POETRY.

HUSKING,
By an AMERICAN.

THE days grow short; but tho' the falling sun
To the glad swain, proclaim his day's work done.
Night's pleasing shades his various tasks prolong,
And yield new subjects to my various song.
For now the corn house fill'd, the harvest home,
Th' invited neighbours to the *husking* come;
A frolic scene, where work, and mirth and play,
Unite their charms to chase the hours away.
Where the huge heap lies center'd in the hall,
The lamp suspended from the cheerful wall.
Brown corn fed nymphs, and strong heart handed beaux,
Alternate rang'd, extend in circling rows,
Assume their seats, the solid mass attack;
The dry husks rustle, and the corncobs crack;
The song, the laugh, alternate notes resound,
And the sweet cyder trips in silence round.
The laws of husking every wight can tell;
And sure no laws he ever keeps so well:
For each red ear a gentle kiss he gains,
With each smut ear he smuts the luckless swains;
But when to some sweet maid a prize is cast,
Red as her lips, and taper as her waist,
She walks the round and culls one favour'd beau,
Who leaps, the luscious tribute to bestow.
Various the sport, as are the wit, and brains
Of well pleas'd lasses and contending swains;
'Till the vast mound of corn is swept away,
And he that gets the last ear wins the day.
Meanwhile the housewife urges all her care,
The well earn'd feast to hasten and prepare.
The sifted meal already waits her hand,
The milk is strain'd, the bowls in order stand.
The fire flames high; and as a pool (that takes
The headlong stream that o'er the milldam breaks)
Foams, roars, and rages, with incessant toils,
So the vext caldron rages, roars and boils.
First with clean salt, she seasons well the food,
Then strews the flour, and thickens all the flood.
Long o'er the simmering fire she lets it stand;
To stir it well demands a stronger hand;
The husband takes his turn; and round and round
The ladle flies; at last the toil is crown'd;
When to the board the thronging huskers pour,
And take their seats as at the corn before.

LONDON. May 20.

Mr. JOHN HOLT, of Walton, the surveyor of agriculture, for the county of Lancaster, has been presented with a cow calf, whose dam is in the 32d year of her age; a fact which can be ascertained from certain date. And, what renders the circumstance more remarkable, the dam of the calf, whilst in the possession of the present proprietor, can never be said to have been properly out of milk for the last fifteen years. The young female calf seems very healthy and a beautiful creature.

June 7.

The following extraordinary circumstance is reported to have recently occurred at Aughrim, on the borders of the county of Wexford, in Ireland:—a young woman employed in the field fell asleep, and as she lay down an asp crept down her throat; on awaking she became very sick, and for some time continued very ill, with all the symptoms of a rapid decay: a surgeon was at length applied to, and on communicating to him these circumstances, he gave her medicine, and ordered that she should be suspended from the ceiling with her head down, as long as she could bear to remain in that position; the consequence was, the reptile of a greenish yellow colour, about four inches long, and one and a half in circumference, came from her mouth, attended by *eleven young ones!!* The young woman is now perfectly recovered.

From the FARMER'S WEEKLY MUSEUM.

"*Study to be quiet, and to do your own business.*"

THE Thessalonians, to whom this rule was given, were probably an inquisitive race, and like the men of Athens spent their time in nothing else, but either to tell or to hear some new thing. We must frame such a supposition to excuse St. Paul from the charge of impertinence. For nothing can appear more a work of supererogation, than to tell man, selfish by nature, to live in peace and to pursue his own advantage. Nature and the primary laws of being have told him so already. But this epistle, written at Athens, and sent to Thessalonica, that is from one tattling, idle city to another, was seasonable and proper notwithstanding all fine reasoning to the contrary. For myself I can affirm confidently that I need not turn over the archieves of the Thessalonians to discover a million of cases, where men study to be restless and pry into other people's business.

Impertinent curiosity is, however a vice of the village, rather than of the city. I am surprised that Paul did not give the direction in my text, expressly to the country people. For, though impertinence is not so local as never to be found, except in cottages still it is a fact that the *askers of news* and *wherefores* are generally villagers and not cities. In town, strange sights are so common, and the tongues of fame so numerous that each inhabitant, distracted with endless variety, thinks it better to mind his own business, than to inspect the concerns of a thousand neighbors. In the country, external circumstances being essentially different, hence the manners of the people assume a different color, there the incidents are so few, on which glutton curiosity can feed, that even *morsel* novelties are seized upon with avidity. A farmer's purchase of a silk gown for his wife, the *irregular* pregnancy of his daughter, I have known to engross, for weeks, the thoughts and chat of those vacant and meddling neighbor hoods, which disobey the precepts of Paul.

