

We insert with pleasure the following letter, which we have just received, and request a continuance of our new correspondent's favors.

FOR THE FEDERAL GAZETTE.  
Mr. Printer,

I belong to a small society, who meet once every week, at Mrs. B.—n's tavern, to smoke a pipe, learn the price of produce in the city, hear the news, and chat over a bottle of general Miller's best Madeira. Our members consist of Mr. Richards, the village school-master; farmer Williams; squire Stump; doctor Steel, and myself; whom they have dubbed Treasurer, because it falls to me to settle the reckoning (which I do once a month) provide tobacco, and keep our accounts.

We were all of us not a little surprised the other evening, to learn from Tom Twist, who was just from Annapolis, that our assemblymen had taken it into their heads to address the president of the United States, upon (as Tom said) the present posture of affairs. As most of the members are well known to some one or other of us, you may well imagine, that we waited with anxiety the arrival of the newspaper which contained it. At last it arrived.

The school-master having read over the address with an audible voice, as is his wont, observed, that for his part, if he had the power he would exclude every man from the general assembly, who could not write grammar. That's provided for, said squire Stump, by our constitution, which forbids the people almost in express terms from electing blockheads, by laying them under an obligation to chuse "the most wise, sensible and discreet." I know that, replied Mr. Richards, but the constitution does not require that those who are elected, should understand the rules of grammar. You have only to give your attention to the very first paragraph of this address, to be satisfied of the necessity of adding such a provision to our constitution.

"It being congenial with republican principles to consider devotion to public service, as originating from nobler motives than those which are excited from expectation of pecuniary rewards; under this impression, we think the approbation of a grateful people, the greatest reward a nation can bestow on her deserving executive."

Here the verb "consider," stands without a nominative, unless we give to it "republican principles" for one, and if we do so, these principles must be converted into sentient beings, for they must think or consider. With respect to the word devotion, it looks neither like "an act of piety, or reverence," nor like "devotion, or devoutness," to have placed it where it stands. "Nobler motives than those [motives] which are excited from the expectation of pecuniary reward." These are fine words, but arant nonsense. A love of fame, or the emoluments attached to office, may excite men to serve the public, but they do not excite motives. They constitute motives, not excite them.

Mr. Richards, said farmer Williams, I care less about the grammar of a thing, than I do about its sense and truth; and an always disposed to make allowance for the misuse of a word, provided the meaning intended, can be fairly come at. I presume the addressers meant to say, that there are republicans who give their services to the public, without the expectation of reward, and that Mr. Jefferson is one of them. If they believe this, I shall not contest their belief. But what could have induced men unacquainted with cabinet secrets, men whom every body know so well, to talk about our foreign relations, concerning which they can certainly know nothing. They keep no spies in England, France or Spain, to advise them how matters stand with us there, and surely what the president has thought proper to conceal from congress, he has not communicated to them. If their account may be depended upon, "the American character has been exulted abroad by Mr. Jefferson;" but as this fact rests entirely on their simple assertion, I wish to God they had thrown out some clue by which it might have been authenticated. Should it be really so, said Dr. Steel, which I hope with all my heart, it would be unfortunate were any of these gentlemen to take it into their heads to visit Europe.

The addressers, said Mr. Williams, further inform us, that despots have endeavored to destroy the principles of the government; but that "the wisdom and vigilance of our president, have happily warded off the blows which have completely secured to us life, liberty and property." All this I must say, is news to me, but if there has been such an attempt upon our lives, liberties and properties, and Mr. Jefferson has completely secured them, I am really, for one, most obliged to him. This battle of the despots, said the schoolmaster, reminds me of the sham fight which Sancho Panza had to maintain in defence of his government of Barataria. I am told, said squire Stump, that our governor is a very deep man. Perhaps, it was from him the addressers got their information about this battle and the defeat of the despots.

