

THE MARYLAND REPUBLICAN.

"FREEDOM IS THE BRILLIANT LIGHT OF HEAVEN—'TIS REASON'S SELF—THE SIN OF DELITY."

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CONDITIONS OF THE MARYLAND REPUBLICAN.

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The terms are three dollars per annum; the first year payable six months from the date of subscription—to continue half-yearly in advance. The Editor confidently trusts that Subscribers will be particularly attentive to PUNCTUALITY in their payments, as that can alone enable him to meet those necessary and unavoidable expenses naturally resulting from such an establishment.

All communications (post-paid) from literary gentlemen, will be thankfully received; and, if admissible, shall receive immediate attention.

Political.

Cobbett's Letters to the King.

The celebrated Cobbett is addressing a series of letters to the king of England upon the present maritime war against France, which has excited great interest, and is certainly entitled to serious attention. He observes himself, that he greatly doubts whether they will ever be permitted to reach the ear of his majesty; and it is obvious that the production is intended for the people instead of the king. It may not be improper to mention that Cobbett is not in the employ of the present ministry* who have repeatedly suffered under the lash of his pen, yet he is far from being an advocate of the party generally denominated the opposition, or whig party, to whom, perhaps, he is in principle as in practice, an inveterate enemy. Equally hostile to reform and to the present administration, he proves himself to be the advocate of some ambitious great men, who wish to supplant the latter without submitting to the former. Although most men have admitted the venality and corruption of this profligate wretch, few have denied him the tribute of conspicuous talents in his editorial station—and none of his productions have evinced more genius or knowledge than the present, as far as we have seen it. Like most of the artful measures of opposition, it is greatly calculated to excite popular distrust in their present rulers, and their measures—to create well founded alarms for the situation of England, and to distract the public councils with difficulties and dangers. To effect this object it has been necessary to publish to the world important facts, and to speak in a language that will not fail to awaken the nation to a more lively sense of their real situation than any publication which we have met with for a long time.

Our limited paper will not admit of a publication at large of these lengthy letters, but we shall continue to give such extracts from them as will be most interesting to American readers.

He commences with the following animated and feeling picture of the present situation of England.

"At the end of 16 years of war, which has given rise to the income tax—which has caused a part of every man's estate to be alienated, under the name of redemption of land tax; which has banished guineas from the land, and made bank notes a legal tender—which has seen the habreus Corpus, or personal

* These remarks were written before the late intelligence (contained in this day's paper) was received. It is not improbable that these letters may have hastened the disgrace and retirement of the late imbecile and profligate ministry.

safety act, for many years suspended—which has drained the kingdom of its youth and its vigour, leaving the next generation to be the offspring of decrepitude, deformity, and imbecility—which has thus entailed upon the nation ugliness, and weakness, and disease—and which, while it has robbed the land of thousands upon thousands of the best of its laborers, in order to convert them into defenders of Sicily, and other foreign countries, has introduced thousands of foreigners to defend the same land.—At such a time, when every eye in the nation is anxiously fixed upon the great, and, in all probability, the last attempt, about to be made against the enemy, it appears to me, that it may be useful publicly to state certain facts, relating to the mode of carrying on a war of such wearisome length and such desolating consequence."

He then argues that the present ministers have had neither time nor talents sufficient to acquaint themselves, or "his majesty," with the true situation of the British nation, or that of the enemy;—and pronounces "that, with all our parade of publicity, with all our ostentation of unreserve, there is, in the whole world, no people, who, in proportion to their magnitude, understand so little of their public affairs as is understood by the people of this kingdom."

He then proceeds to shew, that with regard to France, their resources, revenue, &c. England "has been the most deceived of nations, and his Majesty the most deceived of Sovereigns;" that, whilst they have been continually flattered with the idea that the commerce of France had long been annihilated, she had been prospering by the most profitable of all commerce, viz. an extensive and uninterrupted coasting trade; and adds, as a proof of the peculiar advantages attending this trade, that "there is no doubt that the trade between London and the coal mines, is of a million times more value to England than all her foreign commerce put together." He places the importance of this trade to a country, in a striking point of view. "We should regret the loss of Canada, perhaps, or of a West India Island; but the loss, like that of a child out of a numerous family, would not be felt in our affairs. We should still be as rich and as strong as before; but cut off the means of sending corn and timber, and iron, and tin, and coal along our coast, from one part of the kingdom to the other, and the distress is instantly felt. In fact, the different parts of the kingdom can no more dispense with the coasting trade, than the farmer can dispense with the aid of the blacksmith and the wheelwright.