A certain elegant fabulist among the Latins, describes a race of the busy bodies, running wildly about out of breath with inquiring, prying into every nook, and, by their restless indolence, wearying themselves and tormenting others. This is a strong picture, and some might say overcharged; a DARBY's caricature of manners, rather than the natural strokes of an Italian. But I will engage to find the originals of this portrait, in every village I visit. Men in the country, no less than in towns, have various schemes to execute, and many duties, which ought to be discharged. But negligent of these, and with the beam in their own eyes, they go groping about to discover a mote in their neighbor's—'Tis a *mote*, in general that they gaze for most earnestly, and it is a mote that they magnify into a mountain.

This weak, if not criminal conduct is generally the first begotten of jealousy and rivalship. The malignant enquiries that are then made of a neighbor's fortune or fame are veiled by an affectation of impartiality and candor. But all may discern that such insidious queries, are like arrows discharged from a covert, meant to deeply wound and yet, by their course not to betray the archer.

What is it to thee, censorious woman, if thy frail sister, have lapsed by the way side; Doth her fall shake thy foundation, and thou hast to bear the burden of her suckling; Gaze not at her infirmity nor circulate her reproach. Con over the catalogue of thy own gallantries, and, trust me, thou wilt not have a moment left to read, or to compile a scandalous chronicle.

What is it to thee, meddling man, if thy neighbor's goods be attached, hast thou to pay the fees of the officer; Keep thy Ledger accurately, and peep not into his Day book: Ask not of his apprentices how they fare at their master's board, nor how many dollars he takes in a year. Study to be quiet and to mind thy own business, and thou wilt find that thou hast little leasure to take an inventory of another man's wealth.

THE LAY PREACHER.

STOCKBRIDGE. September 5.

"On Thursday, the 1st instant, a dwelling house in Lee; owned and occupied by Mr. *Josiah Willoughby*, and widow Lydia Bachus, took fire, and was entirely consumed. At the time of the melancholy accident, both families were several miles from home; but by the spirited exertions of some people, who had convened, for a religious conference, in a neighbouring school-house, some part of their furniture and provisions were rescued from the devouring flames. The loss sustained by these two families must be severely felt, and it is hoped they will have the pity, and experience the liberality of their fellow creatures."

Hezekiah Hutchens,

INFORMS his friends, that he has just received a handsome supply of English

GOODS,

at his store lately improved by Mr. *Seth Wright*, which will be sold on reasonable terms.—Likewise a few pieces India Cottons, Bandanno and Sosteray Handkerchiefs, by the piece or single yard, Hyson, Souchong and Bohea Teas of the first quality, Loaf Sugar, Chocolate, Pepper, Spice, Coffee, Ginger, Rice, Codfish and Cotton Wool.

Also, a general assortment of Crockery and Glass WARE.

Northampton, September 14. 1796.

Painters' Colours.

Ebenezer Hunt,

HAS just received from London a large and extensive assortment of PAINTERS' COLOURS, such as White and Red Lead, Spruce Yellow, Patent and Stone Yellow, Spanish Brown and Whiting, Prussian Blue, Vermillion, Umber—also, Gold Leaf, Gold Size, Sand Paper, Painters' Brushes, &c. Best Ground Camwood.

Drugs and Medicines, as usual. All which he offers for sale on the most reasonable terms.

N. B. White Lead and Spanish Brown by the Cask.

Northampton, August 10, 1796.

Salt and Flax-Seed.

Eleazer and William Porter,

HAVE a large quantity of SALT on hand, which they will exchange for FLAX SEED. Those gentlemen who wish to exchange, are requested to call and hear their terms—After they have seen those who sell "remarkably low for cash."

They have a large assortment of GOODS, as usual.

Those persons indebted, are requested to make immediate payment, to enable them to pay the demands against them—they expect to close their business soon, therefore hope this call will not be neglected.

Hadley, Sept. 5, 1796.

Reuben Bangs,

WOULD inform his friends and customers, that he has lately received a new supply of

West-India Goods,

Which he will sell on reasonable terms, for pay in hand or short credit.

He has on hand a quantity of excellent Rock Salt at his store in Chesterfield, and in Williamsburgh, which he will exchange by the cask or bushel, for Flax Seed, on very reasonable terms for the farmer.

He would inform those that are indebted to him at his store in Williamsburgh, that he will now receive in payment most kinds of produce; but those who neglect to pay him in produce must expect to pay the money, by the first of November next.

Williamsburgh, Sept. 1. 1796.