I perceive, farmer Williams, said doctor Steel, who sat on his right hand, that you have passed over, without a word of com-

ment, a very prominent part of this production. The addressers tell us that they would "not act agreeably to the will of the people, if they were to neglect to assure him (Mr. Jefferson) of their unabated confidence in his wisdom and virtue." Now, whether their confidence be unabated, or diminished, I am certain the will of the people neither required them to express it nor to conceal it. This attempt of the addressers, said Mr. Williams, to call in the people to countenance this proceeding of theirs, did not pass unobserved. I fully intended to notice it, when I came to notice a more striking assumption of power, I mean their open invasion of the right of the electors of president and vice-president of the U. States. "Sir (say these addressers to Mr. J.) whilst we bear testimony of our approbation of your administration, permit us to solicit you again to take the helm of government." Here again, said the schoolmaster, is composition for you with a witness. I shall not, said Mr. Williams, quarrel with the addressers on that account; but I really begin to be seriously alarmed, at seeing men, who scarcely know how to do the business for which they are deputed, meddling in affairs which they can know nothing about, and which is carefully concealed from them, and formally sending an invitation, which they had no authority to send. If Mr. Jefferson shall appear to the men who shall be chosen to elect the president and vice-president of the U. States, as well qualified, as any of those who have pretensions to the high office he now fills, it is probable they will re-elect him; but most assuredly, legislators, convened in their legislative capacity only, overstep the bounds of modesty, and their constitutional limits, in inviting any person "to take the helm of government." Neighbor, said the doctor, will you make no allowance for extraordinary cases and conjunctures. Perhaps the addressers were of opinion that their act might tend to relieve the people from suffering for fear Mr. Jefferson would not serve them a third time: you and I may think, that if the people have fears, they are groundless; but no matter, if they fear, the sensation is troublesome; and if they are troubled, they are troubled, and it signifies nothing for us to tell them they need not fear, and that their trouble is groundless. Doctor, said Mr. Williams, fair play is a jewel. I have always considered it criminal to usurp power, or to deceive the people, tho' it were to ensure to them the continuance of a present good.

Neighbor Williams, said the squire, I every day get more and more bewildered about the meaning of what the addressers call republican principles. They boast that "it is congenial with republican principles, that republicans should serve their country, without the expectation of pecuniary reward," and yet I never have known one of them to serve the public without being well paid for it. They keep bawling in our ears, genuine republicans want nothing, and in the mean while, like hungry dogs, seize upon every thing, down to the very offals. It stands unrepealed in the constitution of Maryland, that "a continuance in the first departments of power or trust, is dangerous to liberty; a rotation, therefore, in those departments, is one of the best securities of permanent freedom." The addressers have promised to support this constitution; but before leaving the house in which they made this promise, they consider as nought this best security of freedom. Of what avail are principles, if on every occasion they may be disregarded. I am sick, sick of witnessing such scandalous duplicity, on the part of men calling themselves republicans, and such lamentable stupidity on the part of a people calling themselves free. Friend Stump, said Mr. Williams, though these things are calculated to excite disgust, as well as alarm, let us not despair of the commonweal. There is still, I flatter myself, a fund of good plain sense in the country, which will one day rouse the people from their slumber. Truly, said the doctor, this same good plain sense has itself had a long nap, but perhaps, it will only be the more vigorous when it awakes. It will never wake, said the schoolmaster, till all men are taught grammar and the rules of composition. Then I should fear, said Mr. Williams, it would never wake.

Pray, doctor, said the squire, have you heard who is the author of this address? Mr. Twist says our legislators only gave it their sanction. I differ from Twist in this particular, said the doctor. The address carries with it internal evidence that it is exclusively the manufacture of such men. I am yours, &c.

EPHRAIM MILDMAY.  
January 12.

From the People's Friend.  
Prize Medal.—With the view of exciting an honorable and useful competition among the engravers of our country, Messrs. Collins and Perkins, having selected several of the most eminent in their profession, gave to each a subject to engrave, and offered a gold medal to the best.—When the plates were finished, they were submitted to the examination of the president and directors of the American academy of arts.—The opinion of the board, as to the collective merit, of the whole, and the comparative excellence of several, is expressed in the following letter from colonel Trumbull.

We cannot here omit to remark, that Messrs Collins & Perkins, in consequence

of this liberal offer, to advance the art of engraving in our country, by calling forth the ablest exertions of the best talents, have procured for their correct and elegant Bible a collection of plates much superior to any before executed in America. If publishers generally, would offer similar incentives to the exertion of the artist, while their own interest would be advanced, one of the most valuable of the fine arts would be patronized and improved by the fostering hand of private munificence.

New-York, January 3d, 1807.  
Messrs. Collins & Perkins.

