

struck him in writing, to tell the people that Louisiana would probably be surrendered to the French—You instructed this General (I would tell his name) to sound the disposition of the people ABOUT A SEPARATION, from the United States—and a union with Louisiana—You instructed him, to persuade them, that the Atlantic States were in their interests, prejudices, and inclinations, English—That the interest of the Western people made them French—Sir, you instructed this General, to sound the disposition of the people with regard to a president for the United States—and to promote the election of Mr. Jefferson!—You also desired him, to observe the country, as to military purposes, state of fortifications, &c.—And lastly, Sir, this same General was FURNISHED WITH MONEY, to be employed in accomplishing the objects of his mission.

"Sir,
You may not have known that this General was detected in promoting the very business you sent him on, but I have satisfactory reason to know, and believe, he was detected.

"You may wonder how I came by my knowledge—and I am sorry, that I may not at this time disclose it—But I fancy if you recur to your files, you will be convinced you do not hear without authority, from

"Wm. WILCOCKS."
March 9.
TO WILLIAM WILCOCKS.

SIR,
"One who has always read your publications with no small degree of pleasure, was not a little surprised to see in 'The New-York Gazette and General Advertiser' of this day, your most important communication. This communication, Sir, could you substantiate THE ALARM, to which you have reference, would be truly important; but of this I have my doubts, for this reason—you are 'a plain kind of a man, and speak the truth right on.' Mr. Wilcocks, this is your own language; to be consistent therewith, divulge the truth—dispense with those 'social duties,' and disclose that which you call murmuring and shameful truths, which, as a 'citizen of a free republic,' and a good citizen, you owe to your country. If there is no foundation for the alarm, why would you disturb the repose of that country which you profess to love?"

Yours, CANDOUR.

March 9.
Messrs. M'LEAN & LANG,

I hope the above will appear in your paper—It may either bring on a disclosure of serious facts, or produce something that will have a tendency to throw mere light on a subject, which ought not, if real, to remain concealed.

March 15.

By the Sally, Colter, we have received several West-India papers down to a late date, but from which we have derived no information of any importance; they confirm the arrival of general Simcoe at St. Domingo, and the various accounts of a termination to the negotiation lately carrying on at Paris, but say nothing to countenance a report lately in circulation that Rigaud had surrendered the district under his charge to the English.

A West-India paper, quoting from a London paper, says, Mr. Hammond's mission to Prussia was not so successful as might have been expected from the profers made him; by the acquisition of Hamburg and the territory on the Elbe, Prussia might, with Dantzic and other places in the Baltic, have laid the foundation of a potent marine; but possessed of Poland the British alliances had no longer attractions.—Mr. Hammond was not treated with that respect due to a British minister.

[Perhaps the Prussian communicated the above CLEAR-OBSCURE intelligence to the Directory—ERGO—no peace.]
Report says, war is declared by the King of Prussia against the emperor.

The suspension of intercourse between the United States and France, in all probability, extends no farther than a diplomatic correspondence; this would be a thing of course, after the suspension of the functions of the French minister in this country.—As to a formal suspension of a commercial intercourse, it would terminate in nothing short of total abandonment and starvation of the remaining French possessions in the West-Indies; and as it respects the merchants of France, would be the most unwise and unpopular measure the French government could adopt. The bark Hope, Bembridge, left Bourdeaux the 6th of January. Letters by her have been received, which make no mention of a stoppage of intercourse.

March 17.

Extract of a letter from Cadix, dated the 7th of December, 1796.

"The present solely serves to inform you that we have just received advice of the Moors having captured an American brig called the Ceres, captain Benjamin Dennis, who sailed the 11th ult. from hence for Boston, which please to let serve your government in case you should have any vessels coming this way. An order has come down from court prohibiting the importation of foreign rice, which will prejudice our trade very much with the United States."

WILMINGTON, (Del.) March 11.

On Wednesday last arrived here, 20 days from St. Bartholomew's, brig Sally, captain Adams—also, schooner Eliza, both of this port.

These two vessels left St. Bartholomew's together, continued in company during the passage, and both cast anchor in port on the same day.

The Eliza has communicated nothing of consequence; through the obliging attention of a gentleman who sailed as supercargo of the Sally, the editor is enabled to lay before his readers the following

Very interesting intelligence.

