

MARYLAND GAZETTE.

T H U R S D A Y, M A Y 26, 1774.

To THE P R I N T E R S.

I send you a little essay on the advantages of a classical education published in Britain, which cannot but appear at this season, with peculiar propriety, in your paper.

THOUGHTS on the necessary advantages of a CLASSICAL education.

Nam cetera, neque temporum sunt, neque aetatem omnium, neque locorum, at hoc studium adolescentiam alunt, senectutem oblectant, secundam rem ornant, adversis periculum ac solatium praebent, delectant domi, non impediunt foris, pernoctant nobiscum, peregrinantur, rusticantur.

W H E N we reflect upon the general spirit of indolence and dissipation which is natural to youth, and perhaps too much favoured by the prevailing maxims and customs of our times, it will appear a topic of serious and important speculation; to consider by what gradations these foibles of our nature have become so universally prevalent; and what are the most practicable and effectual means to check their growth, and to prevent their ruinous consequences. This, however, would be a field too extensive for the limits of a short essay. A few observations, however, on this subject, may possibly be made with advantage; and it may be remarked, that one capital source of the misfortunes which we deplore is, the encouragement which they have found from the mistaken views and unhappy endeavours of their most sanguine and declared antagonists. The paths which lead to science and wisdom appearing to those by whom they had been already traversed, tedious, rugged, and thorny, those sages were induced, even by their zeal for the interests of learning, and for the dignity, happiness, and refinement of human life, to render the temple of Minerva as accessible as they could. Hence the various projects to render our acquisition of the first elements of literature as pleasing as possible, and to babe us into the culture of our faculties by amusement. Hence, the auxiliary force of so many extrinsic motives were called to the assistance of the teacher. His pupils were taught to know their letters by a game; and thus their ambition and avarice were interested in the discovery. But the natural effect of this procedure was, to render those attainments, which he chiefly laboured to inculcate, less valuable in the eyes of his disciples; who, by such a conduct, were taught to regard them only as secondary views or means for acquiring more valuable and important ends. Hence too, the universal propensity for compendizing the elements of science, that they might be the sooner impressed on, and the more easily retained in the memory. But this effort was likewise attended with a success far inferior to the flattering expectations of its votaries; for they found that the assertion of Horace, Brevis esse laboro

from being useless. On the contrary, they are perhaps the only proper balance, for that dissipation, forgetfulness, and levity, which, if not anticipated and prevented, will, in all probability, attend us through the whole course of our lives, and influence every part of our conduct. To give the human character, therefore, such a degree of stability and importance as are requisite for the present exigencies of our being, it seems necessary that our powers should be excited by labour and difficulty, and invigorated by strong and repeated exertion. There is a certain period of our lives when the operations of the mind deeply partake of mechanism; when the acquires and retains impressions, not from any intrinsic excellence in their objects, but merely because the objects themselves are present. To the original impressions of sense succeed the exertions (if indeed they are exertions) of local memory. When this useful faculty has collected a sufficient number of materials, the intellect surveys its store, disposes, compares, and increases them by new ideas and conclusions; which result from accurate and faithful views of their relations or differences. But, if impressions are not strongly and repeatedly felt, they will leave no traces in the memory; they will have no existence but in their immediate perception; they will be too fleeting and momentary for the deliberate comparisons and the slow deductions of understanding. In mathematics, how common is it to observe a pupil, comprehending, at one glance of thought, the demonstration, and forgetting it as soon as his eyes are diverted from the media by which it was conveyed; whilst another, who laboured in every advance, indelibly fixes it in his mind. What I mean to illustrate by these different examples is this, that, whilst we merely study the vehicles by which the ancients have perpetuated their conceptions and discoveries, we in a great measure imbibe and retain the conceptions and discoveries themselves. The ideas and improvements, however, which are conveyed to us through the channel of living languages, are not only evanescent and transitory in their duration, but, by the facility with which they arrive at the mind, they are likewise extremely confined and fluctuating. Why has ancient learning been so diffuse and permanent, but because the languages in which it was contained were generally understood, and no longer subject to those innovations which must infallibly affect every living language? words are not attached to their ideas by nature, but by confirmed habit and permanent association. From this arbitrary connection, and because the words of any language are far short in number, and inadequate to comprehend the things which it ought to express, it must inevitably happen, that analogous ideas are signified by the same word. And as words and phrases are thus often transferred from one sense to another, so the analogy frequently becomes very distant; because the gradations through which they have passed from their original meaning to that in which we find them used, are often irrecoverably lost. Besides, as these analogies are not formed by men of learning with accuracy and judgement, but, according to vulgar conception, or the fortuitous assemblages of things, they must of themselves be frequently obscure, and sometimes impossible to be detected. These are not the only unfavourable changes to which living languages are obnoxious. Vulgar cant and learned affectation conspire to hurt them: The fool and pedant have them equally in their power. The interpositions of taste and judgement are feeble, slow, and gradual. Besides, when at last they have attained their ends in forming a language, with all the elegance, harmony, copiousness, and emphasis, of which it is capable, they no longer superintend it with the same assiduity. They become secure and indolent. The language however is not fixed, but in continual revolution, by the abolition of old, or the adoption of new words, phrases, and idioms. Hence, in language, as in life, there is an infancy, a maturity, a dotage, or a decline.

