

and abhorred the very name of slavery, public spirit appears to have been the ruling passion and the chief mover of actions. As tyranny and vice progressed, public spirit however gradually receded, and at last left those nations to their melancholy but instructive fate. Greece became the prey of Rome.—Rome, after becoming mistress of the world, fell into ruins; and its name and empire at length returned to their original extent—the precincts of the single city. And here, my friends, it might be useful to pause a moment, and give indulgence to those reflections which the late conquest of Rome, by the general enemies of humanity, cannot fail to excite in every classical and feeling mind. Who that has heard of her ancient greatness, who that justly honours the illustrious names which adorn her history, and the monuments of genius which her sons have left, but must have revered the old age of Rome, and lamented that no saving hand could be stretched forth for her defence and security. I mean not to charge the present inhabitants of this unfortunate city with a want of pious fortitude, while I recall to your memory, that when in the infancy of Rome, a foreign tyrant, meddling in her domestic concerns, threatened her with ruin, she was preferred entirely by the fidelity and valour of her citizens. Then indeed the enterprising heroism of Scævola could relieve his country by an attempt to destroy one hostile invader; lately such a patriotic exploit would have been fruitless, because French oppression, like the voracious hydra, could supply with new heads the place of each that might be struck off by the righteous sabre.

If, as has been stated, my hearers, love of country and zeal in its cause depend much on the degree of rational liberty and comforts which a people enjoy, it is with honest pride that we may ask, where is the country that should possess more patriotic citizens than our own? The constitution of the United States is the work of the American nation itself, and affords every proper protection to the rights and privileges of the people.—Those who administer the government are chosen from among ourselves, and can therefore seldom have any interest or views incompatible with the public good. Since the Federal government went into operation, agriculture and commerce, under all foreign attacks, have flourished beyond example; arts, manufactures and science, have rapidly advanced; and from a state of national disorder, weakness and poverty, we have become respectable, powerful and rich in all the means of resource. In addition to the inestimable boon of independence, a kind Providence has also allotted us an extensive and fertile territory, a temperate and grateful climate, and hath abundantly bestowed every thing which should render a nation industrious, happy and thankful. Are not these blessings sufficient to rivet the affections of every upright American to his native land? And should they not then be deemed worth all the struggles that can be made to defend and perpetuate them? The late patriotic declarations and exertions from one end of the continent to the other, loudly and gloriously proclaim, that they shall be defended and transmitted to posterity in spite of all the atrocious attempts of wicked and perfidious France. Though robbed, insulted and abused, the moderate and peaceful disposition of our government, still inclined America anxiously to seek for a reconciliation with her cruel plunderer. But fortunately for us, France mistaking our moderation for fear, our love of peace for base timidity, threw off the thin mask of pretences by which she had heretofore covered her designs, and has daringly endeavoured to fix on us a most degrading badge of dependence and servitude. She was not aware perhaps that there is a point of patient forbearance beyond which the genius of a free people forbids them to go; and that at the moment when her designs could be made apparent, the great body of the American empire, discarding every delusive expectation from the justice of France, would rise indignant to oppose her as an enemy, and to support, with firmness and vigour, the honour of our political union. Accordingly, no sooner was the base treatment which our messengers of peace had received in France properly known, no sooner were the ignominious terms of negotiation which she wished to prescribe publicly announced, than the honest voice of patriotism was heard from all parts of the land, proclaiming a glorious determination to keep the fair fabric of independence from either being destroyed by the open assaults, or undermined by the secret artifices of a barbarous foe. Just resentment, and a noble enthusiasm, I believe, animated the bosom of each virtuous American; nor did any class of the community seem wanting in zeal to vindicate the rights, and aid the efforts of our injured country. Voluntary and spirited associations for defence have been every where entered into, offers of military service were made by the patriotic youth in every quarter of the United States, and the most liberal contributions for the use of government, which redound much to the credit of the mercantile part of society, have been given in all the principal commercial towns throughout the continent. Go on, my countrymen, in this generous and manly conduct;—continue to place a fit reliance in those whom you yourselves have appointed to manage your concerns, and in the long tried worth of the venerable patriot who presides at the helm of state;—reject with disdain the counsels of all those who would at this crisis sow the seeds of discontent and dissension among you;—be firm and united, and if you are forced into the evils of war, you may then, with devout confidence, expect that the Omnipotent Being, who has heretofore so signally favoured this happy land, will still guard and watch over you.—Of the justice of your cause there can no longer remain the least doubt, since the illustrious Washington has agreed once more to head your armies, and to fight your battles. Washington, in whom the brightest excellence

