

For the HAMPSHIRE GAZETTE. POLITICAL and MORAL ENTERTAINMENT. NUMBER VI.

WHEN a traveller, to shorten his way and avoid a disagreeable hill, attempts to cross a precipitous wood; but meets with fallen trees and thickets of brush-plunges unexpectedly into the mire, and sees before him a threatening swamp and deep water; it is time for him to stop his course and to track back his steps till he regains his former path. Then he may go safely on his journey. States and nations may profit by the experience of individuals. The way to prosperity and happiness is a plain way in the power of every people, that have the liberty to choose and direct their own course. And in the American States advantages are enjoyed, that being wisely improved are abundantly sufficient to reach the wisdom and skill requisite for finding it.

From this statement of facts, an important question will arise concerning the United States: What is the occasion of so great a failure in the attempt to be a prosperous and happy nation? The answer to this weighty question is suggested by the above observation in this paper; which also intimates what mode of conduct must be chosen to obtain this end. The way to national felicity has been attempted to be shortened, the path of honest policy has in several respects been left, and the course of the people, to avoid rising barrenness and to avoid the heat of summer and the cold and storms of winter, as when they undertake to establish a policy to lead to national happiness, in deviation from the order of the divine government. Kings and parliaments may legislate, and false clamour for new schemes of management, may call evil good and good evil; but human power cannot controul the direction of Providence or build a nation or kingdom in opposition to the councils of heaven. The experiment often tried has uniformly ended in disappointment. Since mankind have lived in society, no instance can be produced of the preservation of liberty and the enjoyment of national felicity after the loss of virtue. The present desperate condition of this commonwealth and of the United States, exemplifies this reason. And a further continuance of past measures, for the completion of the experiment, would in the situation we now are, indicate the stubbornness of folly and evil design, rather than the wisdom and good policy of an enlightened people.

A review of the steps, which have led to the present calamities, may be illustrated this truth and discover the way of return to the path of good policy. At the commencement of the war with Great Britain, several circumstances occurred to occasion a debarthng debt. Paper money, a total omission of discharging debts, paper being made in large quantities without a sufficient foundation to give it credit, was unhappily forced upon people by a law making it a tender instead of gold and silver, when the difference was easily seen, and in a short time became very great. Its depreciation made people backward to take it. Creditors chose a temporary omission of payment rather than receiving a nominal sum of very unequal value. Debtors acquired a habit of neglecting their debts or of discharging them, as if some did, by giving paper stamped with the name, but not having the reality of the sums which justice required to be paid. A depravity of morals prevailed with many people; the merchants, and habit of dishonest dealing were lost. Their not paying their debts occasioned them to make a wrong estimate of their income, which disposed them to give too great liberty to their appetites and fancies, in purchasing needless ar-

ticles of luxury and show. Peace being restored and the shops of the merchants filled with goods, their taste for ornament which had been considerably restrained during the war, appeared and had full operation, in burying them into great extravagances of dress and high living. And as if it had been their first object to drain themselves and their country of money, they exerted their ability to collect it, with the articles of produce that should purchase it from other nations and carry them to the merchants, to buy foreign commodities. In consequence of these practices, money they had in their hands being how difficult it was to recover it, they were forced to sell it. A general scarcity of gold and silver, experienced more in appearance however than in reality, since the price of articles is not lowered when paid in these metals, though it is with difficulty that they are obtained. Credit both private and public is at a very low ebb. Wicked men have debauched society, and government is greatly embarrassed.

Their evils are not events of chance; but proceed naturally from manifest causes, producing them conformably with the established laws of Providence. The steps which have led to them have been taken in equal deviation from the principles of virtue and good policy. It is a wisdom of honesty; "Pay thy debts and live therein that is the family of the rell." Had people regarded this, their method of extravagance would have prevented much of their present misery, and by applying their money to its proper use, would have continued it in the country, and kept it in circulation in sufficient plenty. But to wide from this is the course people have taken, and so productive have been its consequences, that in the general opinion it is become dangerous to suffer justice to have its full operation. It must be disguised and restrained to prevent its ruining debtors and crowding them in multitudes into prison. This caution in their favour encourages them in spending more than their income, which is a natural consequence of living carelessly and wickedly in debt, and may be expected to occasion the ruin of many estates, and the bankruptcy of their owners.

