FOR THE FEDERAL GAZETTE.

York County, June 21, 1803.

Messrs YUNDT & BROWN,

PERMIT me to inform you, that your description of Babylon (in your paper of June 11) is not correct. It stands not on the Euphrates, but 8 or 9 miles below Bagdad, on the Tigris, 150 miles from the nearest part of the Euphrates. The walls are still visible, and they are not 60, but only about 3 miles in circuit. As to serpents and scorpians being there more than in other places, I never heard it asserted before. Tavernier was there, and says nothing of it. Who built the city first is disputed; some say Belus, some Semiramis, and some other persons—This matter cannot now be known with certainty: but we may be very certain that Nimrod did not build it; he was the son of Chuz, the son of Cham, the son of Noah. Every Armenian will tell you that Noah lived and died at Nakshivan, within 9 miles of Mount Ararat. Japhet went into Europe, and Shim into India: They were, it seems, graceless lads to run away from their father so far. Nimrod, it appears, had no body to help him but his brothers, his uncles, and his father and grand-father, and we may reasonably suppose this last was too old to do much. Now Tavernier tells us that the walls were built of bricks 10 feet square and three feet thick. Can you, gentlemen, think that so few hands could mould such bricks, and wheel them, and stack and burn them, and put them on the wall? No, sirs—not if they had their sisters and aunts and grand-mother to help them; though I should think the old woman would be obliged to stay at home and cook. These bricks weigh each 37,500 pounds, avoirdupois, according to my hydrostatic tables.

Bagdad stands in Curdestan (Assyria) 400 miles below Mosorel, by old Nineveh, 8 times as big as Babylon, and 550 miles above Bassora, near the mouth of the river. It is a walled town, with ten old towers for bastions, and 5 gates, but two are shut up. Near the cattle stands Mazan Capi at the north end. The black gate (Cara Capi,) stands at the south end, and at Sore Capi is a bridge of 33 boats, that leads into Diarbek, (Mesapatomia). The city is a mile and a half long and half as broad; but is not half inhabited, and has only about 15,000 people.

From Aleppo it is 17 days journey on horseback to Bagdad, and every step thro' a desert, even through Mesapotamia, and cannot be travelled without a guide; that is, when you take the nearest way by Taiba, Meshed-Rabba, and Anna, on the Euphrates. At Bagdad you are half way to Ispahar from Aleppo, and the worst half by odds—All at present from your friend SOLOMON SWINGLE,

School-master, in N. Town, York county.

From the Utica Patriot.

We hear it frequently and confidently asserted in the federal papers, that the cause of federalism will eventually prevail, and that the good sense of the people will ere long reinstate in them correct sentiments. I sincerely wish for such an event, not merely because I am of that party, but because I am persuaded that the measures adopted and pursued by the federalists, were eminently conducive to the good of our country.

I have long doubted, whether a government so lenient as ours, was suited to the corrupt bias and habits of depraved man; yet the advantages peculiar to our country, furnished grounds to hope, that we might succeed better in the experiment than former republics had done. The infant state of the country, the general diffusion of information and above all, the prevalence of moral and social virtue were pledges of success. These, however, it is to be feared, will be found insufficient to arrest the progress of a fatal disorder which preys upon the vitals of our government. This distemper of the mind is contagious, it spreads like wild fire, and by the agency of a few ambitious demagogues soon becomes epidemic. For want of a name which suits me better I shall call it *democracy*. It is not a fixed principle; but the offspring of a distempered brain—a kind of blind, mad phrenzy, generated more by the turpitude of a corrupt heart than by external circumstances; it is not peculiar to this country, but has been the bane and ruin of ancient republics. Free governments are always more or less affected by it, and what fate our government will experience we have yet, in *some* measure, to learn. It is simple in its composition. Examine it and you will find it to consist only of ambition and insubordination; and one short sentence is found a conclusive argument to justify all its operations, namely, *the good of the people*. This sentence is of unlimited significancy, "it answers all things."

It is often asserted that the American people are abundantly able to govern themselves. Yet I have doubts on that head. It must be confest, that a great share of the people in this as well as other countries, are unwilling to submit to necessary restraint—are not peaceable citizens. And it is a fact in this, above all other countries, that by importation and other means, this class of men is rapidly increasing. Now should such men form a majority of the community, which may Heaven prevent! should men who wish to live "unembarrassed by too much law, control that *omnipotent fiat*, the voice of the people," what kind of government may we then expect? I would not insinuate that we ought to throw our liberties at the feet of a despot, and invite slavery, for fear we abuse our privileges. No: I think our government, with all its imperfections the best form of civil government in existence. And I think we ought cheerfully to submit to its reasonable restraints, in opposition to a revolutionizing, to a disorganizing spirit—we ought to reflect that whilst it gives us liberty to be happy, it gives us liberty also to destroy ourselves and it together—that we believe the almost forgotten fact that "man in his best estate is altogether vanity;" that he is not that angelic creature which some conceive him, "and that unembarrassed" by restraint he is a dangerous animal; that human governments will ever be defective in proportion to the imperfections, not to say corrupt propensities, of those who frame them—and that light and information, however dignified, while the turpitude of the heart is not removed, will not produce corresponding intentions and conduct.