The day before the Sally left the island, (15th Feb.) the ship Hope of Philadelphia, arrived from Bourdeaux, which place she left the 7th of January last; the master informed, that the French Directory would no longer listen to lord Malmesbury's equivocal mission, and that he had taken his departure without effecting a single point in the negotiation. The American ambassador, general Pinckney, had arrived; he was not received as minister of the United States; and after he had presented his credentials to the Directory, he was informed that he could not be immediately accepted, but that he might remain in Paris, by subjecting himself to the same regulations that other foreigners were under. The general did not think the dignity or the honour of the United States in the least complimented, by being compelled to receive the kind, domiciliary, searching visits of an armed body; and, whether he consulted his own safety or not, he thought it prudent to take his departure in company with lord Malmesbury.

A fleet had sailed from Brest, doubly manned, accompanied by transports full of troops, bound on a secret expedition, with but a few days provision on board, destined, it was supposed, for Ireland.

By the Sally we also learn, that the French still continue capturing American vessels of every denomination, not even our coasters excepted, that were forced off by stress of weather.

When the Sally left St. Martin's previous to her touching at St. Bartholomew's, there were about 14 sail of vessels for adjudication in the port, the greater part of which had their cargoes taken, and the vessels dismissed. The Americans are treated there with more than common severity, no distinction between the captains or the hands; one instance in particular appears too glaring to pass over:—Captain Trot, belonging to Bolton, from Demerara, bound home, being brought too by a privateer brig, was taken out of his own vessel and put in irons on board the brig, from thence carried on shore, and thrust into the common goal; where he remained three weeks without a hearing. His mate was lashed down between two guns, and severely flogged. It cannot be conjectured what was the cause of such treatment, as no resistance was made, nor any aggravation given, to justify them in such cruelty.

SAVANNA, February 24.

On Wednesday the 15th inst. a shocking murder was committed at the plantation of Mr. Hergen Herson, in Scriven county. The particulars of which, as far as we are informed, are as follows:—Mr. Herson, had purchased in October last, seven men and a woman, from a cargo of negroes, lately imported, and carried them up to his place in Scriven county, where they appeared to be happy and content, never receiving harsh language or blows from their master. On the morning of the 15th, one of the fellows, came to the dwelling-house, requesting his master to walk with him to the spot where they had been working, alleging they had finished what was pointed out to them, and wanted more. Some little time after, his lady looking out, observed one of the fellows struck Mr. William Rae, on the head twice, with the club end of an axe; on her screaming with terror, three or four rushed in the house with axes in their hands, and attempted her life, as also that of a young lady who resided with her, but were prevented by the spirited conduct of the latter, who raised a chair to defend herself. The confusion this threw them in, gave time for her to make her escape; Mrs. Herson, attempting the same, was closely pursued, and saved her life only, by the interposition of a fellow and wench, who had long lived with them, and on finding the fellows return from the place where they had deposited articles plundered from the dwelling-house, advised her to conceal herself under a house. Strict search was made for this unfortunate lady, but happily she remained undiscovered. The faithful fellow having secured her safely, as far as lay in his power, ran to the neighbours and gave the alarm, which occasioned the collection of a few men, who arriving on the spot, found Mr. Rae quite dead, and on searching, discovered Mr. Herson about the spot where he was enticed to examine the work, lying without any other sensations of life, than that of laborious breathing, the back part of his skull being driven in, by a blow of an axe. In this situation, he remained about twenty hours, and expired, greatly lamented by all who had the pleasure of his acquaintance; his character being that of an amiable worthy man. The party immediately pursued, and came up with the murderers, who made resistance, but were overcome, three being killed on the first discharge, and one badly wounded; two surrendered, one of which declared himself the author and contriver of the murder; and after much deliberation, was by the men assembled, condemned to the flames; which sentence was immediately put in execution.

Much credit, we hear, is due to three brothers, gentlemen of the name of Scrugg's, who commenced the pursuit, and by their spirited attack, prevented these villains from perpetrating other enormities of the same nature, which was their declared intention.

We are also informed, that Mr. Thomas Kirk, of this place, was on the spot, and received a wound from one of them, but fortunately made his escape.

Query—What species of reward ought to be bestowed on the faithful negro, who at the risk of his own, saved his mistress's life, and gave the alarm to the neighbouring families?

Annapolis, March 23.

For the MARYLAND GAZETTE
The INSPECTOR, No. IV.