In this situation of affairs my advice to my fellow-citizens, no longer to follow the schemes of dishonest policy; but to turn back from them, and to take the way of truth and justice. The divine laws are the best rules of political management; ought to be invariably observed whatever burdens they impose on people. Rulers are ministers of God for good; and how will they act in character but by exerting their influence and authority in conformity to the principles of the divine government? Honesty and justice are essential parts of the righteousness which exalteth a nation; and the want of them go far to constitute the character of a good king, and may be said of every good government. He shall judge the people with righteousness and the poor with judgment. Will any man or any people dare to substitute a different system of policy? Shall they reign because thou clearest thyself in cedar? Did not thy father eat and drink and do judgment and justice, and then it was well with him? The declaration from heaven, "He that ruleth over men, must be just ruling in the fear of God." clearly ascertains the character of the government and of the people necessary for securing the divine favour, without which a nation, claiming to be Christians, should not expect prosperity and happiness.

The system of policy which has been followed, has introduced a number of false maxims of conduct, equally opposed to morality and to the interests of individuals and the public. These may be best corrected by submitting them to the judgment of inspired truth. The plea which is often made to favour the poor, at the expense of justice, is not only grossly absurd in the view of reason, but is directly opposed to the commands of the God of heaven. The order he gives his people is; "Ye shall do no unrighteousness in judgment: thou shalt not respect the person of the poor, nor honour the person of the mighty." "Thou shalt not follow a multitude to do evil; neither shalt thou speak in a cause, to decline after many, to wrest judgment. Neither shalt thou countenance a poor man in his cause." It needs also to be learnt, that the way of justice is inquiry. Honest dealing requires punctuality. "Thou shalt not defraud

From Mr. Le Grand's Tales of the Twelfth and Thirteenth Centuries. The CHILD melted by the SUN. A slave and industrious merchant had occasion often to be abroad for a considerable time together in the pursuit of his traffick. During one of his voyages, which lasted for more than two years, it happened that his wife became enamoured of a young neighbour. Love, which is restrained with difficulty, soon brought them together; but they managed their affairs in a bungling manner, that, at the expiration of about nine months, the merchant's wife found herself, for the first time a mother.

The husband, on his return, was greatly surpris'd to find this addition to his family, and asked his wife to what accident they were indebted for it. "Sir," said she, "I happened one day to be reclining above stairs at the window, and giving vent to my grief for your absence. It was in the winter season, and there was at the time a heavy fall of snow. As I cast up my streaming eyes to Heaven, and heaved a sigh on thinking of you, a flake of snow accidentally made its way into my mouth, and I immediately found that I had conceived this child whom you now see." The merchant, on hearing this story, did not betray the least symptoms of discontent or ill humour. "Thanks be to God," said he, "I wish for an heir, and he has sent me one; I am satisfied, and thankful for his bounty." He indeed, thenceforward affected the most entire satisfaction, never offered the least reproach to his wife, but lived in the same good understanding with her as before. Nevertheless, this was all dissimulation; he had formed, inwardly, a resolution to be one day or another amply revenged.

The child, however, grew up, and had attained the age of 15, when the merchant, whose thoughts were still occupied with this project of revenge, at last thought ferociously of putting it into execution. "Wife," said he one day, "you must not be afflicted, if I once more take my leave of you for a time. I am going upon a long journey to-morrow; and I desire you will get ready my baggage, and that of my son, for I mean to take him with me, that he may acquire some knowledge of trade while he is young." "Alas!" replied the mother, "I am much grieved to hear that you are going to take him abroad so soon; but, since it is for your satisfaction, and his advantage, I submit. God be with you both, and bring you back in safety!" Matters thus arranged, the merchant set off early the next morning, and took the child of snow along with him.

It is needless to give the particulars of the journey, or an account of the countries through which he passed. It is enough to mention, that on his arrival at Genoa, he found a Saracen merchant bound for Alexandria, to whom he sold the boy as a slave. Afterwards, having settled his own affairs at his leisure, he returned home.

The imagination of an hundred poets combined would not give you an adequate description of the distraction of the mother when she saw the merchant return without her son. She tore her hair, and fell into a fit of phtisic. At length, having recovered herself, she conjured her husband to tell her, without reserve, what had happened to the youth. The husband expected all this uproar, and therefore was not puzzled for an answer. "Wife," said he, "one cannot arrive to my age, without having had experience enough in the world to know the necessity of reconciling one's self to whatever may happen. For what do we gain by giving way to our afflictions? Listen with fortitude to the

misfortune that happened to us in the country whence I came. Your son and myself were, on a very sultry day, climbing up a steep and lofty mountain. It was about noon, the sun was vertical over our heads, and burned like fire; when beholding a sudden your son began to dissolve, and melted before my eyes! I would have offered him assistance, but knew that it would be in vain; for I recollected that you told me he was made of snow."

The wife knew perfectly well the merchant's meaning; she durst not, however, break out, but was obliged to swallow the liquor that he had brewed.