It has been foolishly and irreverently asserted, that "the voice of the people is the voice of God." This, however, is not contained in the holy scriptures, but we are indebted for this very important information to modern philosophy. But let us enquire for a moment what this multiform deity hath decreed. In ancient Rome it hath one year sent men who were the pride of the republic, into exile, and the next, without any change of circumstances, recalled and invested them with the first honors of the state. In France it hath lately required a monarch to be beheaded, now a despot to be crowned—and in our own country the same voice which at the commemoration of the death of Washington was the first and the loudest to 'mourn the hero dead,' is ready to brand his name with charges of corruption and cowardice—to join with Paine, his infamous defamer, in taxing him with designs on our liberties, and with endeavors to establish in our country a privileged order of men and an absolute monarchy.

What in the name of common decency, has General Washington done in his grave, so much to provoke its resentment! But it is the voice of the people, and therefore cannot err. This indeed may be the voice of a god, but to my ear it sounds somewhat like the voice of one who is not immutable.

It is no slander to say that man is inclined "to forsake his own mercies."—Adam, while participating complete felicity and perfect innocence, was as fair a candidate for persevering in rectitude of conduct, as any man can be supposed to be *unacquainted with modern philosophy, and who had not a soul elevating dalliance with the immortal goddess*, REASON. Yet he found himself "embarrassed by too much law;" he took the infection of democracy—he felt it rage—he felt the effects—and the issue is well known. He received the infection warm from hell, and a physician was never more busy in inoculating for the small-pox than the devil is now in spreading democracy.

PEASANT.

From the New-York Evening Post.

"We are willing to give ample credit to general Hamilton for great talents *in his profession*, great address *as a politician*, great courage as a soldier and *great ambition as a statesman*. His talents, his address, his courage, and his ambition, we believe, have been studiously devoted to his *own personal aggrandizement*."

[*National Ægis.*]

In answer to this pitiful attempt to defame, it might be sufficient to present a single fact—Mr. Hamilton was certainly more than any man able to calculate very early on the consequences of funding the debt, and it will easily be seen that he might, directly or indirectly, have availed himself of his knowledge, to extend his private fortune to any nameable amount. It is well known, however, that an incessant diminution of that fortune was the result of his going into the treasury, and eventually rendered it necessary for him to resign his situation and return to his profession for a support.

But instead of disputing with a pert and saucy jackanapes, whose impudence is only equalled by his malice, one of those egregious triflers, whose vanity scruples not to sacrifice truth to the rounding of a period, we shall, as a satisfactory refutation of this abuse, present the impartial opinion of one who will be allowed full credit: One whose attribute it was to see more deeply into real character than almost any other man, and who was intimately acquainted with Mr. Hamilton for a long course of time, both during the revolutionary war and since. Two years after his retirement from public life, Washington thus expressed himself in a letter to Mr. Adams:

Extract of a letter from general Washington to president Adams, dated Mount Vernon, September 25, 1798.

"It is an invidious task at all times to draw comparisons, and I shall avoid it as much as possible; but I have no hesitation in declaring that, if the public is to be deprived of the service of colonel Hamilton, in the military line, the post he was destined to fill will not be easily supplied; and that this is the sentiment of the public, I think I can venture to pronounce. Although colonel Hamilton has never acted in the character of a general officer, yet his opportunities, as the *principal* and most *confidential* aid of the commander in chief, afforded him the means of viewing every thing on a larger scale than those who had only divisions and brigades to attend to:—who knew nothing of the correspondencies of the commander in chief, or of the various orders to, or transactions with, the general staff of the army.

These advantages, and his having served with usefulness in the old congress, in the general convention, and having filled one of the most important departments of government, with *acknowledged abilities and integrity*, has placed him on high ground, and made him a conspicuous character in the United States and even in Europe. To these, as a matter of no small consideration, may be added that as a lucrative practice in the line of his profession is his most certain dependence, the inducement to relinquish it must in some degree be commensurate. By some he is considered an *ambitious* man. That he is *ambitious* I shall readily grant, but, *it is of that laudable kind which prompts a man to excel in whatever he takes in hand.*

"He is enterprising, quick in his perceptions—and in his judgments *intuitively great*: Qualities essential to a great military character, and therefore, I repeat, that his loss will be irreparable."