Cash and *Salt*;

and the highest price given in exchange for

FLAX-SEED,

BY DANIEL BUTLER.

Northampton, 6th Sept. '96.

Selah Norton,

ONCE more calls upon all those whose debts are due according to contract, to settle up by the first day of October next.

Ashfield, September 6, 1796.

A FARM

In *MONTAGUE*, TO BE SOLD CHEAP FOR READY PAYMENT.

ABOUT one hundred and twenty acres of Land, with a large dwelling house and barn, and a good orchard thereon—well proportioned into tillage—mowing, pasturing and wood land; and is situate on the County-road from Springfield to Charleston—within about one mile from the meeting house.

ALSO,

A home lot, containing about 11 acres of good land, with a dwelling house and a good shop, and a fine orchard standing thereon, lying about half a mile south east of the meeting house in Montague, and is a suitable stand for a tradesman or a trader.

For further particulars, apply to the subscriber living in Montague.

WILLIS TAYLOR.

September 5, 1796

For Sale,

A FARM lying one mile east of the meeting-house in Norwich, on the road leading from thence to Northampton—containing 100 acres—well accommodated with mowing, ploughing, pasturing and orcharding—a comfortable dwelling house—a good barn—a new cyder house, and a new mill, and press under it.——For further particulars, enquire of the subscriber on the premises.

CALEB RICHARDSON.

Norwich, August 30, 1796.

The subscribers wishes to

inform the public, that they have on hand, and are constantly making the best of Salisbury refined IRON—warranted good—on as reasonable terms as any can be had.

JOSHUA WHITNEY, and Co.

Pittsfield—1796.

Notice.

NOTICE is hereby given to the CONNECTICUT LAND COMPANY, That their stated meeting will be held at the State House in Hartford, on the 10th day of October next, at two o'clock in the afternoon.

That at said meeting, the report of the committee appointed "to report additional articles, as amendments of the Constitution of the Company" will be taken into consideration.

Notice is also given, That the Board of Directors find it absolutely necessary, to call on the proprietors, for the payment of the tax of 15 dollars, assessed on each of the shares of the company, in April last, and payable to the Clerk of the Directors, on the 10th day of October next.

The Directors do also give this further notice to the Proprietors, That at the aforesaid stated meeting it will be expedient, for the Company to elect and appoint the Committee of three or more persons, who are to divide the lands in the WESTERN RESERVE, according to the mode of Partition agreed to, by the Company, at their meeting in April last.

By order of the Board of Directors.

EPHRAIM ROOT. *Clerk.*

August 30th, 1796

PUBLIC notice is hereby given to the creditors of the subscriber, that he intends preferring a petition to the Legislature of the state of Vermont, at their session at Rutland in said state, in October next, that an act of insolvency may be granted him.

THOMAS WOODBURY.

Townshend, August 1, 1796. 6 w.

Notification.

THE Proprietors of the *Upper Locks and Canals* on Connecticut River in the county of Hampshire, are hereby notified, that a meeting of the said Proprietors will be holden on Thursday the sixth of October, at the dwelling house of Mr. ZENAS PARSONS in *Springfield*, at ten of the clock before noon, then and there to consider and determine, whether any, and what, alterations shall be made in the plans already adopted, for completing the objects of their incorporation.

SAMUEL HENSHAW, *President.*

JONATHAN DWIGHT, LEVI SHEPHARD, JOHN WILLIAMS, } *Directors.*

September 9, 1796.

AT a meeting of the Proprietors of *Locks and Canals* on Connecticut River at *South Hadley* August 24, 1796.

RESOLVED, that the Proprietors will relinquish, during the remainder of the present year, and until further orders to the contrary, the tonnage on all boats passing the Canal with five tons of goods and upwards.

Ordered that the foregoing Resolve be published in the *Northampton* and *Hartford* papers.

The above is a true extract from the Records.

Attest.—THOMAS DWIGHT, *Pro. Clk.*

Take Notice.

THE subscriber once more calls upon all persons indebted to him either on Book or Note (of more than one year standing) to make immediate payment thereof, as they wish to avoid being called upon in the name of the Commonwealth. He is determined to receive most kinds of farm produce in payment, (if offered.) He will attend on the business of receiving payment from the 24th to the 29th of October next, on each day in the afternoon.

JAMES BRADISH.

Cummington, Sept. 5. 1796.

ALL persons indebted to or having any demands on the estate of JOSEPH FORD late of *Worthington*, deceased, represented insolvent, are requested to call on the subscriber for settlement immediately.

BARNABAS PACKARD, *Administrator.*

Cummington, Sept. 6. 1796.