NEW-YORK, July 14. Copy of a letter from a Wheelbarrow-man at Philadelphia, to his brother in Ireland. "Dear Patrick,

"Contrary to my expectation, after my arrival in this country, I found great difficulty in maintaining myself, occasioned by the decay of trade and business of all kinds since the peace. My situation was truly distressing. I applied for work to above one hundred persons in the course of six weeks, but without meeting with encouragement from any one of them. Now and then I picked up a shilling or eighteen-pence by piling wood, which served to procure me a little bread. Many whole days did I pass without eating any thing, and all my nights were passed under the shambles, or in hay-lofts in the neighbourhood of the city. In this situation I heard that a law had been made by the Government of Pennsylvania, to punish stealing with hard labour, instead of the gallows or whipping-post. The law provided at the same time, that persons who it ferred its penalties should be well fed, clothed and lodged. This was all I wanted, and I had no objection to working for them. I therefore joined a company of strolling footpads, whom I met with one evening near the centre-house of the city. They proposed to me to assist in robbing the house of—

which they had resolved, on that evening, to break open. My conscience shuddered at the proposal, and I declined accompanying them. The next day they brought their booty to the hay-loft, where I had lain for several days; and as it consisted, in part, of good eatables, I cheerfully partook of it. Soon after this we were all taken up, and most of us were condemned to hard labour for different terms of years. I embraced my situation with thankfulness. I work, it is true, constantly in the streets of Philadelphia, but I live well. Our beef and bread are excellent, and our keepers are kind to those of us who behave as we ought to do. The good-women of Philadelphia pity our situation, and do not only enter into conversation with us, but often give us money to buy liquor and tobacco. Indeed, Pat, I never lived better in all my life, and if you could join us without disgracing yourself, I think you could not do better than by coming over, and becoming one of our company, and bringing with you all our cousins and play-fellows in the town of—

"I hope if you do come, it will not be long before you will join us, otherwise the people of the country will get into place before you, for they follow and crowd about us constantly, and listen with so much eagerness to our conversation (which, I am sorry to say, is sometimes both profane and absurd) that I believe they envy us our lot, and are preparing themselves by idleness, and a familiarity with wickedness, to follow our example. Some visionary gentlemen have proposed that we should work out of sight to prevent our infecting the good people of the state, with our example; but the freemen of

Pennsylvania are too jealous of their liberties not to be the executors of their own laws—and hence they will never surrender the power of punishing us out of their own hands. Besides, the bull-bating and slavery are forbidden by the laws of the state, the citizens of Pennsylvania would have no idea of the diversion of the former, or of the cruelty of the latter practice, should we be sentenced to work out of their sight: for in spite of the repentment and morality of their laws, they shew by the delight they take in looking at us, that cruelty and chains are not repugnant to their feelings, and that they enjoy the bating and degradation of their species with a malicious pleasure unknown to any other beings but a free people.

With love and duty to curaged Father, I am, dear Patrick, Your affectionate brother till death, DENNIS K—Y.

P. S. Left you should commit a mistake, after your arrival, I must inform you that every act of theft or fraud in this state is not punished with the wheelbarrow. You may cheat and lie and rob with paper money, for seven years, and the laws will take no notice of you. You may refuse to take any thing but specie from your debtors, and afterwards sell that specie to a broker for paper, which you may force a poor tradesman to take from you at par with gold and silver, by wearing your nose as if as such, and that is as good as any money in the world. This kind of indirect roguery will not do. You must literally pick a pecker, break open a house, or rob on the high-way, or you never can partake of the bread and beef of a wheelbarrow-man.

NOTICE is hereby given to the non-resident proprietors of unimproved land lying in Consett, in the county of Hampshire, that their several lots are in the continued taxes No. 7 and No. 8, and towards the rate of 1779, and also for the year 1780, in 1779, to the place, town and manor.

No. lot.	acres.	1779.	1780.	1781.	1782.
100	150	aid to N. D. K. Kinlon	5	4	7
25	100	Sam. Dwalley	13	10	14
216	10	to Thomas French	6	5	7
32	10	to Thomas French	7	6	8
6	145	to John Nims	28	26	34
7	140	to Sam. Hinddale	27	25	33
9	37	to Col. Hawke	8	7	9
44	45	to Major Williams	9	8	10
45	150	to William Sims	29	27	35
46	150	to Noah Baker	29	27	35
50	150	to Sam. Hinddale	31	29	37
51	150	to Sam. Hinddale	31	29	37
69	150	to Major Williams	31	29	37
51	150	to Col. Hinddale	31	29	37
53	50	to J. Aberton's heirs	4	3	4
55	10	to J. Aberton's heirs	1	1	1
59	10	to J. Aberton's heirs	1	1	1
19	10	to Joseph Smith	1	1	1

