

It has been remarked, that fires are more frequent in London than in any other city in Europe, except Constantinople, owing principally to the unnecessary timber used in the construction of our buildings. In France and Germany, the vestibules, entrances, corridors, &c. of their theatres and public edifices, are all plastered or stuccoed, floored with brick, flagged, or tiled, as well as the apartments of most houses, particularly of the lower classes; the staircases of stone or brick, girded with wood, and timber is solely used in doors and windows for beams, roofs, and rafters; materials much cheaper, more durable, and as warm as those of wood, more safely heated with stoves, and thus capable of being rendered more comfortable, with far less fuel than our consumption of that important article: Taxes upon waincot and wood, used in houses, &c. would gradually introduce a similar construction in England, and prevent the frequent fires in the metropolis.

The following are farther particulars of the late glorious defeat of the Spanish fleet.

Sir John Jervis had an accurate account of the force and course of the Spanish fleet, three days before he fell in with them. He called all the captains of his fleet on board, and communicated to them in person his plan of attack, and gave them their orders; the consequence of which was, that he had not occasion, during the whole of the action, to make above three or four signals, a circumstance that contributed to perplex the enemy very much.

As stated in the brave admiral's official letter, after he came near the enemy, he passed through part of their fleet in two close lines, the ships composing the off line, or starboard, firing through the intervals between those of the near or larboard line. When the British fleet had passed in this way about half the Spanish fleet, the former tacked, and forming in a line ahead, stood through the enemy's fleet, cutting off from the others about one third of it. Our van ships having retacked, closed with the enemy's ships thus cut off, while some of our fleet wore after the other part of the Spanish fleet. The action now became warm, and soon fortunately decisive. Towards evening the *Irresistible* and *Diadem* were so closely engaged with the enemy, that the admiral was obliged frequently to repeat the signal to call them off.

The Captain, commodore Nelson's ship, was found at the close of the action, lying between the *San Josef* and *San Nicholas*, and aboard of both at the same time. It required a good deal of skill and exertion to get them disentangled.

On the 15th, the master of a Portuguese vessel informed Sir John Jervis, that he had that day passed a very large Spanish ship, wholly dismasted and disabled, (supposed to be the *Santissima Trinidad*) and a frigate with British colours was sailing round her. This was supposed to be the *Mohannaise*, on her way from Gibraltar to Lisbon. The admiral as soon as he reached Lagos Bay, dispatched three frigates—the *Minerva*, the *Incendant*, the *Niger*, and the *Raven* sloop, in quest of this disabled ship, with orders, if they did not find her in the place described, to return to him immediately.

We are happy in being able to say, that the best grounded hopes were entertained of the frigates having fallen in with this ship, as they had not returned to Lagos Bay, when Sir R. Calder sailed, which was not till the morning of the 19th.

The wind, after the action, was unfavourable for the Spaniards reaching Cadiz. They had been in sight of Lagos Bay for three days after the action, but seemed so panic struck, that they shewed no disposition to reheat it. They had afterwards stood to the southward, and we have good reason to believe it was Sir John Jervis's intention immediately to put to sea in quest of them again.

On the arrival of our fleet in Lagos Bay, 3200 prisoners were landed from the four prizes, not including the wounded, nor upwards of 400 young men that were kept to attend upon the sick and wounded.

The above 3200 were liberally furnished with four days provisions by the British admiral, and permitted to go by land to Cadiz, a distance of only two days journey, a receipt having been taken for them from the Spanish consul at Lagos.

The Portuguese opened the churches for the reception of the sick and wounded Spaniards, and they were attended by our surgeons, as well as also by some of their own from Spain.

The British wounded were paid every mark of attention that gratitude could dictate on the part of the Portuguese.

Commodore Nelson had joined Sir John Jervis's fleet only two days before the action took place. He had come from the Mediterranean in the *Minerva*.

#### STATE PAPERS.

Imperial ukase, or edict, issued at Petersburg, respecting the importation of French and Dutch merchandise.

Paul I. by the grace of God, emperor and sole governor of all the Russias, &c.

We do most graciously ordain, That the importation of all French wines, without exception, also salted oils of Provence, olives, capers, anchovies, to be freely permitted in all our harbours in neutral bottoms.

French and Spanish brandy is only permitted to be imported by neutral ships, in those harbours which are specified in the ukase of the 11th of December, 1784, and to which we add the ports of Liebo and Windau.

The duties on wines, oils, &c. shall be taken from the tariff of September 27, 1782, till a new one shall appear, and duty on French brandy shall be

regulated agreeably to the ukase of November 25, 1793.