THE several Collectors in the County of Hampshire who have county taxes committed to them to collect, and have not paid the same, are hereby notified, that unless they complete their settlement with the subscriber, Treasurer of said county, previous to the next sitting of the Supreme Judicial Court in this county, warrants of distress will then be issued against them.

WM. PYNCHON.

Springfield, Sept. 5. 1796.

Just Published, price 2s.

American Cookery,

Or the Art of Dressing

VIANDS, FISH, POULTRY & VEGETABLES,

AND the best modes of making PASTES, PUFFS, PIES, TARTS, PUDDINGS, CUSTARDS AND PRESERVES; and all kinds of CAKES, from the imperial *Plumb* to *Plain* CAKE. Adapted to this country and all grades of life.

BY AMELIA SIMMONS,

AN AMERICAN ORPHAN.

☞ *A few copies of the above work may be had at the Book Store of Simeon Butler.*

For Sale,

A VALUABLE Farm, situated in the town of *Windsor*, two miles from the Meeting House, on the great road leading from *Northampton* to *Williamstown*, containing one hundred and ninety acres of Land, nearly one hundred acres under good improvement, and well fenced, about thirty acres of intervale on said farm, it is well proportioned for tilling, mowing and pasturing, and fire wood plenty, and will come handy to the house.—Said Farm is exceeding well watered in every part of it.—Also, has a good Orchard of about one hundred trees, the greater part of which bare.—Also, a good new convenient Dwelling house almost finished, a good wood house and horse shed, and a good hog pen with double roof on it.—Also, a good barn 40 feet long, and good stables set up at each end of the barn.—Also, a shed of 50 feet long, runs from the corner of said barn, and a good barn yard well fenced with stone wall, also, a good stream of water, runs summer and winter, very handy to the barn, which never fails.—Also, as good a garden as there is in the county, well fenced with stone wall and board fence.—Also, has a good well of water in the stoop room, adjoining the house.—The situation is very convenient for a Tavern, and will be sold very reasonable.—Any gentleman wishing to purchase a good farm for raising stock, may, for the particulars, inquire of the subscriber, now living on the premises.

WILLIAM COLE.

Windsor, (county of Berkshire) Sept. 6. 1796.

The subscribers being appointed

Executors to the last Will and Testament of *Elisha Porter*, Esq. late of Hadley, deceased, and having accepted that trust, hereby request all persons having demands against said estate, to exhibit them for settlement immediately. And they must insist on payment from those indebted to said estate, without delay.

The respective attornies in the county, and all others who suppose they have demands against said estate by means of the deficiencies or neglects of Deputy Sheriffs are desired to make it known to us, as soon as may be.

SAMUEL PORTER,
CHARLES PHELPS.

Hadley, August 23, 1796.

Horse Strayed or Stolen,

ABOUT the 25th of August, 1796, from Capt. Lemuel Bancroft's in Conway—if strayed, any person that will return him to Capt. Bancroft, or to Enos Smith of Granby, or give information to either of them shall be generously rewarded—if stolen, shall receive FIFTEEN DOLLARS for the Horse, or TWENTY for the horse and securing the thief; and necessary charges.

The Horse is four years old, rising fourteen hands and an half, a dark bay, blackish main and tail, a small white spot in the forehead, carries a handsome head, well formed before, behind he is slenderly made, trots with his hind legs near together—has been a little lame in his left hind leg, with a small swelling in the thin part of the ham—has a small white spot the forepart of the inside of the same leg, about the knee joint—had but one shoe on—in middling flesh—has not been used lately—is worth about SEVENTY DOLLARS.

ENOS SMITH.

September—1796.

ALL Persons indebted to me the subscriber, either by Book or Note, are requested to make speedy settlement, and payment without further notice, or they will be left in the hands of an Attorney to collect. EZEKIEL WHITE.

Williamsburgh, Sept. 14. 1796.

WANTED at the *Marble Manufactory* in Lanesborough, a couple of likely BOYS, not under 14. nor over 16 years of age; to serve as Apprentices to the business;——Enquire of the subscriber, ELIJAH PHELPS.

10th Aug. 1796.

STOLEN out of the pasture of the subscriber on the night of the 19th of July, in Schaghticoke, Albany county, a brown MARE, about 13 hands high, 4 years old this spring natural trotter branded on the buttock with the letters D. D. and has a white star in her forehead. Whoever will take up said Mare, and secure the thief, so that he may be brought to justice, and give information to *Daniel Diver* of Blanford, or the subscriber, shall receive Twenty Dollars reward, and for the Mare only, Ten Dollars with all reasonable charges. ANDREW DIVER.