[To be concluded in our next.]

CONSTANTINOPLE, February 11.

T H E new sultan has already given proofs of his generosity and justice; for instead of following the example of some of his predecessors, in mutilating and even strangling his nearest relations, his highness has spared favours on the young sultan Selim, son of the deceased emperor. He kept this young prince with him eight days, promised to be a father to him, ordered the apartments allotted for him to be made more spacious and agreeable, and directed an apartment for the young prince's mother to be contiguous to her son's.

U P P E R R I N E, Feb. 18. Some advices are arrived here which mention, that the rebellion in Russia becomes daily more formidable, for that the rebels have taken Casan, and are now arrived at Moscow. On the other hand, they seem to have cut off the communication in many parts of that vast empire, if it is true

that a certain Russian minister declared to one of his friends that he had sent 26 estates without receiving any answer. COLOGN, Feb. 22. By letters received here from Kiow, in Russia minor, the rebel Pugatschew continues his exactions in the neighbourhood of Orenbourg. He massacres all the Russian subjects, but spares the foreigners and peasants, in hopes of gaining them over to his party. He has already ravaged the lines of Sakaran, and depopulated the fortresses which served as barriers to that country; he has plundered the town of Ossa, and made incursions towards Moscow, and the opposite side towards Astracan: all the officers who fall into his hands must enter into his service or lose their lives; most of whom prefer their honour to their life. He intends to enter into Siberia, and it is easy to see what he aims at, though we cannot get a sight of his manifestos, because the government take all the pains imaginable to suppress them, and they are besides written in the language of the Nomades, a people whom he endeavours to gain over to his interest by flattering promises. The report of general Bibikow's having joined that rebel is without foundation.

T U R I N, Feb. 5. We have just received advice, that on Saturday the 22d of last month, a second insurrection happened at Palermo, in which the archbishop and Mr. Emanuel Batta were murdered, and eight Xebecks were fitting out at Messina, in order to bring the rebels back to their duty. They write from Tunis, that on the 13th of the same month a violent earthquake happened there, which did a great deal of damage, and that several ships in that harbour were lost by the violent agitation of the sea at that time.

L O N D O N, March 5.

T H E report gains ground that a certain American agent will soon be restored to his office with additional honour.

I t is said that some bomb vessels are ordered to be fitted out for America.

T h e regency of Hanover, with true policy, permit the Jesuits an Asylum there: it is said with confidence, that the society have brought into the electorate more than half a million.

W h e n the last letters left Cadiz there were then in that port eight ships of the line, two frigates, and a number of other vessels, with their sails bent all ready for sailing.

L e t t e r s from Stockholm advise, that the King of Sweden intends to make a tour, in the approaching summer, to Petersburg, in order to pay a visit to the emperor. But most persons think, if it takes place, something more is intended than a mere visit.

T h e y write from Warsaw, that it is pretended that the disorders which have happened in the government of Orenbourg, have been excited by some secret enemies of Russia, and that Pugatschew, the chief of the mutineers, is certain of a retreat, should he fail of success.

A petition in behalf of the island and colony of Barbados, has been presented to the house of commons, praying that a free port may be opened in that island, with the same privileges as are granted to those established in Jamaica.

T h u r s d a y a young man of genteel address was apprehended at a public house in the city, on a charge of marrying nine wives in less than four years, who are all now living, and with each of whom he had a fortune.

O n Friday morning, about one o'clock, lord Stanley and his brother coming in a post chaise and four from Chelsea to town, were stopped by four footpads, two of whom seized the horses, and put pistols to the breasts of the postillions; the other two went on each side the carriage, and presenting their pistols, were refused by the hon. Mr. Stanley, whom one of the fellows fired at; on which lord Stanley seized the man on his side by the arm, and wounded him on the back of the head with a scymetar. The two Russians at the heads of the horses then went to the assistance of their comrades, where the postillions driving furiously on, the nobleman and his brother escaped unhurt, though one of the villains fired a second pistol.

