

new constitution—and the proprietorship is abolished. There will be no maximum; and no assignat accepted in commerce—we have every reason to be satisfied.”

A French gentleman who arrived here yesterday in the ship Cleopatra, captain Headen, of Boston, informs that a peace with Spain was much talked of at Havre-de-Grace, and it was generally believed would soon take place, in case of such an event. Spain was to furnish a maritime force, to act in co-operation with the French and Dutch fleets. He also says, that in and about Havre, there were about three hundred flat bottomed boats in great forwardness; and that a proportionate number were building in the different parts of France. From these and other corroborating circumstances, it was the received opinion there, that a descent on England was in contemplation.

We have seen Havre-de-Grace papers to March 10th, which contain little news except marine intelligence. But one article deserves notice as it throws light on the real state of France. The printer of the Courier of that town states, that he has been inquired of, why he declines printing his paper on Sunday—(Dimanche.) He replies, that since the convention have granted freedom of religious worship, he chooses to keep the christian sabbath as formerly. He assigns as reasons that the human body will not well sustain the fatigue of labouring nine days in ten, according to the new French institution of Decades; and that he prefers an adherence to their old established customs. He wishes not to see France distinguished in every respect from other countries. This is a proof that the citizens of France have not before been free, and that the people are not by any means unanimously in sentiment with the convention. [Mtn.]

A gentleman who came passenger in the Iphigenia, arrived at Philadelphia, from Bourdeaux, informs us, that the Spaniards had made peace with the French. He assures us that this intelligence may be relied on, as it was communicated to him by Mr. Fenwick, the American consul at Bourdeaux.

Extra of a letter from a respectable gentleman in Havre-de-Grace, to a merchant in this city.

“The present will inform you of the happy change, which, in all probability, is about to take place in France. It is the public opinion here, that a peace will soon prevail. The army of La Vendee have entered into accommodation with the deputies of the convention. The general of the La Vendee, Charette, came to Nantes with 30,000 troops, with baggage, &c. All the people repeatedly vociferate huzza for the union! Before the arrival of Charette at Nantes, the people were reduced to four ounces of bread a day per person; and as soon as Charette came, 12 ounces were ordered.

“We don't yet know the conditions between Charette and the deputies of the convention; but it is believed, that Charette has made very advantageous conditions for himself and his army.

“Every thing shew us that the constitution of 1791 will take place. There is passed upon the door or gate of the temple where the Dauphin of France is confined, the following words: “France has put us in a lottery, and the first number that will be drawn, will be Louis XVII.”

“At Rennes, in Bretagne, and Caen, in Normandy, the people cry in the streets, “Huzza for Louis XVII.”

“France intends to re-establish her colonies, and give every satisfaction to the inhabitants.”

ANNAPOLIS, May 14.

On Friday last was executed, pursuant to his sentence, negro Ned, for the murder of Mr. Vachel Dorsey, son of John, of Elk-Ridge, in Anne-Arundel county.

For the MARYLAND GAZETTE.
The MEDDLER, No. XI.

O blest biography! Thy charms of yore
Historic truth to strong affection bore,
And fostering virtue gave thee as thy dower,
Of both thy parents the attractive power.

HAYLEY.

THE nature of the heart, and the disposition and qualities of any person of eminence, are best known and more clearly perceived by his conduct in the calm scenes of private life, free from the pageantry of state, and outward pomp. In public an appearance of virtues is assumed, to which no claim can be laid, a show of some good quality passes for a real possession, and deceives a short-sighted crowd, who solely judge from external appearances. A mask is put on, which disguises the real vices existing in the heart, and gives the picture of counterfeit virtues, which are utter strangers to it. I may also add, that any person in a public and conspicuous station, when he reflects that every eye is on him, and that he is the object of public attention, will, from a motive of pride, be ashamed to commit an action which would derogate from his dignity, which would render him an object of universal odium, and proclaim his infamy aloud to the world.

In private, every thing is divested of disguise, and we behold the man in his native character, without any glittering ornaments to captivate the fancy or mislead the judgment. No pretence is there made to qualities, which are not really possessed, and vices appear in all their deformity, not varnished over by the hand of art, and concealed from observation. The mind being free, and unfettered will act as the inclination leads, and follow its own sentiments not deterred by pride or custom, nor restrained by dissimulation.

