becoming the dupe of his own deluded passions, suffered the consideration to prey upon his spirits, which, in all probability, hastened his dissolution. Towns, at short distances, with weekly markets, where a farmer may turn the produce of his land into cash, are nowhere to be found in America; a great portion of his business must be accomplished by barter with speculating shopkeepers for such articles as will supply his necessities: this traffic affords a two-fold interest to the speculator, who lays such prices on his goods that they yield him high profits; and receives the farmer's articles at so low a rate, that the sale of them gives him a profit also. Were an English farmer reduced to this miserable mode of obtaining a scanty reward for his industry, he might, indeed, extend his views across the Atlantic to better his condition, but as the direct contrary is the case he may content himself with the enjoyment of blessings peculiarly national. Those who are unwilling to profit by the dear-bought experience of others will do well to consider the following a few of the requisites necessary to their induction. You must discard from your mind every idea of

true honour; must furnish yourself with a great stock of knavery, as much to repel and frustrate knavish tricks, to which you will be constantly exposed, as to enable you to succeed in obtaining a livelihood. You must banish all natural ties and national feelings, and patiently and silently hear your country and every inhabitant of it falsely represented and malignantly abused, without daring to repel the accusation or condemn the accusers. You must lavish praise on every thing that is American in contempt of truth and your own judgment. You must carry arms and be enrolled in the militia after being a resident (in some states) only six months. You must bow your knee to the idol of Democracy and vow eternal hatred to all hereditary right. You must be contented to see the representatives of your sovereign abused, vilified, and maltreated; and that flag which commands respect all over the world, trampled upon and contemptuously burnt to shew democratic *magnanimity*. If you can accomplish these you may have some faint prospects of succeeding; if you cannot (and I trust very few Englishmen can), you have no chance of success unless it be to add to the number of those who are now repenting their rashness, and casting a longing look towards the incomparable spot that gave them birth!!

The British possessions in America consist of four provinces, Upper and Lower Canada, Nova Scotia, and New Brunswick. The former were settled by the French and continued in their possession more than one hundred and fifty years; but Quebec falling into the hands of the British by the gallantry of General Wolfe, the provinces became an easy conquest, and were permitted to continue British colonies by the treaty of peace, made in the year 1763. These provinces are governed by laws framed by a legislature consisting of two branches denominated the Council and the As-

sembly; the former nominated by the governor, and the latter chosen by the voice of the people: the executive is vested in a governor-general and deputy ones; the judicial authorities are appointed by the crown; and their decision, in the respective courts, are marked with that regard to impartial justice, honour, and equity, that so eminently distinguish the parent country. The expenses necessary for the support of the government are defrayed principally by Great Britain, so that no country in the world is subjected to so small a portion of taxation, no taxes either direct or indirect being levied only on a few articles of luxury. The manners and customs of the Canadies are as opposite as those of the nations from which they have been settled. The original French settlers retain a great portion of that gaiety and frivolity peculiar to their nation, but secluded from examples of national vice, and leading a life comparatively retired; an honest simplicity characterises their actions, though a persevering industry is seldom to be seen, as their views are rarely extended to exalt their condition, contentedly partaking of those necessities and comforts only, which their predecessors enjoyed: nevertheless Great Britain possesses in them more faithfulness, honesty, and loyalty, than in any other colony in the catalogue of her foreign possessions. The number of inhabitants of British America scarcely exceed half a million. The slow increase of population, may, in a great measure, be attributed to British emigrants making these colonies a temporary residence; many of whom, by persevering and enterprising exertions, acquire fortunes and return to their native homes to enjoy them; and having no permanent interest in the advancement of these provinces, beyond immediate concern, improvement has been much disregarded and neglected. Scotland has hitherto furnished the greatest number of emigrants; and settlers from