M a r c h 9. Mr. Edmund Burke, in the house of commons on Monday, vehemently declaimed against the adoption of hostile measures with respect to the colonies. He affirmed, that the evils subsisting in America were of a civil nature, and that, to propose military remedies for the correction of civil abuses, was to act in direct contradiction to every principle of sound policy; besides, the execution of a plan of the kind had been, and would be, in every popular government, found impracticable. The magistrate must act in concert with the military, or every effort of the latter, would prove futile and abortive. Every law process relative to the life, liberty or property of an English subject, bespoke a popular origin, from the presentment of the grand jury to the final adjudication of a petit jury. The principles of government, therefore, should have respect to the democracy of the constitution; and, as that allowed of no appeal to the sword but in conjunction with the civil power, where the magistracy refused to co-operate, a military force must turn to little account. These positions, applied to America, would, Mr.

scribers, patentees of land at the Falls of... hereby inform the public, that they intend... a town there in the most convenient place... be eighty feet front, and two hundred and... the number of lots that shall be laid off... depend on the number of applications, the... money of each lot to be four Spanish dollars... dollar per annum quit rents for ever. The... to build on each lot within the space of... from the first of next December, a log... less than sixteen feet square, with a stone or... masonry, and as in that country it will be necess... first settlers should build compactly, the... must naturally join each other; it is fur... of for the convenience of the settlers, that... of ten acres, contiguous to the town, shall... for each that desire the same, and that at an... on a long lease. Attendance will be given... patentees at Pittsburgh, till the middle of June... which time one of them will set off from thence... the plan. The advantageous situation of... formed by nature as a temporary maga... repository, to receive the produce of the very... and fertile country on the Ohio and its... as well as the necessary merchandises suit... the inhabitants that shall emigrate into that... (as boats of fifty tons burthen may be nam... New Orleans, up to the town) is sufficient... mend it; but when it is considered how liberal... use nature has been in stocking it so abund... that the slightest industry may supply the most... its family with the greatest plenty, and am... plenty, of fish fowl, and fish; the fertility of... and facility of cultivation, fit it for producing... kinds of great value with little labour; the... of the waters, and serenity of the air, i... healthy; and that when property may be so... quired, we may with certainty affirm, that it... short time be equalled by few inland places... American continent.

JOHN CAMPBELL, JOHN CONNOLLY.

Baltimore-Town, March 12, 1774. To be sold, and entered upon in a month if required, a lot of ground, situate in Frederick-street, between the tan-yard, and between the two lower on Jones's falls; there are 130 feet on the front, deep, and 115 feet on the lower front. It is for 99 years, renewable for ever, and subject to a ground rent of only 40l. sterling per annum. 16 years of the lease are expired; on the front lot on Frederick-street, is a large brick dwelling, wherein the subscriber now lives, 30 feet 13 feet deep, two story high, having two parlor, a passage, and stair-case below; four good rooms, three whereof have fire places, and above, good garrets well finished. There are also adjoining the said dwelling, a good brick kitchen and with proper chambers for servants, also a warehouse, 32 feet by 25, two story and cellar, one half of the front of the lot is yet unimproved, there being only an old log building built as a jail, and which may be removed at pleasure, there is an exceeding good garden well inclosed, would suit a distiller, brewer, or sugar-baker; it is room sufficient for building, and a lane opened through the lot from one street to another, what buildings are on this lot are faithfully sold, the brick walls some are 18 inches thick, the rest less than 14 inches, even to the ridge pole; the chimneys lay down but little cash, if any, security with interest will suffice, and one fourth of the money will be only at four per cent per annum; as I am determined at all events, to leave the province, and desirous of settling all my affairs, I am very inclinable to purchase, will find me very able in my demand for this lot.

DANIEL CHAMIER.

Queen-Anne's county, April 25, 1774. I former advertisement having been misunderstood by some people, I think proper to declare was not my intention to desert this country altogether, but only "to absent" for a while, according to present peculiar circumstances. I have weighty business that will require my attention in the country, they will soon demand my presence; beside that my connections, and my attachment to the country aim me.

CONRAD THEODORE WEDERSTRANDT.

Annapolis, April 27, 1774. I HAVE lately arrived from London, in the ship Speedwell, Capt. William Clark, commander; Mr. Browning, tailor and habit-maker; he presumes to form those ladies and gentlemen, who will so far ascend as to favour him with their commands, he will exert his utmost abilities, and doubts not he shall have the happiness to give entire satisfaction, all who will do him the honour of employing him has lodgings at present, at Mr. Thomas's, but hopes very soon to be differently situated; he mean time will esteem it as the greatest obligation to be permitted to wait on any lady or gentleman at their respective houses; he humbly hopes he will not be ungrateful for the smallest order he may receive, but is determined (if God permits) to discharge it with the utmost expedition and fidelity.

Baltimore county, April 3, 1774. I HAVE at the plantation of George Myers living on the great road that leads from Baltimore to Hanover; a stray roan mare, branded on the off shoulder thus M, is a natural pacer, and is to be about three years old. The owner may be had again, on proving property, and paying the usual price.

GREEN and SON.

It has of late years become fashionable in the Scottish universities, to teach the sciences in the English language. The Latin tongue being of consequence, fallen into disrepute. This abuse gave rise to the present defence of ancient learning.