August 2.

STRAYED *from the subscriber some time in August, a pair of STEERS, three years old last spring—one of them is all red, the other is a light red, with some white on his back and on his tail, marked with a slit in the end of each ear—Whoever will take up said Steers and give information where they may be found, shall be generously rewarded, by* BENJAMIN BARTLETT.

Northampton, Sept. 12. 1796.

BROKE *into the inclosure of the subscriber, the 17th of August last, five young CATTLE, viz. four Heifers, and one Steer—one of the Heifers will calve soon——The owner is desired to prove his property, pay charges, and take them away* about the quickest.

SIMEON ROOT.

Northampton, Sept. 14. 1796.

Came into the inclosure of

William Sheldon, on the 4th of June last, three old SHEEP and two LAMBS.——The owner is desired to prove property, pay charges, and take them away.

Northampton, Sept. 2, 1796.

Hampshire Gazette.

PRINTED AT NORTHAMPTON (MASSACHUSETTS,) BY WILLIAM BUTLER.

[—Vol. XI.—] WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 28, 1796. [—No. 526.—]

Communications from the Rev. Dr. PETERS, residing in Great Britain.

No. 22, York Street, Westminster, July 17th, 1794.

Reverend and dear Brother,

THE 5th day of July current, I had the honor of receiving your polite, communicative, and friendly letter, dated at Manchester, in the state of Vermont, the 27th day of last February.

At present I can only thank you for the communications respecting the prospects you have in the state of Vermont of seeing an increase of the Protestant Episcopal Church; and that, to promote it, the Convention had *pretty unanimously* chosen me to be their Bishop.

This event (though unexpected to me) I view as the work of God, and could have had no objection to go over and spend my few remaining days amongst my friends in my native country, to build up the church of Christ, for which I have labored and suffered all my life, but the fear of the want of *unanimity* in the church, which naturally leads to schism; and from my imperfections and insufficiency to fill the Episcopal chair in a state famed for wisdom and learned men.

However, depending on God, the wisdom of the wise, the charity and prayers of all; I have determined to accept of your election, as the call of Jesus Christ the Lord. To this purpose I have written my letter, addressed to all the churches in Vermont, of even date with this, which you, as Secretary of Convention, will have the goodness to communicate to that venerable body first, and they to the churches spread over the state of Vermont, in such a manner as you and they shall judge to be most proper.

I must now inform you, that I cannot go over to you, nor have consecration here, until the letter of the Convention to the Arch Bishop of Canterbury [*en passant*, very handsome and full] comes here with the seal of your state, or of the notary public, certifying the existence of the Protestant Episcopal Convention of Vermont, and that, they have elected the Reverend SAMUEL PETERS, L. L. D. to the Bishop of Vermont, as appears by the signatures of the committee of the Convention, together with its President and its Secretary: In testimony of which I have hereunto fixed the seal of, &c. &c.

Had you thought of this *canonical rule* last February, and sent the seal fixed to either of your letters, No. 1, or 2, addressed to the Arch Bishop of Canterbury, I could have seen you before next Christmas: But now I must be deprived of that pleasure until the winter shall be past; at which time I shall set out, in hopes of seeing and blessing you before I die.

The letter addressed to me from the committee of Convention, dated last February, honored me, and secures my gratitude and respect. I wish that I was better able to support their high esteem and expectations; but so far as my abilities fall short, so far, I trust, my zeal and labors in my station will exceed their hopes.

Evident is the necessity of a Bishop resident, to set things in order, and promote harmony in the churches: And I have no doubt of receiving every respect due to the sacred office or myself, both in a spiritual or temporal manner; yet I feel it to be my duty to tell you a circumstance possible to happen. As soon as I am consecrated Bishop of Vermont, a foreign state, my present support from this government may be withheld:—Should this event take place, I shall have no resource but what shall arise from the churches in the state of Vermont, now in *their infancy*. The fact is, "I want but little here below, nor want that little long." My mind and merits claim no more; yet the dignity of the station which you have given to me, and the primitive hospitality belonging to the Episcopal chair, demand your and my attention; lest my reputation and the fashion of religion dwindle away through my poverty, in the highest office of Christ's church.

Should the English Bishops neglect to consecrate me, because you have three Bishops in the States of America already consecrated by the *English Bishops*, and plead the limitation of the act of Parliament for their neglect, I shall apply for consecration to the college of Bishops in Scotland; because your *three* Bishops reside too remote from one another, and from the state of Vermont, to be convened by me.

I am, with perfect esteem and sincerity, Reverend and dear Sir, your and the Convention's most honored, and most humble, Servant,

SAMUEL PETERS.