Now then let the malignity of age dictate and boyish vanity endite—here is the testimony of one who could not be mistaken, and who was incapable of deception.

From the Virginia Gazette.

Mr. Livingston and Louisiana.

It seems to be well understood that Mr. Livingston had not only laid the foundation, but had proceeded far in those measures which were necessary to obtain the cession of Louisiana before the arrival of colonel Monroe. Mr. Livingston, no doubt, saw that a war with Great Britain, considering the naval superiority of that country over France, and the defenceless situation of New-Orleans, would put it in the power of the British government to take possession of that country, without opposition. He has therefore acted the part of a prudent agent, by introducing a negociation, which alone saved the French from the risque of losing, and affording a colorable pretext for strengthening the good understanding between the countries.

Without derogating, in the smallest degree, from the merit of colonel Monroe, or pretending that he would not have, done as much as the nature of things would permit, there certainly can be no necessity for ascribing to him services which he has never performed, and adopting a language which is calculated to take the laurel from him who has earned it. In this paper doubts were formerly expressed, as to the propriety of sending an ambassador extraordinary to France, under the circumstances which existed. And the great delay between the appointment and the departure, clearly proved, that the executive did not suppose that there was any important point which required immediate attention;—and it must be evident to every one, that the arrival of the ambassador extra, when the negociation was more than half finished, would tend to shew that the executive of the United States were too jealous to allow a trifle to delay or impede the accomplishment. If so, the presence of the ambassador extra, if it had any influence, would tend to raise the demand to a larger sum than that which was before contemplated.

Let the idolatrous advocates for presidential infallibility, ponder a little upon these things; and let them in the height of their zeal, recollect, that truths of this sort cannot be *obscured by the votes and resolutions of congress*; especially too, as the sense of personal injustice, which Mr. Livingston must feel for himself, will induce him or his friends, to shew things as they are.

Without saying in express terms that the price was increased by the arrival of colonel Monroe, we certainly do not hazard any thing in saying, that nothing was gained by it, and still less in saying that many thousands of dollars have been lavished away upon the enterprize, which, by the event, appears to have been unnecessary, perhaps injurious; an enterprize, which excited the apprehensions of all America; because it is always presumed when ambassador extraordinary are sent to great nations, that the causes must be important.

Ours, to be sure, is a *wise and economical government*. Judges are dismissed whose salaries amount to 200 dollars per year, and ten times the sum is given upon a wild goose chase. Taxes upon carriages and loaf sugar are repealing and the deficiency is supplied by selling bank stock, at a disgraceful loss, and in a most imprudent and shameless manner. We have made many efforts to induce people to reflect, because we know that reflection is the preliminary to conviction.

From the CHARLESTON COURIER.

In the courier of the 17th ult. we published an account cooked up by a Baltimore jacobin, in which it was asserted that Mr. Tracy had been here in company with the vice-president of the United States, general Pinckney, &c. &c. visiting every bye corner of the state; and that the whole party had gone on to Boston together. Convicting the antifederals of falsehood is only throwing water on a drowned rat. To add one more to the innumerable instances of their *fabrications detected*, is just the same as adding one notch to a close nicked tally of a thousand miles long. Some credulous old wives have entertained a traditionary notion, that the length of every human creature's life is limited to the time of his or her eating a peck of dirt. If the lives of human creatures were limited to the inventing a given number of dirty slanderous fables, the public would be very early deprived of the services of those gentlemen.—As one in a million of instances, let the public only recollect the confidence with which it was, as above mentioned, stated as a matter of fact, that Mr. Tracy had gone to Boston in company with Mr. Burr, general Pinckney, and others, and the unjust inferences which were attempted to be drawn from that fabricated circumstance. One would think that there was a competition between those men and the public, with an enormous wager depending upon it, which excelled, the one in invention, or the other in credulity—the one in fabricating extravagant untruths, or the other in swallowing them. Surely in the opinion of men of common sense, their veracity must be forever disabled by this one simple falsehood, which would certainly be persevered in, if Mr. Tracy were not at the very time in Charleston. Nay, which probably will be persevered in, through every part of the union where the eyes of the people were not in the way to be witnesses against the assertions of those worthies.

BY THIS DAY's MAIL.

NEW-YORK, July 18.

