

content themselves with a little plain fare in a prison-faup, or gaol, or so, as many poor Americans have been obliged to do in the course of this debate.

Spain is active for us, though not professedly allied to these states. For while she joins her counsels and her arms to the counsels and the arms of France, she joins them to the counsels and the arms of these states, whose object and whose interest is the same, the demolition of the haughty power and ambitious tyranny of Britain. It is a new source of safety to our cause. "A three-fold cord, (says the wise man) is not easily broken;" and whatever slight possible ground of apprehension there could be of conquest on the part of Britain heretofore, there can be none, in the usual course of things, and with the favour of Divine Providence, at present. It is a source of honour to our cause. For the reputation of the Spanish monarchy, and of the nation, is high over all the world, for truth in words, fidelity in promises—uncorrupt integrity—for valour, and all heroic virtues that kindle in the breasts of men. Her glory rises from Numantia defended to the era of the brave Spartacus, and from her faithfulness and perseverance under this leader to the modern ages, when, arising from the shades of vagrant barbarism, like the fire that works off the dross, and makes the metal pure, she shone against the Saracens, and afterwards against the Turks, disciples of the same religion, and finally expelled the Moors invading her from Barbary, and under Ferdinand and Isabella, established the kingdoms of Castile and Arragon in one illustrious monarchy. These are her honours, acquired in long succession of eternal victories. These she bends to Præce, and through the policy of that kingdom they are refracted in a thousand fine prismatic rays of light to these states, where, still diverging, they are seen by every eye; and who is there that does not call that nation happy, who, having been the first discoverer of this continent, is now illustriously engaged in concert with our great ally, to give it liberty?

I congratulate my countrymen on the addition of the arms of Spain to our assistance, and I trust the time is not far off, when we shall be happy in hearing that she has "acceded to the alliance," and avowedly made "common cause" with America.

#### THE HONEST POLITICIAN.

#### NUMBER XV.

THE testimonies of esteem exhibited to the Sieur Gerard during his residence amongst us, and on his return to the court of his sovereign, have been justly due to his merit, and are an evidence of that affection which we entertain for the alliance, and which is deeply fixed in the breast of every American.

This gentleman was early known in America: for, having been appointed by his sovereign to announce to our commissioners at Paris the disposition of the court to enter into a treaty with us, his name came with that announcement to the continent; and it came with a certain fragrance also. For we naturally transfer the idea of acceptableness from the thing to the person; and as this treaty was necessary for our safety, and as it was proposed to be founded on principles of the most perfect equality, it was greatly acceptable: the name which came connected with it was early in estimation with us. It is the language of the scripture, "How beautiful on the mountains are the feet of him who bring glad tidings."

The Sieur Gerard, acting as secretary to his majesty's council of state, had no inconsiderable share in drawing up that treaty. Hence it was that his appointment as minister was highly acceptable to the people of this country. For having been engaged to draw it up, there was every reason to believe that he would be anxiously disposed, in every manner, to wish the success of it.

The arrival of his excellency on the continent was highly pleasing to every whig mind. What could be a greater ground of cheerfulness, than to behold a foreign minister in these States, which but a few years before were the provinces of a small island? The empire now saw itself independent, and the residence of the minister was a full appendage of its independence.

The conciliating disposition of the minister was favourable to our yet infantile situation. For it will be easily conceived, that, having been long attached to the island of Great-Britain, it was no easy thing for the people of

this country all at once to throw off every prejudice in favour of it. Nothing but the utmost force of tyranny, and the violent rush of war, could have made the disruption: and when, by the bold winds, and the inundation of innumerable evils, the disruption had been made, we remained for a long time like a land unfixed. Thrown to the side of France, it required the hand of a wise man to bind us fast to it. This the Sieur Gerard has accomplished, and, in so doing, has rendered an essential service to these states, and has acted faithfully for the true interest of the court whom he came to represent.

A sense of this wise conduct of the minister lives in the breast of every one amongst us. We have seen his republican manners suited to the genius of a free people. We have been pleased with his affability, inviting the most easy access; his dignity demanding the most just respect. We have applauded his attention to the great affairs of the alliance. We have admired his prudence, magnanimity, and patience. We have given our approbation of these virtues in every manner in which it was in our power, with propriety, to give it.

The philosophical society of this city early electing him a member of their body, intended him a compliment, I have reason to believe, both as a gentleman of great and varied literature, and as the minister of that nation with whom we are happy in alliance, and whose literary reputation, as we shall by and by illustrate, is the highest in the whole world.

The general committee of the city and liberties of Philadelphia, "congratulating" him, August 11th, 1779, "on the victory obtained by the count d'Estaing over admiral Byron" in the West-Indies, take the opportunity to declare themselves "sensible of the benefits of the alliance," and at the same time to request him to believe that "the citizens of Philadelphia regard the person of the Sieur Gerard with the utmost possible esteem and respect."