Gentlemen—Your letter of the 2d inst. together with the specimens of engraving, executed in this country, for your bible, to which it referred, was duly received, and considered by the directors of the society of arts.

I am charged, gentlemen, to convey to you the expression of the high satisfaction with which the directors viewed these specimens of rapid improvement in the art of engraving; and to say that while all are justly to be regarded as honorable evidence of the exertions of the several competitors, they cannot refrain from expressing the very particular pleasure with which they viewed *The St. Paul*, (a) *The Providence*, (b) and *The Holy Family*, (c). The works of native American artists (two of whom are unassisted by any advantages from foreign education) and all of which must be deservedly considered as unequivocal evidences of great talents, and sure promises of early, and future excellence.

While the directors bestowing this justly merited applause upon the gentlemen, who executed the three plates before mentioned, justice required that they adjudged your medal to the engaver of *The Finding of Moses*, (d) whose superiority on this first competition was naturally to be expected, from the superior advantages which he has enjoyed in receiving his professional education in Europe.

The directors hope that other opportunities of competition, laudable as that which you have given, will soon occur, to call forth new exertions of genius and industry. And judging from the first exhibition, they cannot but indulge the hope of soon seeing this branch of the polite arts carried to a degree of perfection in America, which shall excite the surprise and even the emulation of Europe.

I have the honor to be with great respect, gentlemen,  
Your most obedient servant,  
JOHN TRUMBULL.

[a] *Tribute*. [b] *Seaman*. [c] *Maverick jun. [d] Lency*.

#### EFFECT OF MUSIC.

The following memorandum concerning the influence of music on the common mouse, was communicated to the editor of the *Medical and Physical Journals* by Samuel Craimer, M. D. of Jefferson county, Virginia.

The following circumstance was related to me by a gentleman of undoubted veracity.

One evening in the month of December, as a few officers on board a British man of war, in the harbour of Portsmouth, were seated around the fire, one of them began to play a plaintive air on the violin.

He had scarcely performed ten minutes, when a mouse, apparently frantic, made its appearance in the centre of the floor, near the large table which usually stands in the ward-room, the residence of the lieutenants in ships of the line. The strange gestures of the little animal strongly excited the attention of the officers, who, with one consent, resolved to suffer it to continue its singular actions unmolested. Its exertions now appeared to be greater every moment. It shook its head, leaped about the table, and exhibited signs of the most extatic delight.

It was observed, that in proportion to the graduation of the tones to the soft point, the extacy of the animal appeared to be increased and vice versa. After performing actions which an animal so diminutive would, at first sight, seem incapable of, the little creature, to the astonishment of the delighted spectators, suddenly ceased to move—fell down—and expired without evincing any symptoms of pain.

Extract of a letter from the secretary of the American legation at Paris, to the American consul at Rotterdam, respecting an American prisoner in France.

PARIS, September 1st, 1806.

SIR,  
I have had the honor of receiving your letter of the 18th instant, in which you express an interest in the confinement of Mr. SHAW. His liberation, with that of the other Americans, has been lately demanded by his excellency the minister plenipotentiary of the United States. The minister at war transmitted, with his answer, a copy of the matricular list, or register, on which Mr. Shaw's name is inserted; and, opposite to his name, it is stated, that RICHARD SHAW was a naval surgeon on board the frigate the Shannon. Before an American can be enlarged, who is considered an English prisoner, four things are required by the minister at war:

1stly. He must exhibit proofs that he is an American.  
2dly. That he was not a combatant, and did not belong to the crew of the vessel in which he was taken.  
3dly. He is to designate the vessel, and  
4thly. He must mention the port into which he was conducted.

We have received documents which prove that Mr. Shaw is an American citizen. The others are required; and I have written to him on this subject.

It is unfortunate, that a distinction is made by the French government, between natives, and the adopted citizens of the U. States; and equally so is the opinion, that there is nothing more easy than to procure certificates of citizenship, although a foreigner

may have resided but a few months or weeks in the country.

You may be assured, sir, that the American minister has, as much as is in his power, exercised his authority for Shaw's release, as well as that of the other prisoners. His feelings would be much gratified by their immediate enlargement.

(Signed)  
D. B. WARDEN, Sec'y, &c.  
LAWSON ALEXANDER, Esq. American consul, Rotterdam.