is personified, the best of men, and the matchless hero, roused by a sense of the iniquitous hostility waged upon his country, promises for her sake to quit the tranquil retreat where he fondly thought uninterruptedly to conclude his days, and again to venture on the boisterous sea of public life. While the French, not content, should we even surrender all claims for the property of which we have been spoiled, demand a larger tribute as the price of peace, and, like the Gauls in the Roman senate house, have insultingly menaced us with the sword of destruction, in order to add weight to the scale which should measure the sum of American degradation;—behold! our veteran chief, as Camillus of old, magnanimously lends his aid to rescue us from disgraceful stipulations, and to repel any hostile intruder. Unrivalled patriot, and first of worthies! if the memory of any thing human can escape the injuries of time, we may surely believe that thy name will descend spotless to the last ages of futurity; that the glory of thy deeds, and the fame of thy virtues, shall live for ever. Under such a leader we have every reason to anticipate success, and to trust that our liberty and independence may be preserved from the jaws of Gallic avarice and ambition. Yes, they shall be preserved. To use the energetic style of the Athenian orator, we can swear, my countrymen, by the departed souls of those of our forefathers who assisted to animate the revolution, by the sacred ghosts of the patriots who fell in securing the means of our freedom, that America will never prostrate her rights to a foreign tyrant, till her treasures are exhausted, and the best blood of her citizens has ceased to flow.

LONDON, September 17.

ON Saturday we stopped the press to state the important intelligence, received that day at the India House, of the French troops having taken possession of Rosetta, Damietta, and Cairo. This news, which was brought to London by an express from Mr. Toke, the agent of the India company at Constantinople, comes through a channel which can leave no doubt with regard to its truth. It is curious to observe, however, that every successful operation of Buonaparte is uniformly preceded by some extravagant account of his ruin. It would seem that the journalists of Germany had determined that their fictions should serve as a foil to his achievements, and that the splendour of his successes should astonish us the more, by reaching us immediately after the false reports of the disasters they relate to have befallen him.

Before the nature of the dispatches received at the India House was communicated to the public, it was stated that an army of 50,000 Arabs had opposed the progress of the French general in Egypt, and defeated him with the loss of 8000 killed, and 2000 prisoners.—Though this report was posted at Lloyd's, it appeared to us so absurd, that we did not think it necessary to delay our publication to insert it on Saturday and we should not notice it now, had it not found its way into the other papers of that evening.

Nothing but the most perfect ignorance of the situation of Egypt, could have gained a moment's credit to this story. The Arabs have no interest in obstructing the progress of the French, and their wandering hordes could do no injury to the army Buonaparte commands, if they were inclined to oppose it.

It is equally ridiculous to suppose that Buonaparte sustained much loss in taking the towns of Rosetta, Damietta and Cairo. The fortifications of these places are of the most insignificant kind, and the Beys and their Mamelouks can scarcely be expected to have made a show of resistance.

It was necessary that Buonaparte should have secured the possession of Egypt, before he proceeded further on his rout to India, in order that he may preserve a communication with France.

It is reported, that the chief bey Sheck Belad has joined the French, and facilitated their march to Suez, where Buonaparte and his army are said to have embarked on the 8th or 10th of August.

September 27.

By dispatches received yesterday at Lord Grenville's office from Mr. Smith, the ambassador of this country at Constantinople, the account of an engagement between admiral Nelson and the French fleet is confirmed. The following letter was sent by Mr. Canning to Lloyd's Coffee house:

Downing-street, September, 26, 1798.

By dispatches received this day from his majesty's minister at Constantinople, dated the 22d of August, it appears that the Turkish government had received and communicated to him an account from the governor of Rhodes, stating that a French brig had arrived unexpectedly in the port of that island, the master of which having been fully examined, had declared that on the 31st of July, an English Squadron, consisting of 14 sail of the line, one frigate, and one corvette, had come to attack the French Squadron anchored at Ebouker (Begeres), that towards the evening of the same day the English Squadron had got into action, and that the L'Orient was already on fire when the captain of the brig came away.

The Turkish government had also received and communicated to the British minister, an account that two Turkish galleys had, after a hot engagement, taken a French frigate of 40 guns which had come to anchor off the coast of Syria, and landed a few of its crew, with a view of exciting disturbances in that country.

This intelligence is so far satisfactory, as it puts beyond doubt the fact of an engagement between the two fleets having taken place. The French account, which clearly proves that a complete victory was gained by the English, is thus authenticated.—The details

of a splendid victory, and of almost the total destruction of the enemy's fleet, may soon be expected.