"A man may smile and smile and be a villain."
I WAS in a large company of both sexes, a few evenings since, when a gentleman, whom I shall call Drasillo, was mentioned with uncommon marks of respect and approbation; particularly by the ladies, who seemed to vie with each other in bestowing on him the highest encomiums. Miss W—L— thought him the most engaging man she had ever known, and declared that the elegant simplicity of his manners, added to a highly cultivated mind, made him quite irresistible, and the fortunate lady, who should be the object of his choice, would, in her opinion, be the most enviable of mortals.

To dispute acknowledged merit is a task invidious and unpleasant, and to contradict the decided opinions of the ladies, is what I seldom presume to do. Besides, custom has given them the privilege of estimating the amiable qualities of the heart, and although they are not infallible, yet their sentiments are generally correct. But their own goodness and candour frequently induces them to trust too much to appearances, and to suppose every person really possesses those qualities, which in fact, he only affects. I would not by any means wish to see the fair sex entertain a universal distrust and suspicion of ours. On the contrary, an open and unsuspecting mind, is, in my opinion, an invariable mark of innocence and virtue. But I would desire the ladies to examine with some caution, the conduct of a man, before they suffer their admiration to be so powerfully excited.

My acquaintance with Drasillo having commenced in the early part of our youth, I have had an opportunity of observing attentively every part of his conduct, and of discovering his real motives of action. His mind is improved and cultivated—his address pleasing and insinuating. He possesses a certain quickness of discernment, which enables him to penetrate into every character, and he accommodates himself to every disposition. This last quality is generally pleasing, and when dictated by benevolence, is certainly estimable. For the man who endeavours to smooth the rugged paths of life, by giving pleasure to his friends, undoubtedly deserves our highest approbation. But he who soothes our vanity, and flatters our follies, only to seduce our affections, and obtain our friendship for selfish purposes, deserves to be avoided and despised. Such, I am induced to believe from my observations, is Drasillo. Though a stranger to the gentle and amiable virtues, he appears alive to all their sensations. The tear starts in his eye at the tale of woe, and joy animates his countenance at the success of merit; but they are not the genuine effusions of his soul. His cold and callous heart is alike insensible to the distress of the unfortunate, or the happiness of the virtuous; and he only affects those feelings to blind the world the better to mislead mankind.

I have often thought with astonishment, on the character and conduct of Drasillo. It appears almost impossible, that a man should be able to discover, and to practise, in some measure, the precepts of virtue, without feeling its divine influence. That self-approbation, which arises from the consciousness of doing a laudable action, is certainly more valuable than the trivial advantages that are derived from deceiving and imposing on the world. Supposing a man really vicious, I would commend him for concealing his vices from the public eye, if he could not, or would not correct them; but to affect qualities we do not possess, and sentiments we cannot feel, merely to entrap the candid and unsuspecting mind, deserves undoubtedly the severest censure; and the constant apprehension of being detected in our falsehood, and exposed to contempt and derision, must embitter every advantage, derived from the practice of deceit.

In some countries in Europe, dissimulation and flattery constitute a very material part of education, and the man who hopes for preferment, must be instructed in the early part of his life, in the arts of servility and obsequiousness. The generous and manly sentiments, which dignify and adorn human nature, are stifled in their infancy, and he is taught to believe, that notions of honour and integrity are mere chimeras, and beneath the regard of a man of sense. Thus prepared for meanness and vice, their first object is to render themselves pleasing and serviceable to the great, to whose whims and caprices, they implicitly submit; and if they are so fortunate, as to procure the patronage of men of influence, and by that means obtain the completion of their wishes, they care not by what steps they proceed, although dishonourable to themselves, and injurious to the morals of their countrymen.

But happily for us, we are not yet degraded to such a state of corruption. Integrity and virtue are absolutely necessary to obtain the confidence of our fellow-citizens, who alone can raise us to dignity and eminence; and whatever ends a laudable ambition may propose, the means of attainment are never incompatible with those principles, which we ought to reverberate in our youth, and relinquish only with our lives.

The first essentials to the formation of a great character, are independence in our sentiments, and firmness in our conduct, and we must pursue with unbending steadiness, whatever our reason and virtue dictate. A proper deference ought certainly to be paid, to the judgment of others; but to adopt opinions without examining their propriety, or to flatter, or copy the weaknesses of others, is a mark of a depraved mind, or vicious disposition. Young men, when they see a person possessed of some splendid qualities, are too apt to regard him as a model in every respect worthy of their imitation. Even his vices or follies are frequently looked upon by them as perfections, and by at-