BAMBERG, October 8.

His majesty the emperor and king, has published the following address to his army: "Soldiers! The order for your return to France was scarcely issued—scarcely had you approached the frontiers, when triumphal festivals were awaiting you, and preparations were making for your reception.

"But while we gave ourselves up to this fallacious security, new attacks were meditating against us, under the mask of friendship and alliance.

"The cry of war resounded in Berlin; and for two months past our attention has been excited more and more every day. The same faction, the same giddy spirit which, in consequence of our internal divisions, had, fourteen years ago, led the Prussians to the plains of Champaign, presided over the councils of Prussia. They no longer wish to burn Paris, and to level it with the ground, but their object was to plant their standards in the capitals of our allies. Hence they were solicitous to compel Saxony, by an humiliating convention, to renounce its independence and degrade itself into a Prussian province; and thus their final objects were to tear the laurels from your brows. They want us to withdraw our troops from Germany, in the very face of an enemy. Blind, infatuated men! They may wish for this measure, but it would be much easier to destroy our capital, than the honor of the children of the great nation, or to sully that of our allies.

"Their first plans were baffled: they met death, defeat and humiliation, on the plains of Champaign. But their experience has been effectual, and they are men in whom the sentiments of hatred and jealousy are never extinguished.

"Soldiers! There is not one among you who would wish to return to France by any other way than that of honor. We must never enter our country but under triumphal arches. We have braved the seasons, the seas and the deserts, which all Europe has frequently armed against us. For this our fame has been extended from east to west, and that we may now prevent our allies from having to say, that we returned to our country like fugitives, or that the French eagles had been terrified at the sight of the Prussian armies. Already have these armies moved forward against our advanced posts.

"Since our moderation has had no effect, let us therefore march upon their insolent presumption. The same fate which the other armies 14 years ago suffered, awaits this Prussian army. They may learn that it might have been easy to have obtained power and increase of territory by a friendly connection with the great nation, but that its enmity (which can only be provoked by the rejection of all wisdom and understanding) is more dreadful than the storms of the ocean.

"Given at our imperial head-quarters at Bamberg, October 6.  
"NAPOLEON."  
(Undersigned) "marshal BERTHIER."

PARIS, October 20.

The following letter to the king of Prussia, was carried by captain Montesquieu, who set out from Gera, on the 13th of October, 1806, at 6 o'clock, A. M. and arrived at the camp of gen. Hohenlohe, at 4 P. M. Gen. Hohenlohe detained that officer and took from him the letter he was the bearer of. The army of the king of Prussia was 9 leagues farther back. This prince then ought to have received the letter of the emperor at the latest, at 6 in the evening. They assure, however, that he never received it before the 14th, at 9 in the morning—that is to say, when they had already begun to fight.

It is likewise reported, that the king of Prussia then said: "If this letter had arrived sooner, perhaps we would not have fought; but the heads of those men are elated in such a manner, that if there had been yesterday any mention of peace, I could have brought back to Berlin one-third part of my army."

SIR, MY BROTHER,  
I have only received, on the 7th, the letter of your majesty of the 25th of September. I am sorry that you have been made to sign that kind of pamphlet.\* I answer it only to protest to you, that I shall never attribute to your majesty the things contained therein—all are contrary to your character, and the honor of both.

I pity and despise the writers of such a work. I have received, immediately after, the note of your minister of the 1st of October. You have given me a rendezvous of the 8th, and as a valiant knight, I have kept my word; I am in the heart of Saxony. May your majesty believe me, I have such forces that, with all yours, you cannot long contend with me for victory.

But why should we shed so much blood? for what end? I shall hold the same language to you that I have held to the emperor Alexander two days before the battle of Austerlitz. Would to Heaven that men, either sold or fanatical, greater enemies to yourself, and to your reign, than they are

\*This relates to the Prussian manifesto, published in the Gazette, December 13.

to me and my nation, had not given the same counsels to produce the same result.

Sir, I have been your friend for these six years. I am not willing to profit by this virtue, which gives the impulse to your councils and which has made you commit political errors, at which Europe is yet astonished, and military errors, the enormity of which Europe will soon resound. If you had asked me in your note, possible things, I would have granted them—you have asked my dishonor—you might have been certain of my answer. You have then waged war against me—the alliance is broken forever.