No. lot.	acres.	1779.	1780.	1781.	1782.
63	150	to Wm. Hinddale	16	14	18
100	150	to Wm. Hinddale	16	14	18
10	10	to Wm. Hinddale	1	1	1
28	30	to Nath. Hawks	3	3	4
3	10	to Thomas French	2	2	3
5	10	to Thomas French	2	2	3
10	10	to Thomas French	2	2	3
15	10	to Thomas French	2	2	3
20	10	to Thomas French	2	2	3
25	10	to Thomas French	2	2	3
30	10	to Thomas French	2	2	3
35	10	to Thomas French	2	2	3
40	10	to Thomas French	2	2	3
45	10	to Thomas French	2	2	3
50	10	to Thomas French	2	2	3
55	10	to Thomas French	2	2	3
60	10	to Thomas French	2	2	3
65	10	to Thomas French	2	2	3
70	10	to Thomas French	2	2	3
75	10	to Thomas French	2	2	3
80	10	to Thomas French	2	2	3
85	10	to Thomas French	2	2	3
90	10	to Thomas French	2	2	3
95	10	to Thomas French	2	2	3
100	10	to Thomas French	2	2	3

State, town and manor tax for 1779 and 1780, consolidated into five as follows, viz. No. lot. taxes. 1. f. d. 33 5 to Sam. Hinddale 13 10 2 34 10 to Sam. Hinddale 13 10 2 35 10 to Sam. Hinddale 13 10 2 36 10 to Sam. Hinddale 13 10 2 37 10 to Sam. Hinddale 13 10 2 38 10 to Sam. Hinddale 13 10 2 39 10 to Sam. Hinddale 13 10 2 40 10 to Sam. Hinddale 13 10 2 41 10 to Sam. Hinddale 13 10 2 42 10 to Sam. Hinddale 13 10 2 43 10 to Sam. Hinddale 13 10 2 44 10 to Sam. Hinddale 13 10 2 45 10 to Sam. Hinddale 13 10 2 46 10 to Sam. Hinddale 13 10 2 47 10 to Sam. Hinddale 13 10 2 48 10 to Sam. Hinddale 13 10 2 49 10 to Sam. Hinddale 13 10 2 50 10 to Sam. Hinddale 13 10 2 51 10 to Sam. Hinddale 13 10 2 52 10 to Sam. Hinddale 13 10 2 53 10 to Sam. Hinddale 13 10 2 54 10 to Sam. Hinddale 13 10 2 55 10 to Sam. Hinddale 13 10 2 56 10 to Sam. Hinddale 13 10 2 57 10 to Sam. Hinddale 13 10 2 58 10 to Sam. Hinddale 13 10 2 59 10 to Sam. Hinddale 13 10 2 60 10 to Sam. Hinddale 13 10 2 61 10 to Sam. Hinddale 13 10 2 62 10 to Sam. Hinddale 13 10 2 63 10 to Sam. Hinddale 13 10 2 64 10 to Sam. Hinddale 13 10 2 65 10 to Sam. Hinddale 13 10 2 66 10 to Sam. Hinddale 13 10 2 67 10 to Sam. Hinddale 13 10 2 68 10 to Sam. Hinddale 13 10 2 69 10 to Sam. Hinddale 13 10 2 70 10 to Sam. Hinddale 13 10 2 71 10 to Sam. Hinddale 13 10 2 72 10 to Sam. Hinddale 13 10 2 73 10 to Sam. Hinddale 13 10 2 74 10 to Sam. Hinddale 13 10 2 75 10 to Sam. Hinddale 13 10 2 76 10 to Sam. Hinddale 13 10 2 77 10 to Sam. Hinddale 13 10 2 78 10 to Sam. Hinddale 13 10 2 79 10 to Sam. Hinddale 13 10 2 80 10 to Sam. Hinddale 13 10 2 81 10 to Sam. Hinddale 13 10 2 82 10 to Sam. Hinddale 13 10 2 83 10 to Sam. Hinddale 13 10 2 84 10 to Sam. Hinddale 13 10 2 85 10 to Sam. Hinddale 13 10 2 86 10 to Sam. Hinddale 13 10 2 87 10 to Sam. Hinddale 13 10 2 88 10 to Sam. Hinddale 13 10 2 89 10 to Sam. Hinddale 13 10 2 90 10 to Sam. Hinddale 13 10 2 91 10 to Sam. Hinddale 13 10 2 92 10 to Sam. Hinddale 13 10 2 93 10 to Sam. Hinddale 13 10 2 94 10 to Sam. Hinddale 13 10 2 95 10 to Sam. Hinddale 13 10 2 96 10 to Sam. Hinddale 13 10 2 97 10 to Sam. Hinddale 13 10 2 98 10 to Sam. Hinddale 13 10 2 99 10 to Sam. Hinddale 13 10 2 100 10 to Sam. Hinddale 13 10 2

WANTED, an active steady Boy, about 14 years of age, as an apprentice to the printing business. Enquire at this office.