

In the lottery of life, left Dame Fortune beguile, This great truth we should ever premise; That although the bright goddess may smile, She has always—two Blanks to a Prize!

If a Husband you'd take, Miss;—or you, Sir, a Wife, From this maxim divert not your eyes; For of one and the other, I'll venture my life, There are more than—two Blanks to a Prize!

If in Law you're entangled, why then, filly man, As a friend, give me leave to advise; Sin your neck from the collar as fast as you can, There are fifty—two Blanks to a Prize!

And if, for preference, you're sitting at Court, Or by merit expect you shall rise; Then your Chance is not worth Sir, three-fourths of a groat, There are ninety—two Blanks to a Prize!

Select thoughts presented to a minister of state in France, taken from the French of Mr. de Voltaire.

THE riches of a nation consist in the number of inhabitants, and in their labour. In the calamity of a war, the richest nation has necessarily the superiority over other nations that in every other respect equal; because it is capable of purchasing more allies, and more foreign troops.

If there are ninety millions sterling in a nation, all the commodities, and the price of work will be double what they would be, if there were only forty-five millions; and I should be as rich with two thousand pounds a year, when I bought meat at three pence a pound, as I should be with four thousand, when I bought it at six pence, and every thing else in the same proportion.

The true riches of a kingdom do not therefore consist in gold and silver, but in the plenty of all commodities, in industry and labour. It is not long since there was a Spanish regiment on the banks of the river Plata, all the officers of which had swords with hilts of solid gold; and yet they wanted both shirts and bread.

Supposing then, that King Hugh Capet's time, the quantity of money in the kingdom had not been increased; but that industry had brought all the arts to a hundred times the perfection, I assert, that we are really a hundred times richer than we were in the time of Hugh Capet.

For possession is riches; and, now I possess a house more airy, better built, and better contrived than Hugh Capet himself possessed; vines are better cultivated, and I drink better wine; manufactures are brought to greater perfection, and I wear finer cloath; the art of pleasing the taste by more delicate seasonings makes me every day enjoy richer repasts than the royal festivals of Hugh Capet.

If a sick person was to desire to be conveyed from one house to another, he was obliged to make use of a cart; while I equip myself to be carried in a commodious and agreeable coach, in which I enjoy the pleasure of the light, without being incommoded by the wind. It requires no more money in a kingdom, to suspend a box of painted wood on leather; it requires only industry; and for the rest.

From the same quarries were taken the stones with which the house of Hugh Capet was built, and those with which we at present build the houses of Paris. It requires as much money to erect a gloomy prison, as to build an agreeable house.

It costs no more to plant a garden well laid out than to form one of Yews, indelicately cut, and shaped into the absurd resemblance of animals.

Oaks formerly roted in the forests; but they are at present formed into wainscot, and vessels of war and commerce. The land they occupy on the earth, it is now turned into joy.

They are certainly rich who enjoy all these advantages, which industry alone procures. A Kingdom is not therefore enriched with money, but by genius; I mean the genius which conducts the labour of industry.

Commerce produces the same effects as the labour of the hands; it contributes to the pleasure of my life. If I have occasion for some pieces of work made in the Indies, or some natural production only to be found at Ceylon, or Ternate, these wants make me poor; but I become rich when they are gratified by commerce. I did not want gold and silver, but coffee and cinnamon.

But hope who at the hazard of their lives fail six thousand leagues, for me to drink coffee, are only a part of the nation. Riches therefore consist in the great number of men inured to labour. The end of a wife government is therefore evidently multiplying the people and giving encouragement to labour.

The best government is that in which there are the fewest useless men. From whence does it proceed, that there have been nations who while they had less money than we have at present, have immortalized their memory by works which we dare not imitate. It is evident that their form of government was better than ours, since it gave greater encouragement to industry.

Taxes are necessary, and the best method of raising them is that which best promotes labour and commerce.

A voluntary tax is hurtful. Nothing but charity ought to be voluntary; but in a well regulated state, there ought to be no room for charity. Paper money is to specie, what specie is to merchandise, a representation, a medium of exchange.

Money is more useful, only because it is more easy to pay for a sheep with a pistole, than to give for a sheep four pair of stockings.

It is in the same manner more easy for a receiver of Providence, to send 400,000 livres, to the treasury in a letter, than to cause that sum to be sent at a greater expence in specie, from hence a bank and bill of credit are useful.

Bills of credit are in the government of a state, in trade and circulation, what ropes and pulleys are in quarries; they manage burthens, which men, without them, would be unable to move.

CURIOUS DISCOVERY.

The following Letter from Captain Wyatt, of the Sloop Whale, to his Friend in London, dated Leith, July 24, 1786, will doubtless afford pleasing entertainment to our Readers.