The Rev. Mr. DANIEL BARBER, *Secretary of the Convention of the Episcopal Church of Vermont, and Rector of Manchester and Pawlet.*

To the Churches of Christ spread abroad in the state of Vermont, mercy, peace and love be multiplied.

UNTIL I come, give attendance to reading, prayer, and faith. When present with you, by the grace of God, I will lead you through the wilderness of life, up to a world that knows no sorrows: I will guide you with mine eye, and feed your lambs and sheep, with bread more durable than the *everlasting hill*.

Whilst absent from you in body, I am present with you in mind, thanking God always in every prayer of mine, and making request with joy for your fellowship in the gospel of his son; that you may be of good cheer, and overcome a world yielding no content, the only wealth of man; and that you may know how to be abased, and how to abound; every where and in all things to be instructed to obey the laws of Christ.

The spirit which heals all our infirmities, no doubt, led you to glorify God in me, when you appointed the least of all saints to fill the highest station in the Church of Jesus Christ; duty and inclination, (with feeble blood flowing in my veins) inspire my soul to seek and do you good in that sacred office to which you have invited me; being confident that you will receive me with all gladness, and hold me in reputation for the work of Christ, which brought me near to death, and shall finally make you my glory and my joy.

Your preferring me to my superiors, both in spiritual and literary attainments, honors me most unexpectedly, and demands my best returns of gratitude and labors of love.

Should providence conduct me over the dangers of the sea to my native shore, and give me the blessing of seeing again my long absent friend, I shall rejoice as Simeon did at his vision, and with him say, "Lord, now let me depart in peace—for mine eyes have seen thy salvation." Though I may blush when you discover my improvements not adequate to your expectations, and my opportunities in this life of wisdom and learning.

Should my insufficiency in spiritual and scientific knowledge appear too manifest among you, my zeal and labors in the vineyard of the Lord shall, I trust, be your pride and boast: In this hope, and resting on the candor, order, morality, learning, piety and religion of those over whom I am well chosen to preside, I shall with some degree of confidence undertake the charge, and claim the wisdom of the wise to enlighten my understanding, and the charity, and prayers of all to remove any wants, and to lessen my manifold imperfections.

Whenever I come unto you, it will be in the fulness of the blessing of the gospel of God; I beseech you therefore Brethren, for Christ's sake, & the love of the Spirit, that you strive together in your prayers to God for me, that I may come unto you with joy, and may with you be refreshed.

"Be you wise unto that which is good, and simple concerning evil."

The Churches of Christ salute you.—Salute one another with faith and love.

I salute you all with the peace of God, which passeth all understanding; and is the mystery of the everlasting God made known for the obedience of faith.

"To God only wise, be glory through Jesus Christ forever, Amen.

Dearly beloved brethren; whether absent or present, believe me to be with all sentiments of respect and fidelity, your servant in Christ,

SAMUEL PETERS.

York street, Westminster—London, July 17, 1794.

THE *EPISTLE* FROM THE *YEARLY MEETING*,

Held in *London* by adjournment, from the 15th to the 25th of the fifth month, 1796, inclusive.

To the Quarterly *and* Monthly Meetings *of* Friends *in Great Britain, Ireland, and elsewhere,*

DEAR FRIENDS,

We find our friends again engaged to send you the salutation of our love in CHRIST; desiring that; as we have been careful not to address you in formality, not without a fresh belief that it is our duty, so ye may not consider this our epistle as a customary matter, nor read in that disposition that is always seeking after some new thing; but may be willing to consider what parts of it are applicable to your own respective states; and let the expression of our concern for your present and everlasting welfare, receive and retain a sufficient place in your minds.

The accounts of the sufferings which have been sustained by our friends in *Great Britain*, as now reported to this meeting, amount to 8658l. about 1000l. of which consists of distraints for the late assessment for manning the navy; the rest, as usual are chiefly for the tithes, and demands of a similar nature. The amount of sufferings brought in from *Ireland* is 2303l. As we are informed that an opinion publicly prevails, that the purpose of these accounts is in order that the sufferings may be reimbursed, we desire friends every where, as occasion may offer, to contradict this opinion which hath no foundation in truth.

The friends mentioned in our last epistle to be imprisoned on account of our testimony against tithes, still remain prisoners in the county goal of *York*; objects themselves as well as their afflicted families, of the sympathy of their fellow professors; to whose lot it hath not fallen to experience treatment so rigorous.