4. The ukase of the 8th of April, 1793, shall be strictly observed, so far as it forbids the importation of various French goods, and of others which are mere objects of luxury; as likewise all communication with the French until a lawful government ordained by the said ukase shall also no longer be demanded in the future importation of French goods, except for such articles for which some duties are to be remitted.

Done at St. Petersburg, Jan. 22, 1797.

#### SECOND UKASA.

Paul I. &c.

We do hereby most graciously permit the free importation in all our harbours, of such Dutch goods as are not prohibited in the tariff or the ukase, provided such importation takes place in ships belonging to neutral powers. Those goods are to pay duties prescribed by the tariff of September 27, 1782, till a new tariff shall be published.

Done at St. Petersburg, Jan. 22, 1797.

#### PHILADELPHIA, April 27.

Extrait of a letter from New-York, dated April 16.

"The British packet sailed yesterday from the Hook, and a French corvette, of 14 guns and 76 men, which has been laying here for some time, immediately followed. The pilot is just come up, and informs, that the packet was not above 4 miles ahead, when he left the corvette last evening, so that there is no doubt but she must be taken, having only 6 guns and 30 men.

"A gentleman who arrived in the Venetia, from Bristol, informs, that the ships *William Penn*, *Edice*, and *Star*, were windbound in the Pool, on the 12th March; and from the strong easterly winds which prevailed for some time after the sailing of the Venetia, it was not probable they could have sailed before the 20th."

The British ships of war lying in the Chesapeake, consist of the squadrons under admiral Vandeput, and captain Murray, the former is in the *St. Albans*, 64, with the *Andromeda* and *Assistance* frigates, and *Esperance* sloop of war, and a store-ship—and the latter in the *Resolution* of 74, with the *Thetis*, *Topaze* and *Prevoyant* frigates, and the *Lynx* sloop of war.

About 12 o'clock last night a frame building, on the east side of Front, near South-street, was discovered to be on fire. It was entirely consumed—no further injury was done.

The *London Star* of the 11th of March, says— "We have seen a letter from Lisbon, mentioning that the *Santissima Trinidad* had sunk, before she could reach a port."

#### NORFOLK, April 24.

On Saturday arrived in Hampton Roads the British ship *Patsey*, captain Peacock, in 9 weeks from Liverpool. In lat. 35, long. 31, fell in with the wreck of the American ship *Betsey*, from off which he took the captain and nine of the crew; one of whom has given us the following melancholy particulars:

The ship *Betsey*, captain Kennedy, of Wiscasset, loaded and sailed from that port for Liverpool, with a cargo of timber. On the 22d day out, while laying to in a gale of wind, she lost her rudder; in which situation she continued for 12 days, when her stern post came out, and she immediately filled with water. Thus situated, they took to main and foretops, where they remained for ten days, during which time they subsisted on snow, when they fortunately fell in with the ship *Patsey*. It blowing a gale, and night coming on, captain Peacock could only take the men from out of the foretop that night; before day came, two of the people were washed out of the maintop, and capt. P. saved the remaining four. The cabin boy died with the extreme cold the night after they took to the tops.

#### Annapolis, May 4.

For the MARYLAND GAZETTE.

The INSPECTOR, No. X.

"Dii, quibus in numerum  
"Vos mihi sacrum penetralia pandite rerum,  
"Et vestri secreta poli, qua laetida dicitur  
"Flebit Amor."

CLAUDIAN.

WHEN a character is exhibited to the public, which is intended to claim attention; it excites curiosity, which it is every writer's duty to gratify, to become acquainted with the particulars of such a character from the earliest period of life. I shall, therefore, before I proceed to the more interesting part of the history of Eumenes, give a short sketch of those traits in his juvenile character which so eminently distinguished him as he ripened into manhood.

I must, however, caution my readers, before they proceed to the narrative of Eumenes, that they are not to expect any thing of the romantic or wonderful. The events are such as might every day occur but are not therefore the less interesting. To a mind capable of just observation, there is no scene so well calculated to engage the attention as the most noble and generous passion of the soul, contending against the rigid principles of gratitude and honour. I am well aware that, in the present taste for novelty, he who professes to treat of the effects of wonder-working love, must, in order to gratify a certain and insatiable curiosity, work up his fancy to the highest pitch of enthusiasm—vex his imagination for improbable events; and generally succeeds in proportion to the violation of the modern bounds of probability. But having fixed on the story of

Eumenes, and feeling myself bound by an obligation to the public and a sacred duty to my departed friend.

