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THE court of France easily rejecting every offer of Great Britain, paid attention to the people of America, with whom it now remained to adopt a line of true policy, and to fix her best interest. A nation less wise would have thought of nothing more than to extract from us some concession of exclusive commerce, or the guarantee of some adjoining territory, or the stipulation of a sum of money to be paid at a future day. Nor would it be without reason that a demand of this nature should be made, if we consider the risk, and the expenses of a war to which, on our account, she would be unavoidably exposed. But France, calculating on a larger scale, and for a permanent connection, wished to make us friends, so that though in this case she might not draw from us one immediate and direct advantage, yet she might lay the foundation of a thousand that would easily arise to her from the grateful sentiments of a virtuous people. It is thus that the husbandman plants his grain in the earth, and, in due time, reaps from it sixty or a hundred fold.

With men in common life, a providence of fortune is that which distinguishes the wife from the unwise. That man is accounted foolish who, unable to restrain his passions, spares not the enjoyment of a momentary pleasure, though he thereby prevents the existence of a thousand others, that, were it suffered to remain, would spring from it. The savages of Louisiana, says the illustrious Montesquieu, "when they want fruit, cut down the tree, and collect the fruit; the wise disposition for you." Nor is it only despotism, but all unjust treatment, and even all unequal compact between men in any situation whatsoever. An immediate seeming interest may be drawn from it; but it can, in no degree, be lasting.

Most treaties that the world has ever known, have been made for a present exigence. A nation pressed in war has sought the assistance of a neighbour, and in order to obtain it, has been obliged to concede advantages which, as they were extorted from her necessity, and not the gift of choice it will be her great object to endeavour to regain.

The nation so assisting can expect nothing more than the bare fulfilment of the stipulation, and for a convenient time; while by acting more generously she might have reaped advantages, not so immediate and direct, yet more extensive, and at the same time she might have lastingly secured the friendship of the nation in whose behalf she was induced to appear. It is a maxim in common life, which I quote as lawyers do the common law, "never to do our kindnesses by halves." We almost hate the man who does us a favour. Our necessity may engage us to receive it; but we despise the parsimony of the manner in which it is bestowed.

From these observations it will be evident, that France has acted wisely in her treaty with America. By going farther than she might have done, and surprising us with more than we had any reason to expect, she has made us friends for ever. There is, oftentimes, but a little difference between a kind act and one greatly generous; and yet the one commands affection only, and deserves our thanks, while the other wraps the whole heart in gratitude, and calls forth the highest praise. But while we show that France in her treaty with America has made a wise judgment of our situation, and pursued her best interest in connection with us; we are not to be ungrateful at the same time that she entertained "a real goodness," or predilection "for our cause." This was evident, in the first place, from the volunteers of her nation, who at the commencement of the war and in the progress of it came to serve in our army. For we may be well assured, from what we know of the genius of the monarchy, that gentlemen of good rank and of fair hopes, would not have hastily embarked in a cause which was the object of the disapprobation of the prince. On the contrary, the ardour which they manifested, the bravery which they exerted, the warmth with which they writ and spoke in our behalf, were a full proof that they were under no apprehension of the

frown of the sovereign or the nation for what they had said or done, when they should return home.

It was evident, in the second place, from the affection of the whole nation spreading like the arms of a smooth bay, and embracing with a cordial love the people of America, that they were warm and engaged in our cause. A stranger from the continent was received amongst them with hospitality and kindness; and to be an American was a sufficient introduction to every good word and to every good office in their power. The congress, the characters upon the continent, our preparations, our exertions, engrossed the conversation of this amiable and sympathising people. Their bright wits did not hesitate to write in our behalf. Prayers were put up in every convent "for the insurgents" of America; a name by which we were then known in Europe. But what was equally agreeable and expressive of attachment, the ladies of the court ceased not to importune those whom they apprehended to have influence in the councils of the sovereign, to know of them when they would be pleased to lend over to "help the little Americans;" and when it was replied to them, in a gay manner, that perhaps it did not consist with the state of the finances of the kingdom to afford assistance, it was generously declared by the ladies, that "they would give, each of them, their jewels and their diamond earrings, and they were persuaded that her majesty would do the same for that purpose." These are small circumstances, but they shew the predilection of the nation in our favour.

If we enquire the cause of this we shall find it, first, in the temper of the human heart, which is fond of what approaches to the marvellous, and is always interested in behalf of the weak contending with the strong. We wish well to those who from small beginnings and almost against probability overcome difficulties, and bid fair to attain their purpose. It is this principle that interests us in the fortune of the hero of a story. We feel for his distresses, we rejoice at his success; we are agitated by the changes of his fortune, and we make his cause our own. This may be remote from common observation, but doubtless it is a principle strong in men, and much of the kindness we receive from others may be owing to it. If a man is brave we wish to make him fortunate, and the ascending, more than the descending, are the objects of our favour. Even in men of blameable ambition we admire the great efforts of the human soul; but when courage and resource of thought is expended in a good cause, then with all the fervour of the mind we applaud it.