We have this year received epistles from our friends of the yearly meetings of *N.* and *S. Carolina* and *Georgia*, of *Virginia*, of *Pensylvania*, of *New-York*, and of *New England*, evincing their continued concern to support our testimonies and our christian discipline. The inhabitants of the continent dwelling in fertile regions once possessed by different tribes of the Indian natives, are doubtless bound to regard them with benevolence; accordingly we find our friends engaged in an undertaking to furnish them with some of the comforts of civilized life. A fund is raising to supply the expence of instructing them in agriculture, in mechanic arts; and some useful branches of learning.

On examining into the state of our society in these nations, we find cause to believe, that in many parts, the attention of friends is gradually fixed more and more closely, on the excellence of the several testimonies which we are required to bear; and we are persuaded, that were our members universally more loosened in their affections from the profits and friendship of the world, the standard of truth would be more conspicuously and availingly displayed.

Let us consider, Brethren, what is the cause of our dissent from the prevailing opinions and practices of the age. Is it not that we most firmly believe that our faith is more consistent with the evangelical purity of the primitive times; and our manners less liable to promote an attachment to a world that passeth away? How then shall we set the candle which hath been thus mercifully lighted in any of us, under the bed or the bushel; giving up any part of our testimony, be it ever so small, for the sake of ease, or of outward advantage?

The Beloved Apostle declared, that "God is light, and that in him is no darkness at all." A manifestation of this divine light, in infinite mercy, is given to every man, to lead him out of the misery of fallen nature, into the eternal fountain of life and light. In every heart, and in every society of people, in which place is given to any kind of unrighteousness, an eclipse of the light necessarily follows as far as the compliance with evil extends; and if this state be continued in, spiritual death must ensue. Wherefore brethren, in your conduct as individuals, and in the part which ye take in the exercise of the discipline established amongst us, be ye animated to resist every appearance of evil; remembering, that as our Heavenly Father cannot unite with darkness, so neither must these unite with it, who desire to attain fellowship with him, in which fellowship our happiness consisteth, both in time and eternity.

In these times of worldly commotion, the concern still remains with us, that our brethren may be preserved from joining with any thing that immediately or remotely conduces to promote it. And although of late we have from year to year testified our desire, that friends may take no part in that which genders strife, we still fear all are not sufficiently cautious, or sensible of the advantage of mixing as little as possible with the fluctuating politicks of the times. For truly, were all concerned to work out their salvation with fear and trembling, the mind would be preserved on its proper centre; and to mix with the multitude in their pursuit of the favorite object of any party, would be dreaded rather than desired.

Respecting the slave trade, though we have no good tidings to proclaim, we feel ourselves unwilling to pass it over in silence. As a body, we have been among the foremost to express its turpitude; and although it doth not appear at present to be our duty to take any public step, as the advocates of this degraded class of our fellow creatures, we still continue to view the commerce with unremitting abhorrence; and we much desire that no one, once touched with a sense of their complicated woe, may suffer its being thus dreadfully protracted to efface the impression from his memory, or sympathy from his heart.

This meeting hath been very large, and our minds have been much exercised in a travail for the cause of truth. O, friends of every description, how would ye contribute, not only to your own peace as individuals, but to render our assemblies, under the sanction of the Great Master, seasons of rejoicing, were ye all to be engaged in earnest, each one for himself to do away the hurtful and hindering things, which, ye must be sensible, are yet to be found within our borders!

Finally dear Friends, remember the apostolic declaration, "The foundation of God standeth sure, having his seal, The Lord knoweth them that are his." Strive therefore to become such by obedience to his holy law. It hath been our uniform and constant testimony, that God hath vouchsafed his grace and good spirit unto the children of men universally as the means of their sanctification. May ye therefore in your several degrees of growth, evince and recommend your belief in it, by dwelling under its holy influence Again, in Gospel affection, we salute you, and bid you farewell.

EDWARD GIBBON, Esq.