Captain Irvin, of the sloop Sally, in 16 days from Antigua, has furnished us with the following information:—On the 20th June, the British brig Busy, mounting 16 guns, captured a French ship from the Coast of Guinea, with 337 slaves, 120 boxes of gold dust, and 460 elephants' teeth, and carried her into Antigua. On the 22d of the same month, a French sloop, laden with coffee in bulk, and bound for a port in the United States, was captured by the same brig, and carried into Antigua. On the 28th, the captain of the Busy, sent his boat, well manned, into St. Pierres, (Martinique) and cut out a large French merchant ship coppered to the bends, and carried her safe into Antigua. On the 29th, 5 sail of the line, 2 frigates, 2 sloops of war, 3 transports, with 7000 troops on board, proceeded from Antigua on an expedition against Martnique, with the intention of reducing that island. When the intelligence of war reached Antigua, three or four French vessels were lying there, who put to sea on the following night, having considerable property on shore. A very severe impress took place just before the departure of the expedition against Martinique—the American vessels in port were stripped of all their hands in one night, but such as had protections or could prove their citizenship, were released the next day.

Accounts of the capture of Tobago had been received at Antigua.

A fleet of seven sail of the line and four transports had arrived at Barbardos, and had captured 10 French transports on their passage.

The Emerald, Centaur, and Blenheim, of 74 guns each, and the Venus frigate, had cut out of St. Pierre's and Port Royal 32 sail of French merchant vessels.

Prices current at Antigua. Flour, 10 dollars; corn, 1 dollar per bushel; staves, £16 10, currency, per thousand; boards, £9; beef, 13 dollars; mess pork, 16 dollars.

Captain Stewart, of the British armed sch'r John, from Montego-Bay (Jam.) informs us, that the armed brig Hunter arrived at Port Royal 25th June, with dispatches from the British government, announcing the renewal of hostilities. It was said she had captured a French merchant vessel on the passage, and had carried her into Port Royal. On the 15th June, the English fleet of merchantmen, consisting of 43 vessels, sailed for Europe, under convoy of eight sail of the line, two of which were to proceed to the end of the voyage; and the remainder to return to Jamaica. About 11 ships of the line, besides a number of frigates and smaller vessels, were at Jamaica when captain Stewart sailed.

An apprentice boy was drowned yesterday morning in Swartwout's Bason, North River, as he was bathing. He was an expert swimmer; but, it is supposed, he was seized with the cramp, and immediately sunk. All efforts to save him were ineffectual.

Amongst the vessels which yesterday sailed from this port, were the Sophrona, Gillender, for Bordeaux. The Orozimbo, Tilton, for Hamburg. The Aspasia, Sisson, for Amsterdam. The brig Wealthy Ann, ——, for Canton.

Cadwallader D. Colden, esq. went out in the Sophrona for the benefit of his health; together with a number of French and other passengers. Mr. Schiffelin, and Mr. Mantin, of this city, were of the number.

Arrived on Saturday, the sch'r Resolution, Betner, in 7 days from Newbern, N. C. On Sunday last capt. B. saw a bright-sided brig, of about 200 tons, which he believed had a head, on shore 2 miles to the southward of Cape Hatteras. He was informed that no brig was on shore there the day before, of course she must have gone on the preceding night.

Same day, the British armed sch'r John, captain Alexander Stewart, in 19 days from Montego-Bay (Jam.) The brig Integrity, Crow, from New-York, entered the day the John cleared. The ship Alknomac, Gore, of New-York, was to sail from St. Lucea for New-York the 28th of June. Spoke, July 6, on the coast of Cuba (Dolphin Head) the brig Venus, 35 days from New-York for New-Orleans; also a schooner 25 days from Charleston for New-Orleans, short of water. July 17, in lat. 36, 30, long. 72, 30, sch'r Liberty, from Philadelphia for St. Kitts.

Same day, the new ship Mary, Goodrich, in 7 days from Newburyport. The Mary was bound to Norfolk, for freight; but, on account of head winds, put into this port.

Same day, the schooner Juliana, Morse, from North-Carolina.

Same day, at quarantine, the ship Alexander, Wasson, in 6 days from Charleston.

Arrived yesterday,

The pilot boat James Daniel, Kelly, from St. Mary's, and last from Charleston, in 3 days. The brig Echo, Webb, was to sail in 3 or 4 days; the brig Enterprize, the next Sunday; and the brig Venus, in 6 or 7 days, all for New-York.

Same day, the schooner Paragon, Jackson, in 7 days from Richmond. The schooner Pearl, Thompson; and Dispatch, Clarke, were to sail for New-York, in 3 or 4 days.

Same day, the sloop Polly Content, Cutler, from Duck Creek.