that country possess extensive farms in the upper province, most of whom live respectable and happy. The English government, in conformity to its accustomed wise and indulgent policy left the French settlers in the enjoyment of their national peculiarities, without permitting any interference to create dislike to the British character, or generate a plea for disloyalty : the Roman-catholic religion is therefore tolerated and protected, and this indulgence is in no instance abused by a refractory and revolutionary spirit, or that rancour and bitter hatred to different sects, which papists in other countries exhibit and cherish ; but appreciating the blessings of religious and political liberty, and happy in the enjoyment of them, they cheerfully join the common cause ; nor idly devote themselves to seek, in seditious theories, those blessings which they practically possess. Few places exhibit a more general regard to religious duties than Canada ; Protestant churches for the devotion of Christians of that persuasion are to be found in every town, under the control and guidance of an English bishop ; and inferior branches of the clergy, and a spirit of Christian piety, pervade all ranks in the colony. From the extremes of heat and cold which the climate of this country presents, many have been induced to consider it an unhealthy situation, and regarding it with fearful apprehension have relinquished the thoughts of emigrating thither : this has been increased by conceiving the hardships that must be endured, in the necessary employment of agriculture in the severities of winter, and the difficulties that must arise to prepare the land for cultivation at these inclement periods. But nature, in her provident benevolence, has counterbalanced the frowns of a dreary winter with the smiles of an exuberant spring, and the reward of a hasty and an almost instantaneous vegetation.

The low price of land, and its abundance, contribute to

make a laborious and indefatigable application to improvement less needful than in Great Britain : the soil requires but little manure, nor is one half the preparatory labour necessary to produce crops that British land requires ; and the rapid growth, and quick perfection of every species of grain, requires not that constant and protracted attendance, which a tardy maturity demands. The winter is therefore only a season of relaxation and amusement, and is mostly devoted to recreation. Gloomy pictures of these fertile and capacious provinces have been drawn, which, heightened by imagination, have served to make them appear, at this season, so cheerless as almost to preclude the possibility of venturing abroad ; the very reverse of this is the case ; the cold is seldom so intense as to prevent travelling, which, in sleighs, is so pleasantly and speedily performed, that few people travel at any other season ; the solidity of the rivers and the frozen state of the snow, make excellent roads, which are passed over with incredible swiftness, and two horses can draw, in sleds, a greater weight than four in a wheeled carriage. All large bodies of timber are conveyed to the rivers, in the winter, from the ease with which the task can be performed, and the small portion of labour and expense which are necessary, compared with what would be required at any other season. A single horse will draw a fallen tree along the glossy surface of frozen snow, with more ease and expedition than five could on the bare ground ; indeed, from the impossibility of timber, carriages passing through the intricacies of a thick wood, this necessary species of labour could be performed by no other means and at no other time ; so that winter, with all its imaginary and exaggerated horrors, has its peculiar advantages. The crowd of sleighs that stand near the market-places of large towns, for the purpose of hire ; and the display of contending dexterity in

the management of hundreds passing and repassing in the environs ; not only prove the practicability of recreative excursions, at this season, but serve to shew the eagerness with which they are sought, and the pleasure they afford. Stage-coaches, carriages, and chariots, are sometimes separated from the wheels, and placed on the iron-shod runners of sleighs, which afford a comfortable and an elegant mode of travelling. Houses are kept warm by the means of stoves, which are constructed with a great regard to convenience ; they are closed on all sides, are of various dimensions, and generally placed in the centre of the room. Pipes or flues attached to them, serve to convey warmth to the same and adjoining apartments ; and most of them are calculated for culinary purposes, the centre serving the purpose of an oven. On entering an apartment, a glow, which is diffused to all parts, is immediately felt ; and the company is not compelled to form a semicircle round a fire, to endure a state between scorching and freezing, but, like the mildness of May, the enjoyment of an agreeable warmth is felt in every part. The soil of Canada consists of a rich, fertile, black mould, which not extending beyond the depth of a foot, and being loose and thin, requires but little labour to prepare for cultivation : considerable crops repay the husbandman's industry, and wheat, flour, and sea biscuit, are the exports therefrom. Grapes, raspberries, currants, and some other fruits, are indigenous ; and the forests abound with walnut, chesnut, beach, oak, elm, and a variety of other trees. The maple is singularly serviceable in affording sugar. These trees are tapped in the spring, and about six weeks continue to emit a sweet juice, which by boiling acquires a consistence, and which natural or artificial heat will afterwards concrete ; the flavour of sugar, thus produced, is peculiarly pleasant, and its general use (in the in-