This great historian, descended from an ancient family in the wilds of Kent, was born at Putney in Surrey, on the 8th of May, 1737. His infancy was marked with great corporal weakness and infirmity, but an attachment to arithmetic, at a very early period, which rendered him capable of multiplying and dividing two sums of several figures by memory alone, seems to have denoted a vigorous mind. His education was partly received at home, partly at Bath, and other places, where he resided for the restoration of his health, and partly at Westminster. In April 1752, he went to Oxford, where he remained but a short time, in consequence of his having embraced the Roman Catholic Religion. He was now sent to Lausanne, in Switzerland, where, under the tuition of Mr. Pavillioud a calvinist minister, he was not only made a good classical scholar, but restored to the protestant faith. To this banishment Mr. Gibbon acknowledges that he owed whatever had been the fruits of his education. He returned to his father, who was now retired to his seat at Buriton Hants, in 1758; and was received with every mark of parental affection. After residing at home about five years, during which time he became a captain of the Hampshire militia, his father being major, he again visited the continent and made the tour of France and Italy. It was while he sat contemplating amidst the ruins of the capitol of Rome, on the evening of the 15th of October, 1754, that the Idea of writing the Decline and Fall of the city, first started to his mind. More mature deliberation extended it to the Fall of the Roman Empire, which he has so nobly completed in six volumes, the three last of which were published on the 51st anniversary of his birth day, May 1788. The greater part of this work was completed during a retirement of some years in Switzerland, after the abolition of the Board of Trade, of which Mr. Gibbon, then in Parliament, had been appointed one of the Lord's commissioners, by the recommendation of Lord Chancellor Loughborough.

In 1793, he came over to condole with his *illustrious and learned* friend, *Lord Sheffield*, on the death of that nobleman's excellent lady; and he died the 15th of January, 1794, at his lodgings in St. James's street.

His remains were deposited in *Lord Sheffield's* family burial place in Sussex; and his lordship has honored Mr. Gibbon's memory, by becoming the editor of his Miscellaneous Works, including the Memoirs of his own Life. Notwithstanding the exalted abilities of our chief historians "those who have enjoyed the society of Mr. Gibbon," says Lord Sheffield, will agree with me, that his conversation was still more captivating than his writings."

LONDON, June 17.

In a discussion upon some insult which several members of the council of five hundred experienced, Tallien not contented with the inveighing against the particular act from which it arose, launched out into general reflections upon the Directory, affected to consider this insult as a more dangerous conspiracy against the national Representatives than that lately discovered, and lamented the progress of what he termed a re-action; by which he meant that the government had for some time past, in the disposal of places and the encouragement of individuals, discovered a strong partiality for the cause of royalty.

The appearance, the language, the late conduct of Tallien produced a general expression of indignation in the council, more vehement than decorous. Thibaudeau, a member of great character, in an eloquent and energetic speech, exposed the insidious declamations of Tallien. He displayed the indefatigable activity, the different shapes, the varying conduct and language of the party of Terror, and their restless activity to acquire power; he recalled the massacres of September and 31st May; the connection of the partizans of Terror with the late conspiracy; and in fine the true re-action, which he said proceeded from the detestable and sanguine faction.

These sentiments of the council seemed almost unanimous in favour of the proposition supported by Thibaudeau, and the sentiments he expressed. The character of Tallien appears to be perfectly understood, and to be completely detested. The temporary reputation acquired by this changing politician has been unable to efface the general character and impression of his life and of his conduct. Disappointed, perhaps, in his expectations of power and influence under the new constitution, he may have been induced to alter, or at least to wish success to the views of the Jacobins, and the authors of the late conspiracy. His language seems to support this conjecture. If these be his wishes, and if he spoke as the organ of the remnant of the system of Terror, the spirit and indignation displayed by the council of five hundred would infer, that the adherents of this system are few, and that among the respectable part of the assembly none were found to listen with approbation to his declamation.

But if the enemies of the present constitution, and the authors of the late conspiracy, expect support from some members of the legislature, the preservation of tranquillity will depend in a great measure upon the vigilance of the Directory, and the activity and vigor with which they employed the power which they possess. That they will bring these qualities into action, there can be little doubt. Their ambition will rally on the side of their virtue.——They will exert the abilities which they unquestionably possess in the maintenance of order, and of that constitution which secures their own power.—They will be seconded by the virtuous parts of the Legislative bodies. At present the great majority in both houses seem cordially to co-operate with them. The French nation has suffered too much for the revival of the system of terror. They know its leaders too well to entrust them confidence or power. The bulk of the people are pleased with a government, which combining the vigor of a monarchy with the forms of a republic, has flattered their national pride by a series of splendid and unrivaled success. From these causes, if the events in France did not set all conjecture at defiance, we should be inclined to speculate in favor of tranquillity, and to conclude that Paris will not be the scene of those sudden and rapid revolutions, by which it has been so much agitated and disgraced.

Morn. Chronicle.

The disastrous consequences of the arrogance and obstinacy of ministers, and of their hollow hypocritical overtures of peace, would rouse the British people to a sense of their danger, if they were not bound down and silenced by the myriads of placemen, pensioners, contractors and their dependants, that swarm and domineer these kingdoms. The contest between France and the allies is unequal. The French government knowing no failure in the war, would excite the indignation of the people, and perhaps bring on the destruction of the present rulers, exert every energy and infuse