DEAR SIR,

UPON our passage to the northward we made Heckluy's Headland, in Spitzbergen, on 28th May last. We then ran N. N. W. ten leagues, then N. N. E. and afterwards N. having a fine southerly wind, for the mildness of the weather and the openness of the sea induced me to go as far to the northward as possible; but, to my great surprize, in 87 deg. north we found no ice. I therefore determined to go to the north pole, well knowing the discovery of a passage of that importance, if successful, would more than indemnify me for the voyage; and, as the ship was my own, I could therefore stand to the loss.

In lat. 89 degrees north we were alarmed with a rumbling noise like thunder at a distance. As there was little wind southerly, the small sails were taken in and the courses hauled up and furled; but we still kept our course to the northward under our top sails, and the noise increased the further N. we got. When the noise became excessively loud, we discovered something like an ice-hill about three leagues off; the sailors called out land; we therefore founded in sixty fathoms, and constantly kept the lead going afterwards. When we were a league off the anchor was let go in ten fathoms of water. The shore seemed to be of easy ascent, but was white, and glittered very much, and it extended all round circularly like a coast. Having got so far I was determined to make my observations, and therefore directed the boat to be hoisted out and proper provisions to be taken in her, and blankets to cover us if necessary, for it was very cold. We ascended the hill, which was of some height; but what was my astonishment when I reached its summit, to behold, as it were, the elements at war; something issuing out to the northward quite white, and flying upwards with prodigious force. A few chrysalized substances, like glass, fell near me, which were hexagonal, and refracted the light. Upon tasting it I found it was nitre. I collected some, and put into a cut glass smelling-bottle, and for some time after they continued to shine in the dark. From this I shall endeavour to account for the aurora borealis. The particles emitting light, I own, surprized me a little, although

I knew that some diamonds have the property of imbibing the sun's rays and shining in the dark. I had not been long at the top of the hill before a dreadful eruption issued forth, which proved to me there was a volcano that threw out nitre at the north pole. Being apprehensive of the most fatal consequences, I made haste back to the boat and returned on board the ship. The cable was immediately cut and we made sail to the southward, with an air of wind from the northward at this time enabled us to do. I was now convinced of the impracticability of passing the north pole; and that, according to many, the north pole is *primum frigidum*. My expedition may prove of use, and what I saw suggested to me the following remarks.

1st. As the mouth of the volcano may be at least a degree in diameter, the nitre must be forced to a prodigious height, and the centrifugal force of the earth's diurnal motion must tend it towards the equator, where, meeting with a similar column from the southward, they unite and pass on, and being dissolved in their descent, mix with watry vapour at the top of the lower atmosphere, which being condensed by the nitre, falls in rain, or is turned to snow, and intercepted in its course by the Cordilleras, or the Andes, and other high mountains.

2d. On the top of the atmosphere there constantly floats a nitrous vapour which condenses the exhalations of the earth and sea, and occasions rain and snow. Now if it was not for a perpetual supply, the nitrous vapour must in time be exhausted. From a degree square of the sea is exhaled daily, thirty-three millions of tons of water, and it must require a vast deal of nitre to condense in rain or snow the watry vapour arising from such an exhalation.

3d. A greater portion of nitrous vapour descending in one place than in another, must occasion local frosts and snows.

4th. The aurora borealis may be accounted for from it. The prismatic particles of chrysalized nitre being forcibly driven in a body to the southward, and descending different ways at once, may exhibit at night, in clear weather, that luminous appearance, and the disappearance is when the nitre being partly dissolved by the atmosphere, ceases to be lucid and to emit light.

5th. There is, no doubt, a similar volcano of nitre at the south pole, and an aurora australis, which would be seen there sufficient land to attract and imbibe the watry vapour; for at present the thickness of the atmosphere to the southward prevents its being discovered.

I continued my course to the southward with a fine breeze, and brought to in lat. 80 deg. north, which is a good sailing latitude: here we were fortunate enough to take three fish, with which we returned safe to this port. I request you will be pleased to solicit the parliamentary reward for me, for having passed certain latitudes, and you will greatly oblige Your faithful and obedient servant,

JAMES WYATT.

WE the subscribers being appointed Commissioners by the Hon. Judge of Probate for the county of Hampshire, to receive and examine the claims of the creditors to the estate of ELIZABETH QUERN, alias WALKER, late of South-Hadley, deceased, do hereby advertise, and on the 1st of December next is allowed for settling said estate; do give notice, that we shall attend said business on the 1st Monday of October and December next, at the house of Noah Goodman, Esq. in said South-Hadley, from one o'clock on each day.