That part of literature which leads us into a knowledge of the human heart must be peculiarly instructive and interesting. Biography, which gives us a view of persons in both public and private life, must appear to

every one to be replete with whatever can mend the heart, by its giving instruction in the form of amusement. Treaties of philosophy often fail of their effect and are little attended to, because they are generally delivered in dry systematical rules, which being rarely reduced to practice, make a very feeble impression on the mind. The best philosophy is received from experience and example, which are the strongest and most faithful counsellors. One, who to a strictness on morality annexed the idea of dulness, and fatigue, and who is disgusted with the very name, will be amused, and entertained with the life of some person of renown, will read it with avidity, and be agreeably betrayed into a system of ethics, more forcible and efficacious than a formal dissertation. Every thing is there reduced to experience, and brought forth to the view in the form of example, which is always more powerful than precept. He will see vice depicted in all its horrors, while virtue charms by her beauty and engaging aspect, though in the most unfortunate situation, though beating against the waves of adversity, and “struggling with the storms of fate.” Cæsar, who like a parricide plunged a poniard into the bosom of his country, will remain an object of detestation to the latest period. Cato will ever remain a glorious pattern of heroism, who disdained to pass under the yoke of an usurper, and chose rather to fall on his own sword, than to wear a life at the mercy of ambition. Plutarch, the model of biographical writing, gives to every character its proper due. He represents Cæsar as a trampler on the liberties of his fellow countrymen; he likewise shews that he possessed several very amiable virtues, which would happily have flourished if planted in a better soil, and if the voice of reason had not been drowned by ambition, and a fatal lust of sway. In Cato he shews you the stern inflexible patriot, adorned by the softer feelings and gentler virtues of domestic life, a tender and affectionate parent, a generous and faithful friend, a kind and indulgent master. The lives of this author are in every one's hands, and almost universally read; this would preclude any comment or description of them, but their character is so beautifully drawn by a celebrated poet, that it would be unpardonable not to transcribe the whole passage.

O blest biography,
First of thy votaries, peerless, and alone,
Thy Plutarch shines by moral beauty known:
Enchanting sage! whose living lessons teach
What heights of virtue human efforts reach;
Though oft thy pen, excentrically wild,
Ramble in learnings various maze beguiled;
Though in thy style no brilliant graces shine,
Nor the clear conduct of correct design,
Thy every page is uniformly bright
With mild philanthropy's diviner light.

HAYLEY.

History and biography both aim at the same end, an account of men, and manners, they are closely allied, and walk hand in hand; but while the former, for the most part only represents men in a public capacity, and as their conduct is connected with the affairs, and government of a country, biography shews them not more in the boisterous sea of politics or warfare, than in the gentle current of domestic leisure; the one takes a partial view, the other comprehends the whole group. In history no one is noticed farther than as he is a good citizen, a loyal subject, a gallant general, or just the reverse. Biography traces him down to his home and family, and views him in an undress, when hypocrisy has dropped the mask, and vanity laid aside her robes. By history we may be said to get the gold in a solid lump or mass, of which we know not the purity of the interior part; biography gives it in its utmost expansion, in which case it is easy to examine the quality of every part of the metal, to see which is mixed with a portion of alloy, and which pure and unadulterated.

It has been observed by an author, that there is no one, however unimportant, the history of whose life would not be advantageous to others, because there are features which will be alike in each man's character, and that there are no two men whose condition, and disposition are not similar in some respect. If we read the life of a person, perhaps in the vale of obscurity, we will find something in it which will suit ourselves, and bears a familiarity to our own case. Every age and condition must therefore receive a benefit from the life of any person; we will all be profited by some particular circumstance in it, which will more deeply interest, and more strongly improve, according as it approaches nearer to our own situation in this life, and as in it we see painted our own condition.

It must, however, be confessed, that this species of writing, labours under some disadvantages. Many biographers, wishing to give the reader a better knowledge of the person, whose life they write, often dwindle into a trifling insignificance. They relate his most trifling sayings, and give the most uninteresting particulars, because a man's natural disposition is best known, sometimes by a casual expression, or unguarded speech. One of my predecessors observes, that posterity will not be under many obligations to Mr. Tickell for the many trifling incidents, he has given of Mr. Addison, especially for the information, he has transmitted, of the uncommon beating of his pulse; perhaps that biographer supposed that any particular about so celebrated a character could not fail to interest.