Though I shall little grace his cause  
"I will a round unvarnished tale deliver  
"Of his whole course of love."

My acquaintance with Eumenes commenced in a period of life when unhackneyed in the artifices of men, the generous ardour of youth, disdaining the

straints of prudential considerations, bears down all the petty advantages of dissimulation, and lays open the whole soul to observation. On his arrival at the seminary where our acquaintance commenced, he was spoken of as a young gentleman, studious, reserved, well informed, and of uncommon application, but totally unacquainted with the general routine of collegiate studies.

Eumenes, however, resolved to be a scholar, and his mind was adequate to the determination; it was a favourite maxim with him that for a man to become what he wished to be, it is sufficient to resolve on it. A few months of severe application qualified him for a situation to which no person supposed he would aspire; and it was with much pleasure I saw him stationed at my side, in a class which was soon to conclude their academical career.

Notwithstanding the disadvantages under which he laboured from an early negligence of systematic education, his abilities soon rendered him conspicuous among his companions. The mind of Eumenes was not calculated for a subordinate station. He possessed a versatility of genius which seemed equally adapted to every department of science. To whatever branch of literature our attention was directed, Eumenes proceeded with a degree of alacrity which evinced a consciousness of a capacity to exalt, and render it delightful.

The boldness with which he advanced a mathematical problem, and his circumspection in a logical proposition, announced a mind clear, accurate and just in forming, firm, and decided in delivering, opinions in which truth was demonstrably evident. In those exercises which were required of his own pen, there was a refinement of taste, a fervency of expression, a boldness of conception and energy of thought, which was wholly peculiar to Eumenes.

But the talents of Eumenes were not his strongest recommendations. He possessed a large portion of that native fire and impetuosity of temper, which is the universal concomitant of genius. Honest, warm and generous in all his sentiments, he was candid, sincere and unsuspecting. Though he was not totally insensible to the pleasures of society, he was but ill qualified for their enjoyments. He had never formed himself to the ceremonies of fashion, or the etiquette of a drawing room. Backward and unassuming, his conversation was to be sought, not obtruded. He admired and applauded the urbanity of others, but did not partake of their vivacity. From his habitual reserve, and the ardour of his disposition, Eumenes had few intimate acquaintances but his friends; these were few in number and he loved them with a sincerity and warmth of affection which bordered on enthusiasm.

It is something remarkable that he chose his friends among persons much younger than himself, and in literary conversation always preferred the society of men far advanced in life. His hours of relaxation were generally devoted to the company of some elegant and accomplished female friend whose situation in life secured him from the effects of a tender impression.

But as Eumenes was incapable of restraint on his feelings, he avowed his sentiments to his friends without reserve.—When I have expressed my surprise to my friend, that he should make choice of his associates among persons so much younger and more inexperienced than himself, his reply has been, "among such

"I find more honest simplicity, warmth of sentiment, and genuine integrity, than in persons of my own age: at my period of life young men begin to become acquainted with the maxims of selfishness and duplicity; they assume the man of the world and think themselves bound to deceive and dissemble whenever circumstances shall put in their power—Honour, integrity and friendship are violated at the shrine of interest."

Such was the character, and such the sentiments of my unfortunate friend. If I have been tediously minute my readers will please to observe, that the traces of Eumenes have made a lasting impression on my memory, and his recent and melancholy death has revived every tender sentiment of affectionate friendship.

A few months previous to that period when, released from the regular discipline of a college life, we all expected to return with rapture and applause to the anxious bosoms of our parents and our friends, a circumstance occurred which called forth all the philosophy, firmness and delicacy of Eumenes. In the small circle of his acquaintance there was one family to which he was particularly indebted for their kindness and attention. The general character of my friend was sufficient to recommend him to the particular notice of Mr. X.—A similarity of sentiment soon excited a mutual friendship, and Eumenes became an intimate and favourite. But Mr. X. was not the most interesting member of his family; Helena was the daughter of his brother, an eminent merchant, who dying in her infancy, left her sole heiress to a considerable estate, putting her in some measure under the power of her uncle. Brought up to all the useful and elegant accomplishments of female education, Helena was at this period advancing in her sixteenth year. Tall and elegant in her person, and uncommonly fascinating in her manners, you immediately felt that she was not a vulgar beauty. Helena, however, was more remarkable for the intelligence, tender and interesting expression of her countenance, than the symmetry of her features. Though there was nothing singular yet there was a peculiarity in her dress, and a disorder in the expression of her fine blue eyes, which struck strongly of the romantic. All the days she