NATHANIEL WHITE, DAVID NASH, DAVID MITCHELL.

South-Hadley, Sept. 3, 1786.

HAMPSHIRE GAZETTE.

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 25, 1786.

NORTHAMPTON: PRINTED BY WILLIAM BUTLER, A FEW DOORS EAST OF THE COURT-HOUSE.

For the HAMPSHIRE GAZETTE.

Structures upon County Conventions in general, and the late meeting holden at Hatfield in particular: addressed to the Freeholders of the County of Hampshire.

NUMBER VI.

MY COUNTRYMEN, MY pain labours have been to prove county conventions, acting upon matters of government, unconditional and dangerous to our liberties; and to trace the measures of the Hatfield convention, and shew them to be repugnant to good order and subordination in civility. I have weighed their objections to the constitution and the present mode of civil administration, and have, convinced, as I think, that their supposed grievances are in general only a pretence, without existence in fact; and that the alterations which they contemplate would be a material injury to the people and hazard those privileges which well informed freemen esteem the most valuable. The measures of the convention have already produced more expence to the county than would arise to the people from the burdens which they state in several years: And could their measures take full effect, they would shipwreck the freedom, the property and security of individuals, and prostrate in ruin that glorious fabric of a free state which for fifteen years we have been erecting at the expence of so much blood and treasure. Our danger and their encroachments will more clearly appear if we canvass their methods of remedying the supposed evils lying upon the people. They vote, "That as several of their articles of grievance arise from defects in the constitution; therefore a revision of the same ought to take place." This is the IMPERIAL style. They talk like men in authority. A revision of the constitution OUGHT to take place. Who empowered their delegates to speak the sovereign language of dictators? They had no such directions from their electors. It is palpable that in this matter they were actuated by private interest, the hope of promotion or from inability. Our constitution has attracted the approbation and the admiration of the best judges of the warm patrons of liberty upon both continents. It has received the sanction of nine tenths of the freemen through the state; and this at a time when men's judgements were unbiassed. Shall this sacred compact of individuals with each other and with the whole community, and upon which our union and safety rests, be attacked and annulled by a few unwise mobs in one or two counties? By mutual faith we are to adhere to this constitution until 1795, which is near at hand. In every capital movement it is a proper question, "Oubono," What end will it answer? What are the advantages of a revision? We may challenge the convention to point out one privilege which will be enlarged by it. We cannot be more free and be under any government whatever: For ours in the fullest sense is a government of laws and not of men. Were the measures useful, of all seasons the present is the least friendly to a revision. A spirit of faction and unreasonable jealousy has pervaded the minds of many in the commonwealth; and whoever did a thing in his passion which he might not well repent of when he was sober. Besides there would be no savings of consequence from such a revision. It would destroy tenfold more security than it would save property. I appeal to every deliberate mind, whether there is a remote probability that the people who have been agitated by a series of inflammatory misrepresentations, would quietly sit to down under another form of government. It is to be speak out plainly, the leading members of convention who promoted the attack upon the constitution, were either exposed to embarrassments under every government of law, or were the old partizans of British government. Some of them give out freely, that they will leave no stone unturned until they have established the authority of George the 3d in the United States. To this end present disturbances look, and for this end I am confident they are designed by some. I would not intimate that this is the wish of all who were formerly adherents to Great-Britain.

Many of them are men of humanity and liberal sentiments, who are weary of confusion and bloodshed, and are engaged to support the government under which they are placed. But others are busy in conventions, in insurrections, in complaining of public burdens; labouring to destroy public securities and the confidence of the people in their rulers, to perplex with unreasonable misrepresentations and embarrass the legislature. These I doubt not hanker after a British or some other royal government. I am personally acquainted with the wishes of many members of the late convention, who, notwithstanding their warm zeal for the people's liberties, are yet avowed friends to kingly government. And he is blind indeed who does not see, that the destruction of our present government will hasten the establishment of that worst of temporal evils, the tyranny of a few or of one man. To this deplorable end would a revision of the constitution immediately tend; and it is well if some members of our late convention and their co-adjutors are not enterprising the gloomy event: For such men, these are politic devices but for a man who pants after the freedom and happiness of his country, now to labour a revision of the constitution is little better than madness; and argues that he needs the application of Hellebore.