Those who write the life of any person, sometimes are his most intimate and dearest friends, bound to him by the closest ties. Hence they often represent him in the most favourable light, give us a panegyric instead of a real character, a partial account where we expect a faithful history. But to this there are many exceptions. Out of so great a number, let us instance a Plutarch, among the ancients, and the biographer of the English poets among the moderns; who represent

each character in its proper colours, and just proportion; unless the latter may be said to have been too much warmed by a generous goodness of heart, in giving a picture of the unfortunate savage.—If so it is a virtuous failing, and ought to be overlooked.

In reading biography the old and young will find improvement; every profession and condition of life will receive its benefit; in short, as long as curiosity shall bear its sway with the mind, and promote inquiry, it will remain a pleasing and useful study, which at once satisfies the eagerness for novelty, and blends instruction with amusement.

BENEVOLUS's favour is received and will appear in the next number.

THE ANNAPOLIS DRAGOONS will parade in front of Mr. Wharf's tavern, at 3 o'clock, on Saturday the 23d instant. The punctual attendance of all the members is expected. These gentlemen who, having joined the troop, have not yet equipped themselves are desired to do so, or at least to procure the uniform by that time; and those who propose to join it are requested to sign the instrument of enrolment (which is left at the Printing-Office) on or before that day, in order that they may be comprehended in the returns which is shortly to be made.

JOHN KILTY, Captain.

CARROLL'S ISLAND,

At the mouth of Gunpowder river, between that and Middle river, in Baltimore county.

To be RENTED or LEASED,

With the Hands and some Stock,

TO a substantial tenant, of a fair character, who can give good security for the payment of the rent, and the performance of other conditions that may be required, particularly with respect to the support and treatment of the hands. Besides the profits of the land, (which in the grazing line may be very considerable, as there is not a foot of the upland but may be made, in a few years, with industry, excellent meadow in timothy and clover) there is a fishery, which, if well managed, will yield, at least, three hundred pounds per annum clear of expence—it has yielded much more—the large rock fish in the Baltimore bay, at the breaking up of the ice, have testified this annually for some years past. It abounds with wild fowl in the proper season, and all kinds of fish that usually frequent our rivers. In the whole tract there are upwards of one thousand acres, a great proportion of it is of the first marsh, perhaps, in the state, both for grazing and hay. Black cattle prefer the latter to fodder, and may be kept in fine order on it all the winter, after which, with the spring and summer grazing, they may be made excellent beef by the middle of August. A quantity may be cut, and easily cured, as the marsh is firm, to winter, if necessary, upwards of three hundred head of cattle.

A free current of air from all quarters renders this place very healthy. It may be entered on the 5th of November next; that being the expiration of the present tenant's lease.

Mr. Richard Grey, on Mr. Bowly's farm, at the mouth of Middle river, will shew the place, and give satisfactory information concerning the above particulars. Any person desirous of becoming a tenant, is requested, will view the premises, and make the proper inquiries, before application be made for terms.

NICHOLAS CARROLL.

Annapolis, May 8, 1795.

NOTICE,

THAT the COMMISSIONERS of the TAX for Anne-Arundel county, will meet at the city of Annapolis, on the first Monday in June next, to hear appeals from all persons who may think themselves overcharged by the assessors of said county.

A Latin School.

THE subscriber wishes to take the charge of eight or ten boys, without delay, and instruction in the LATIN LANGUAGE, &c. at his own house, situate in St. Mary's county, in the vicinity of the Cool Springs. Punctual and diligent attention will be paid to the moral and literary improvement of such young gentlemen as may be put under my tuition. On Saturdays I shall instruct them in reading English authors, arithmetic, writing Latin and English, &c. The price of tuition will be seven pounds per annum. Very good convenient board may be had in the neighbourhood for the above mentioned number of boys, at a moderate price. I will board a few boys myself.

STEPHEN CAWOOD.

E. C. 10th May, 1795.

Latina Schola.

SUBSIGNATOR exoptat accipere curam octo vel decem puerorum, sine mora, & docere eos Latinam linguam & cetera, suae domi sitae in Sancta Mariae comitatu, in vicinitate Frigidorum Fontium. Accurata & diligens attentio dabitur morali & literariae amplificationi eorum parvorum generosorum qui supponantur meae tuitione. Diebus Saturni, institutum est Deo juvante, legendo Anglicanos auctores, arithmetica, scribendo Latine & Anglice, &c. Pretium tuitionis erit £. 7 per annum. Optimus & convenientissimus convictus habeatur, in vicinitate, paucis sumptibus, moderata mercede. Accipiam paucos convalescentes egomet.

S. CAWOOD.

E. C. decimo die Maii 1795.