terior) supersedes the importation of that article. Cattle of all kinds are cheap and plentiful. Horses are small, but hardy and serviceable, and are capable of performing more labour than might be expected from their size. Being bred and inured to the climate, and unaccustomed to receive that attention and care which are bestowed on the English breed, they contract no diseases, and experience no distress from a privation of those indulgences which habit renders necessary. Warm stables, good beds, and sweet-scented hay, are comforts a Canadian seldom extends to his horse; but nature, no less kind to this portion of her creation than she is to any other, has furnished them with constitutions adapted to the climate, and she clothes them, like bears, with coats suitable to the seasons. The river St. Lawrence, which washes the Canadian shores, is ranked next to the Mississippi, and considered the second in North America: it is navigable to lake Ontario, a distance of more than seven hundred miles; but only small vessels go further than Quebec, except those in the employ of the North-west company, which proceed to Montreal. This river is thirty leagues wide at its entrance, but it ebbs and flows only ninety miles beyond Quebec, above which is a rapid current constantly running towards the sea, and which is the principal reason why large shipping go no further than that town. The island of New Orleans, situated in the St. Lawrence, a few miles below Quebec, is as desirable and fertile a spot as can be found in America. Quebec, situated about four hundred miles from the mouth of the river St. Lawrence, and on the north-west side of it, is the principal city in these provinces, and consist of an upper and a lower town, called so from their situations, but connected by a gradual acclivity. The lower town, situated by the water side, is the seat of an active, commercial enterprize, during the summer season, and the river and

wharfs are crowded with shipping. Timber, in large rafts, is brought to this port from the lakes, mostly by citizens of the United States, which received into shipping is conveyed to England. And, though the exportation of this article employs more tonnage than any other, furs and peltries are considered the principal exports from their value and the supplies they afford the revenue. The inhabitants of the lower town are principally traders and mariners, whose views being directed to interest, are satisfied with such dwellings as are calculated to ensure comfort and convenience, so that the houses display no attractive grandeur; but most of them being of stone, with iron doors and window-shutters, are considered fire proof; their strength, therefore, may be considered as constituting their greatest value. The upper town is pleasantly and delightfully situated, and erected on the firm basis of a limestone rock. The governor's house is an elegant and capacious edifice. The new Protestant church, and many modern buildings constructed with taste, serve to place this town on a respectable footing; and being the seat of government, the residence of the different courts, and the abode of the garrison, it exhibits scenes of splendour and gaiety. This city has been represented impregnable, but that is bestowing on it more praise than, perhaps, it is entitled to. The upper town is fortified with walls, that appear almost impenetrable, and a great number of heavy cannon planted for its defence; the lower one is defenceless towards the river, consequently exposed to the attack of a naval force; therefore, the perfect security of both parts requires the command of the river, and the maintenance of a garrison sufficient to man the fortification to repel a besieging enemy. The markets of both towns are plentifully supplied, and articles of consumption, both animal and vegetable, may be purchased for nearly one-third the

price that would be demanded for them in the British metropolis. Porter and ale are brewed here, scarcely inferior to those of English production, and considerably cheaper; wines and spirituous liquors are purchased for half the price they bring in the parent state; and poultry is abundant, which for cheapness and goodness can rarely be equalled. Quebec is surrounded by a delightful fertile country, interspersed with the most beautiful scenery. Country seats, extensive plains, and rich farms, present themselves: and snipes, plovers, wood pigeons, and an abundant variety of other wild fowls, afford satisfactory recreation to the sportsman. In proceeding up the St. Lawrence, by water, the houses on the north-western shore are placed at such distances as to form the appearance of one continued street. In proceeding up the country, by land, the interspersion of streams, forests, extensive pasturage, and rich arable land, afford pleasing prospects, and very few hills intervene to make the journey irksome. The first town on the banks of the river after leaving Quebec is Three Rivers, which is frequently a great resort of Indians: here the river ceases to flow, and many small vessels take in their cargoes at this place. This town is equidistantly situated between Quebec and Montreal; contains about three thousand inhabitants, is a seat of active industry, and surrounded by a fertile level country. Montreal is the second town in these provinces in wealth, population, commerce, and extent: it is situated on an island formed by the rivers St. Lawrence and Utawes, one-hundred-and-eighty miles above Quebec. This town was once fortified with a wall, a few vestiges of which yet remain, and is surrounded by three suburbs; its population amounts to about eight thousand. In the summer season, the shipping employed by the Fur company, and a great number of smaller ones, resort to this port, and the inhabitants