To confusion, anarchy and final tyranny tend the measures of convention in circulating their designs into the other counties to obtain an unconditional co-operation with their designs, to spread the misaffection far and wide, and prepare matters for the attack of Britain when they shall be ready to give the blow. Another resolution is important to be noticed, as it shows the encroachments of the convention and our danger from them. In their authoritative style, they direct (not desire) their chairman to call a future convention when he pleases. So we have at once, a Man with a broad brim'd hat, to cover us with his shade and nose about the county at his pleasure. Truly freemen, this is an extraordinary power to be given to or to be received by one man. It subjects the county to intolerable burdens and abuses. This is the way in which they used formerly to make kings and dictators. Whether the towns will fervently obey the summons, time must declare. Indeed the measures of convention are singular and threatening: once pursued they will make us all the slaves of any body of men who shall dare to invade our government and usurp our privileges. Were our grievances real we needed not a convention to remedy them, nor their benevolence to inform us of them. We have common feelings and common sense. When injured we have our remedy possible and adequate. We have free and consistent access to our representatives. They are disposed faithfully to regard our applications and give every possible relief. The labours of the convention are therefore officious, untimely and troublesome. They have been the occasion of bitter animosities amongst neighbours, which are the bane of society; they have been the source of tumults and insurrections, by which the business of life has been impeded, our substance wasted, and the fountains of justice interrupted. Hence have arisen the destruction of our security in property, liberty and life; high-handed attacks upon our laws and magistracy; the labours of our officers for the public good, have had little effect, and what we should most deeply regret, much evil lies upon the consciences of many and the angry judgments of an offended God hang over a community of ungrateful, insolent and rebellious people. Judgments from which we cannot escape even should we evade the aims of human justice. Mischiefs are introduced into the commonwealth which many years of prudent exertion will scarcely be able to cure. Had the convention never met, the people would have continued free, undisturbed and happy: attentive to their own concerns like good citizens they were pursuing the public interest as their own good. From the convention they have learned a distinction which can have no existence in a government like ours: that their interests and their rulers are two, and that to pay a public debt is an encroachment upon private property. And it is well if in future

multitudes shall be content to pay either public or private debts. In these jealousies and distinctions the hand of Job is visible: the object is easily discovered: while some would be let free from law and the claims of justice, others would establish an arbitrary and tyrannical government, in which it will not be in the power of the common people to intermeddle. Not a few of our modern reformers who clamour against the present government and cry out for liberty, do yet wish for a King to rule over us. The confusions of England after the death of Charles the first, the ruin of the long Parliament and the restoration of Charles the second, perpetually run in their brains and makes them dream of mobs, dissolving courts of justice and general assemblies, the annihilation of Congress, and the restoration of George the third, British places and British pensions. Or if they fall in this ultimate wish, yet at least they shall gain a king of some kind or another. Present operations will soon mature some such gloomy event. Whoever lives to see a few more months if the present violences and suspicions do not effectually subside, will find the plot open upon him in the clearest light: should this not be the case, the Old Republic has no talent at devolution. It is a plan diligently pursued by numbers, though slyly reprobated and abhorred by liberal and benevolent minds of all parties to introduce the British tyranny. No engine can prove more effectual to this end than to destroy the affections of the people for their present constitution, and their confidence in their present patriotic rulers; and to arm the seditious, the ignorant, the discontented and the wretched of all classes against the temporal favours and fathers of their country.

The convention might have helped us against these evils, had they pursued cool and dispassionate measures; had they pointed the people to their real dignity, freedom and happiness: but their measures were warm and they have had unweary effects; effects distressing and wretched enough. Had seditious enquiry attended their debates and genuine patriotism warmed their bosoms, the convention might have addressed their neighbours in such language as this: a language I am persuaded better calculated for the general enlightenment than those halcyon resolves with which they have lulled the public ear: viz. The Address of the Convention to their Constituents.

Brethren and Fellow Citizens, AT your request we have convened and taken into consideration the difficulties under which many of the people labour. As far as we are able we have considered the proper remedies and proposed such considerations as may render your minds easy under necessary burdens. It is our first duty to disavow all pretensions to authority in influencing your future measures since our wife form of government has made no provision for county meetings, but has adopted a mode of representation in the legislature adequate to every purpose of private and public security and prosperity. That representation we wish you to consider as the only legal body to ordain laws and redress grievances in this commonwealth. To our opinions we ask your attention only as they may bring to your minds light and conviction. Divelling ourselves of sinister regards and actuated by impartial deliberation, we would persuade you that our excellent constitution, framed by our wisest patriots, has been ratified through the singular concurrence of Heaven by the harmonious voices of almost the whole body of freemen throughout this great republic. It is our mutual solemn covenant, from which we are not warranted to recede. Indeed could alterations in our constitution be made without danger or expence, we can conceive of no material alterations without injury to the community. We consider the attempts of those who wish for a change to be founded in misapprehension or a sickness of temper which evinces the importance of adhering religiously to our mutual and sacred covenant. To such as hanker after innovations we recommend an attention to those various incidents which, in a time of warm debate, may introduce into the community the miseries of con-