By the same conveyance letters were said to have been received, that Buonaparte was harassed by the Arabs; that Pacha Gaza, the governor of Syria, was sending 3000 chosen men to the defence of Cairo; that Buonaparte was intrenched between Rosetta and Cairo, &c. &c. This account is contradicted by the communications of the French Directory, that Buonaparte had reached Cairo. The latter information seems unquestionable.

The stories which are so lightly raised and propagated respecting the vigorous exertions of the Beys, and the opposition of the Arabs, are utterly incredible, and we conceive can be ascribed to nothing but ignorance or impatience. How have the Beys and the Arabs so suddenly confederated? Who ever heard of regular armies of Arabs coming down to Egypt? Whoever believed the Mamelouks capable of giving any resistance to a veteran army provided with every military advantage, assisted by the fullest knowledge of the country, which men long acquainted with it, and by whom the expedition is attended, can afford? Egypt, at the present day, indeed, is as little capable of formidable resistance to an army of soldiers, as a horde of savages armed with bows and arrows are capable of opposing European artillery. With respect to the people, they may be considered as wholly neutral, or, rather they will be ready to assist in the overthrow of the vile and abominable tyranny of the Beys.

What may now be the intention of Buonaparte is a subject of some doubt. The Hamburg mail which arrived yesterday contains a curious proclamation which he is said to have published on his arrival in Egypt. It is calculated to flatter the religious principles of the inhabitants of this country, the mother of superstition. It announces that a new government is to be erected. At the same time it carefully endeavours to inculcate, that the attempt carries with it no hostility to the Ottoman Porte. The whole performance is a singular instance of the art and accommodating temper of the French. It is but fair to observe, however, that this is the first usurpation they have committed in the name of the Supreme Being. This is the first occasion in which they have been guilty of hypocrisy on the subject of religion.

There now appears very considerable probability that Buonaparte will fix his abode in Egypt, at least for some time.—He may think it the most glorious work in which he could engage to recal from its present obscurity and contempt, into power and splendour, the country from which first issued all the religion, all the science, all the politics, all the arts which have flourished in the world. A rich and fertile country, the means of every kind of opulence and splendour, will enable him to reward the bold adventurers by whom he is accompanied.—He may willingly forget a country in which he was too great to be a subject. He may meditate the erection of a new nation, of which he himself shall, in some way, be the head. Provided indeed that his troops are faithful (and they have every reason to be so), he is already independent of all the world. Perhaps then the ambition of Buonaparte may not regret the destruction of the French fleet, which frees him from every risk of interruption from the mother country, in any designs which he may prosecute.

The novelty of this undertaking naturally tempts conjecture. It is altogether so different from any thing we have witnessed for several centuries, that it is not absurd to ascribe to it in speculation objects different from common politics and common views. Time, however, will soon give us some clue to the mystery. If India be not immediately attempted, France may ere long reckon Egypt an independent nation, and Buonaparte as an ally rather than a subject.

As to any resistance from the Porte, it will probably come too late, if it comes at all. That feeble empire is already distracted by formidable intestine commotions, and perhaps the divan may be contented with professions of friendship and alliance, to excuse their forbearing an opposition which they could not meet with success.

GLASGOW, September 25.

Paris papers till 17th instant, have been received since our last. By these it appears, that admiral Nelson has, by the total destruction of the French fleet, on its return from Alexandria, made ample amends for his former ill luck. "The Squadron of admiral Bruey," says the supplement to the Redacteur of the 14th instant, "which was moored off Bequierres, was attacked by the British fleet; on both sides the action was maintained with a degree of obstinacy which history does not afford an example. During the action the vessel of the French admiral blew up. Two or three of our ships were sunk. Others, both British and French, were driven on shore; others of the French vessels remained totally disabled on the scene of action. We are anxious for their fate." The authenticity of this intelligence, which was repeated in the Paris papers of the 15th and 16th has been doubted by many, because it had first appeared only in the supplement of the Redacteur; but when we consider that the supplement also contains a message from the Directory to the Council of Five Hundred, on the subject of Buonaparte's entrance into Egypt, which is certainly official; and that it has been the policy of the French government, from the days of Barrere to the present, to communicate the bad news which they could not conceal, under the covert of some intelligence more consoling; these reluctant confessions of the Directory seem sufficient, in our opinion, to justify our yielding almost implicit credit to the report.

The message to the Directory on the subject of Buonaparte's entrance into Egypt, a copy of which