This argument I shall not draw to a great length; for, doubtless, the predilection of the nation was owing chiefly to a more obvious cause, the recollection of the injuries of Britain. France cannot but be pleased with an endeavour to depress the proud spirit of that haughty people. It was an abuse of words in doctor Ferguson to call France "the natural enemy" of America, but with great propriety she may be called the natural enemy of Britain; and Britain, on the other hand, is the natural enemy of France. The two nations have been almost from their earliest history at war, and while the balance of Europe continues to be an object with the several states, it is most probable, they will continue to observe the councils of each other, and at different intervals to be at war. For this reason they may be called the natural enemies of each other, and as Britain has been willing to oppress the power of France, so France must rejoice to see her rival humbled, and her tyrant power overthrown. The resistance of America gave a life and resurrection to the joys of France, and every battle won upon the continent, and every engagement in which we have been victorious upon sea, has been felt by her with as much pleasure as if she had been obtained by her own generals and her own captains.

The "real goodness," or predilection for us, in the breast of the sovereign, originated, doubtless, in some measure from the same source with the predilection of the nation. But, if the opinion which Europe entertains of his character is well founded, it also received great strength from his love to our cause as the cause of justice. His young prince is acknowledged by all to be

a "great and good" monarch. He has made it the object of his reign, and it is his declared ambition to reconcile differences, to remove contention and to establish peace throughout Europe. Hence it is that he is loved and trusted by the neighbouring powers, and they chuse him the umpire of their debates.

War had again burst out between the Porte and Russia, and was about to heap the confines of both empires with carcases, and to swell the streams of the Danube and the Neister with fresh blood; but the debate which related to the independency of Crim Tartary, and the free navigation of the Black Sea, was adjusted, and peace finally concluded, in March last, by the sole mediation of the young sovereign on the throne of France. We have all heard the claims of the German princes and of the emperor, in the affair of the succession to the Dutchy of Bavaria; and we all know that it has been greatly owing to the intermeditation and good offices of the king of France that this affair, which was likely to involve the whole of Europe in a flame, has been so speedily and so happily compromised. We may believe that a persuation of the justice of our cause, and a "real goodness" for it, weighed not a little with him in his determination to assist us. It was the real interest of the nation to appear for us; but at the same time it was the generous love and affection of the prince that gave him readily to believe it to be so, and as such to pursue it. Cold policy is often timid; and had he not been warm in our favour, it is possible that doubts of his success, and fears of the power of Britain, and distrust of our perseverance would have crushed the springing purpose of his mind, and have bound him down like Prometheus to the rock, unable to assist us. For it is to be confessed that the power of Britain, at the conclusion of the last war, had become greatly formidable. Nor were her threats and her confidence inferior to her success. Like a boxer who had been victorious she doubled up her fists, and shook them at every power of Europe. At the commencement of this war her confidence was increased, not diminished. She verily believed that a frown of her countenance would awe France into inactivity, and lock up the poor remains of her fleets in her harbours. The powers of Europe, deceived by her boasts, or sensible of her gigantic strength, were almost ready to believe that she had it in her power to do all that she seemed to threaten to her enemies. Yet in this state of things did the noble soul of Louis XVI. burst forth from every timid apprehension, and consulting the welfare of his people, and of mankind, he espoused our cause, and is, deservedly, become dear to every American.

Posterity will compare together George the third of England and the young monarch on the throne of France, as living in the same age, and filling the thrones of two rival kingdoms; but how unlike in temper, how dissimilar in fate, how unequal in the fame which the world bears of them, will be found the two characters. Never, since the days of Cain and Abel, were men who lived in the same period more diverse from each other; the one gloomy in his nature, and born for the destruction of his species; the other steady in his love for justice, labouring to restore peace; and when unable to effect it by the gentle arts of accommodation, rousing all the strength of an antient kingdom to bend it on the proud adversary. It is admirable to consider what the great virtues of one man may be able to effect. Lewis, like the sun who kindles up the sleeping sparks of fire diffused through the system, seems to have re-animated, in the early years of his reign, all the love of honour, courage, gallantry and heroism that has long adorned the annals of the nation. A prince of this magnanimity and goodness is sufficient to irradiate the system of a hundred kingdoms. When we consider what George is and what Louis is, we cannot say that nature has been niggardly to this generation; for though the one has not "a single virtue to redeem his soul from vice," the other is emboldened by a thousand great and good qualities; and shines distinguished for his virtue in the roll of princes.

THE HONEST POLITICIAN.
 * — Manfrum nulla virtus redempta vitis. —
 Juv.