But why should we have our subjects butchered? I do not value a victory purchased by the lives of a number of my children. If I were just entering the military career, and if I could fear the chances of combat this language might be misplaced. Sir, your majesty shall be vanquished; you will have committed to hazard the tranquility of your life, the existence of your subjects, without the shadow of a pretext. You are as yet untouched, and can treat with me in a manner conformable to your rank. Before a month has passed away, you will treat in a different situation—you have suffered yourself to be acted upon by stimulations that were calculated and artfully prepared. You have often told me that you had rendered me some service; well! I am willing to give you the greatest proof of my gratitude. You have yet in your power to snatch your subjects from the ravages and calamities of war—it has scarcely begun; you may terminate it, and thereby do a thing grateful to all Europe.

If you listen to those frantic men, who, 14 years ago wanted to take Paris, and who now have embarked you in a war, and immediately after in an offensive plan equally inconceivable, you will do your people an injury which the rest of your life cannot amend. Sir, I have nothing to gain against your majesty; I wish nothing nor did I ever wish any thing from you; the present war is impolitic. I feel that I am perhaps irritating, in this letter, a certain susceptibility natural to every sovereign; but the present circumstances allow of no softening; I tell you things just as I think them.

Besides, your majesty, give me leave to say, that there is no great discovery for Europe to learn that France is three times more populous, as brave and as warlike as the dominions of your majesty—I have given you no real cause for war. Order this swarm of evil minded and inconsiderate men to be before your throne, in that respectful silence that is due to you; I restore tranquility in your own breast as in your dominions. If you never again find in me an ally, you will find a man desirous of only making wars when indispensably necessary to the policy of my people, and not to shed blood in a contest with sovereigns who have with me no opposition of industry, commerce and policy.

I pray your majesty to see in this letter nothing but the desire that I have of sparing the blood of men, and to withhold from a nation that geographically cannot be at enmity with mine, the bitter regrets of having too much listened to ephemeral sentiments that are excited and calmed easily among the people.

I pray to God, sir my brother, to keep you in his holy and sacred keeping.  
Your majesty's good brother,  
(Signed) NAPOLEON.

In my imperial Camp of Gera the 12th Oct.

NORFOLK, January 6.

Arrived,  
Ship Eleanor, Lord, 62 days from Cadiz, in lat. 22, long. 68. spoke ship Eliza, Shirley, 14 days from Barbados, bound to Norfolk.

Schooner James, Waughop, 14 days from Bermuda.

December 28th, off Cape Henry, spoke a ship from Guadaloupe, bound to Norfolk.

Ship Fame, Howland, 3 days from New-Bedford.

The brig Nancy, Powers, 25 days from Jamaica. Left there discharging their cargoes, the ship Four Friends, Phillips, of Philadelphia, and the brig Twins, Nicholds, of New-York. On the 17th ult. was boarded by a French privateer and plundered of some provisions and a considerable part of our clothing, being then in sight of Cape-Antonio.

The schr. Sea-Flower, Swain, 12 days from New-York.

Vessels detained at Bermuda, December 18, 1806.

Ships Eliza, Harton, Newburyport; Titus, Cushing, New-York; brigs Virginia, Hill, Norfolk; Ann & Francis, Gifford, New-York; sch's Intrepid, Sutter, Philadelphia; Aspasia, Peck, trial in 3 days (cleared).

Cleared, sch's Charming Betsy, Murray, St. Lucia; Huldah and Anna, Fitzhugh, New-York.

By order of the Orphan's Court of Baltimore county.

This is to give Notice,

THAT the Subscriber, of the city of Baltimore, hath obtained from the orphan's court of Baltimore county, in Maryland, letters of administration on the personal estate of Dr. Landon M. Keckin, late of the city of Baltimore, deceased. All persons having claims against said deceased, are hereby warned to exhibit the same, with the vouchers thereof, to the Subscriber, on or before the 15th day of March next; they may otherwise by law be excluded from all benefit of said estate. Given under my hand this seventh day of January 1807.

JAMES TANNOCHE,  
Administrator.

All persons found using his Patent Apparatus for curing incurvations or distortions of the Spine, will be prosecuted according to law. January 8. Law 311.