Same day, the British brig Albion, Walters, in 28 days from Harbor-Grace, Newfoundland. Spoke, on Saturday, 15 leagues from Sandy Hook, a Spanish brig from Norfolk, for Lisbon.

Same day, the schooner Hazard, Ethridge, from North-Carolina.

Same day, the schooner Good Intent, Daniel, from North Carolina.

Same day, the brig Concord, Farnum, in 8 days from Charleston. Spoke, yesterday week, off Charleston Bar, the brig Ann Maria, Hand, 6 days from New-York, for Savannah.

Same day, the schooner Sarah, Tolor, from North-Carolina.

Same day, the brig Columbia, Trefry, in 53 days from Lisbon, and 8 from Baltimore.

Same day, the English brig William Pitt, Woodbury, in 21 days from Port Antonio, Jamaica. Left, ship Elizabeth, Morris, of and for Philadelphia, to sail in a few days.

Same day, the sloop Polly and Nancy, Faffitt, in 3 days from Snow-Hill.

Same day, the sloop Sally and Mary, Bishop, in 4 days from Snow-Hill.

Same day, the schooner Anna Rebecca, Walker, in 11 days from Fredericksburg.

Same day, the sloop Sally, Congdon, in 10 days from Washington, N. C.

Same day, the schooner Columbia, Handy, in 3 days from Cape Henlopen, having been on shore there for some time past.

Same day, the schooner Patsy, Gray, from North Carolina.

Same day, at quarantine, the brig Phœbe, (late captain Benson) of Poughkeepsie, in 15 days from Martinique.—Captain Benson died on the 4th of July, and the day following one of the seamen also died: The mate is now at the marine hospital in a state of convalescence.

Same day, the schooner Unity, Lambert, in 28 days from New-Orleans. The Unity landed a number of passengers at New-Castle, Del.

Same day, the schooner Two Brothers, Brown, in 5 days from North-Carolina.

Same day, the schooner President, Lewis, in 8 days from Charleston.

Same day, the sloop Sally, Ervin, in 16 days from Antigua. The brig Argonaut, Hawley, was to sail for Bridge-Port, or New-York, in 10 days.

Came up from quarantine, the brig Rockland, King, from Cape Francois; and the ship Alexander, from Charleston.

The brig Harmony, Hunt, has arrived at Kingston, Jamaica.

Cleared, ships Aspasia, Sissen, Amsterdam; Nereus, Brockbank, Liverpool; brig Hunter, Green, Surrinam; schooners Eagle, Wood, Barbados & a market; Plutus, Dill, Barbados and a market; Harvey, Ray, Barbados; Solifidian, Benjamin, Trinidad; Linnet, Patterson, Halifax; Little Edward, Crowell, Charleston.

A LETTER

From the reverend doctor Peters, of London, to the owners and keepers of Sheep in the United States of America.

Gentlemen,

Formerly I lived amongst you and kept sheep; but could not keep them clean of ticks, enemies of the comfort and health of sheep, and also destroyers of wool and its growth.

Most certainly this inconvenience rested in my ignorance of the efficacious method used in Europe, to prevent or destroy those nauseous insects which are pernicious and mortal to sheep.

It is evident that the climates, food and waters of America are as salubrious to sheep and their wool, as the climates, food and waters of Spain, France, England, or any part of Europe; yet your sheep in America are not so large and healthy, and their wool is not so long and fine as in Spain, France and England. This difference is artificial, and by no means natural: as I will endeavor to prove, by the wisdom, experience and care of shepherds in Europe.

1. The sheperds of France and England take special care to give their sheep plenty of food, both in winter and summer, that they may never be struck with poverty.

2. They prevent their sheep taking colds, (which stop the mucous matter slavering through the nostrils, and brings on the poke, a mortal disease) by a shelter that keeps off the snow and rain during the severity of winter, and leaving the sides and ends of the shelter open to the winds, necessary to moderate the heat natural to sheep, which resists all cold winds, but cannot endure humidity.

3. They at all times keep their sheep clean of ticks, who are generated by poverty, dirt, colds, damps and ill health.

I have said, poverty is kept off by a plenty of food, dirt and colds are kept off by a circulating air, under a cover which shelters them from snow and rains in winter—and they keep them clean of ticks by means of an ointment, (which I shall describe) they rub on in October annually in the following manner, and for this reason the shepherds call October, the *saving month*.

To salve a sheep; the shepherd parts the wool with his fingers on the back bone from the head to the end of the tail, then with two fingers rubs the unction plentifully on their skin or flesh: so that the ointment may spread by heat of the body two or three inches down each side from the ridge-bone.