The merchants of this city, in their address to his excellency, about to leave these States for the court of his august sovereign, on the 18th of September last, "Declare themselves impressed with a veneration for his character, respect for the amiable qualities he had evinced during his stay amongst us, and gratitude for those continued efforts he had made in the service of America. They beg leave to approach his excellency, and to assure him that while sentiments like these had endeared him to them, they also retain the most sincere attachment to that alliance which he came to cultivate. Highly sensible of the many advantages resulting from it to their country and themselves, deeply impressed with a grateful sense of its happy effects towards the establishment of a glorious independence and peace, it will ever be their study, as it is their true interest, to cement and perpetuate it to the latest ages, by promoting, to the extent of their abilities, that commercial intercourse between the two countries, which their situation and circumstances mutually encourage, and which has been restrained in former times by an arbitrary monopoly." It is their wish, "that his excellency may continue long to enjoy every felicity due to his exalted merit and exertions in the service of both countries: that the applause and approbation of both countries may reward his labours, and that a speedy and agreeable passage may be succeeded by a gracious reception from his sovereign, and a happy meeting with his family and friends."

The general assembly of the commonwealth of Pennsylvania address his excellency on the same occasion, Tuesday, Sept. 22, 1779, which address is as follows:

"SIR,

"THE representatives of the freemen of Pennsylvania, in general assembly, now wait on your excellency, to express their sentiments of the very essential services you have rendered to America; and they have directed me, their speaker, to give you their sincere thanks for the early, zealous and truly disinterested part, you have taken in support of their rights, and of the rights of all men. I assure you, Sir, it gives me infinite satisfaction that I have this opportunity of declaring to you in the behalf of the house, and of all the freemen of

Pennsylvania, that your name and your services to America will be held in grateful remembrance, so long as the love of liberty and our extensive empire shall remain amongst the nations.

"We wish you a safe and happy voyage, a perfect recovery of your health, and a most gracious reception by your magnanimous and illustrious prince.

"Signed by order of the house,

"JOHN BAYARD, speaker."

The congress, September 3, 1779, pass the following resolve, extracted from their journals:

In CONGRESS, September 3, 1779.

"WHEREAS the honourable Sieur Gerard, the first minister plenipotentiary to these United States, hath before as well as since their treaty with France uniformly, ably and zealously promoted the objects of the alliance, and the welfare of both nations.

"Resolved, That the committee do request Mr. Gerard to sit for his picture before he leaves this city, and that the same be placed in the council-chamber of the United States.

"Extract from the minutes,

"CHARLES THOMSON, secretary."

Agreeably to the above resolve the portrait of his excellency, at full length, has been taken, with a most perfect likeness, by that justly celebrated and ingenious artist Charles Wilson Peale, and it will remain in America to be contemplated by the patriots of the empire, and to be seen by those who love the memory of the truly great original.

Sept. 17. His excellency, on being introduced, agreeably to his previous request, to an audience of the congress, to take his leave, addresses that honourable body in a speech, of which the following is a translation.

"Gentlemen, The king my master having been pleased to attend to the representations which my ill state of health obliged me to make to him, his majesty has granted me leave to return. At the same time he has taken care to send a new minister plenipotentiary to America, that there may be no interruption in his care to cultivate a mutual friendship. I must leave it to the abilities of Monsieur the chevalier de la Luzerne to explain to you his majesty's sentiments, and confine myself at this time in testifying to you, gentlemen, the satisfaction I shall have in rendering him an account of the occurrences which I have been witness of for more than a year during my residence with you. His majesty will thereby perceive the sentiments with which your councils are animated and governed, your wisdom, your firmness, your attachment to the alliance, and your zeal for the prosperity of the common cause and the two nations respectively. He will see with pleasure, that that inextinguishable union, which constitutes the principal force and weight of the confederacy, reigns among the United States; that the citizens are so far from being wanting in zeal and spirit to repel incursions which can have no other object than a barbarous devastation, that there is not an American who is not sensible of the necessity of concurring to humble still farther and weaken the common enemy, by efforts proportionate to the importance of happily terminating a glorious revolution, and of securing as speedily as possible to the United States of America, by a solid and honourable peace, the inestimable advantages of liberty and independence, which is the essential and fundamental object of the alliance, and of the war kindled and rendered necessary by England.

"It only remains for me, gentlemen, to offer you, as a body and as individuals, the tribute of my thanks for the marks of confidence and esteem, and also of attention, which I have received from you. I have always endeavoured to deserve them, by the most sincere and zealous attachment to the interests and dignity of the United States, as well as to the principles and sentiments resulting from the alliance. I have not been wanting in, for every thing that could have any relation to that object, and that could farther cement the connections, whether political or personal, between the two nations. The war