are engaged in the pursuits of foreign commerce. In the winter innumerable sleighs from surrounding towns, the upper province, and the United States, come here for the purpose of trade, bringing pork, potash, pearlash, and articles of produce; and taking away spirits, manufactured articles, and salt. This is the grand depôt of the north-west company, whence hundreds of persons, in their employ, called voyagers, proceed to the Indian settlements to collect furs and peltries. Many of the houses in this town are of stone, with tin roofs, and fire-proof shutters and doors; some of the churches, of which there are six, are likewise covered with tin, which exhibit a shining appearance. The court-house is an elegant stone building, part of which is occupied as a library. The city tavern is, perhaps, the best in North America; it has a spacious room for assemblies, and all travellers of distinction make this their abode. Montreal market is furnished with a plentiful supply of animal and vegetable food. Beef and mutton seldom exceed four-pence per pound, or butter sixpence, and in the winter turkeys and geese are innumerable; the former seldom cost more than fifteen pence each. The surrounding country is rich and fertile, interspersed with pleasant villages.

The upper province like the lower one exhibits diversified scenes of natural beauty, with extensive tracts of unsettled and uncultivated land. The native worth and peculiar advantages of these provinces make them objects of envy to the United States: the richness of the soil, the innumerable streams by which they are watered, the valuable furs with which they abound, and, above all, the rise of the tides in the St. Lawrence, which affords the practicability of cutting dry docks *, tempted that insatiate democracy

* The tide never rises sufficiently high in the sea-ports of the United States to enable the inhabitants to cut dry docks.

to sacrifice all other considerations in the endeavour to annex them to her unwieldy possessions. And, while the spirit with which they were defended, reflects unfading honours on the loyalty and zeal of the inhabitants; it serves to convince mankind that a free people cannot, easily, be deprived of valuable possessions. No country holds out prospects so flattering to agriculturists as Canada; hundreds of citizens from the republican provinces, preferring real blessings to ideal ones, and choosing rather to possess property at a cheap rate, and enjoy it free from taxation, than pay a high price for land of an inferior quality, loaded and burdened with taxes, have made this their residence. The British settler is put in possession of land proportioned to his family, and a deed of it given him without fee or reward; supplies of provisions for six or twelve months, are granted from the public stores, where all kinds of implements necessary for husbandry are likewise bestowed; nor are settlers, whose possessions rendered rich by cultivation, and who are thereby enabled to afford assistance, backward in giving instructions and rendering support to beginners. A spirit of generosity and benevolence characterises the intercourse that subsists in these provinces; and acts of liberality calculated to add to the convenience and happiness of each other, appear emulatively reciprocal. No dangers are to be apprehended from the Aborigines, whose attachment to the British character, arises from the bountiful protection extended to them by the government; and the honourable and upright intercourse subsisting between them and the inhabitants. Outrage generated by the low cunning, jealousy, and avarice of Yankee adventurers, which bring frequent desolation and destruction on those settlers who occupy land in the interior of the United States, never transpire in the British provinces. English

settlers, secured by native honour, a strict regard to honest dealings, and a vigilant and protecting government, view with pity and contempt, the impolicy of those unprincipled democrats; whose want of probity involves them in national broils, and exposes the lives of their unprotected fellow-citizens to the retributive fury of Indian barbarism. And, since a desire for emigration, at this crisis, is become more prevalent than at any former period; and there are yet some hundreds residing in this country who are determined to leave their native soil, with a view to better their condition: the undertaking requires their most serious consideration. Let them balance well between the reality of comforts which they now enjoy, and the uncertainty of remote ones they may never possess: nor suffer themselves to be misled by the phantoms of ideal happiness emanating from democratic equality; but carefully examine the advantages which the British provinces offer to British settlers, the encouragement they afford, and the security they ensure; remembering, that they who emigrate thither, will still remain subjects of the parent country, and always have an interest in defending it when espousing the cause of their adopted one. Let these preponderating considerations be the touchstone of determination, which cannot fail to influence a well-directed choice, and contribute to crown a persevering industry with respectability, wealth, and happiness.

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