"The extent of this commerce, in the dominions of Napoleon, is scarcely to be credited by those who are not acquainted with the facts. Along the coast of Naples, Tuscany, Genoa and Piedmont, from the southern provinces of France and Marseilles, through Ceter, and the grand canal of Louis XIV. to Bordeaux, and thence along the Atlantic coast of France, the whole of the coast of Holland, and into the Elbe; in short from the Baltic to the southern point of Italy, all the countries are connected by a chain of commercial intercourse as complete, perhaps as ever existed in the world, and as advantageous as it is extensive. This commerce is, by your majesty's servants, spoken of under the degrading appellation of "a mere coasting trade;" but this is precisely that trade which is really advantageous to a nation. If England were cut off from all communication with foreign nations, she would, in point of strength and happiness, suffer nothing at all. But, cut off the communication between London and the coal mines, the inhabitants of London must perish or disperse. The truth is, that the commerce between the several parts of this vast empire, is so great, that convoys of eighty, a hundred, and even of two hundred sail, are frequently seen, and by your majesty's fleets too, carrying on this trade in perfect security. These consist chiefly of luggers, or zebecs, of a draught of water from 80 to 120 tons burthen, and are navigated by a proportionate

number of seamen. There are employed in this commerce from the river of Bordeaux alone, thirty-three thousand seamen upwards. The coast of the Mediterranean teem with this commerce.—Its ports harbours and bays swarm with vessels, and at no time was the commerce so great between France and Italy on the one side, and between France and Holland, and the North, on the side, as it is at this moment, while your majesty's servants are boasting that they have a navy that scours the ocean, and that "England engrosses the commerce of the world." While they amuse themselves and the nation, with this empty vaunting, the commerce of France, and her vassal states, carried on almost within the reach of the nated eye of our admiral, far exceeds, in the mean of contributing towards national strength, the commerce of England and of all her allies."

He then mentions, as proof of the fact, that, although the ministry have continually flattered the British nation with the annihilation of the French navy, that still the ports of Brest and Rochefort have been continually sending forth their squadrons;—and with warmth exclaims, "If there be a commerce such as I have described, carried on between the different ports of Napoleon, of what use, as the means of keeping him in check, are the thousand ships of war now employed? Of what use is it, if this commerce is to go on uninterrupted? and of what use is it that the sea is covered with your majesty's ships, and that history will record the valor of your seamen? Of what avail is it that we destroy French ships of war, while we leave in full vigor all the means of creating others to supply their place?"

He remarks that the security of this valuable commerce to France, arises, in a great degree, from their telegraphic signals, by means of which they continually inform their vessels, (on the whole coast) of the approach or absence of an enemy;—by which they are instructed when and where to enter. He states that this commerce produces such a revenue to Napoleon, as enables him to dispense with direct taxes, "which are always odious,"—by means of this commerce, he disguises from the people the burthens which they bear. Very much, then, are your Majesty's servants deceived, when they suppose that the Emperor Napoleon has no Custom Houses whereat to collect duties." "His scale may not be so noble as to afford him dukes for receivers; he may not have marquises for collectors, baronets for wharfingers, and knights of the eagle for wine-tasters; but I am of opinion that his custom-house yields him a much greater clear revenue than is derived from any similar establishment in the world—and it affords him the means of drawing upon other sources of taxation with so springing a hand, that his people, especially within the ancient boundaries of France, have reason to congratulate themselves upon the comparative lightness of their burthens."

He ridicules the idea of the hopes entertained in England that the French would rebel against the Emperor; and observes, "but, great as are the financial advantages of this commerce, Napoleon derives from it the still greater advantages attending such a nursery of seamen. It has been most clearly proved, over and over again, that for our navy, the nursery is our coasting trade.—There requires, therefore, nothing more to satisfy us, that from a coasting trade such as I have described, the advantages to Napoleon is so great as to excite well-grounded alarm in the mind of every reflecting Englishman. It is from this copious source that the Emperor of France has drawn those hundred of thousands of seamen with whom he has manned his fleets and squadrons for many years past, and which fleets and squadrons, though always hitherto defeated, and in many instances, captured and destroyed, by the superior skill and valor of your Majesty's fleets, answer the terrible purpose of causing us to keep up a force by land as well as sea, so immense, so disproportionate to our population and our pecuniary means, that

the country is stripped of its youth and its vigor—the fields are left to be tilled by the poor and the decrepid—and the taxes are so general and so heavy, and the anticipations upon them so great—that hope, which alleviates all other burthens, here refuses her sustaining hand. Year after year, we not only see the taxes and tax-gatherers increase—we not only feel their immediate pressure, but we see mortgaged, deeper and deeper, the very seeds of property; we see taken from us, for the purposes of current expense, that which was held out to us as the sure pledge of permanent relief. Could we once be sure that it was out of the power of Napoleon to send a fleet to sea, how different would be our situation! But this assurance we can never have, so long as he has the command of the seamen necessarily employed in such a commerce. How often, within the last fourteen years, have we annihilated the navy of France! how often have we swept the ocean! But still France, in the midst of all this annihilation, finds the means of sending out fresh squadrons and fleets, and proves beyond a doubt, that she possesses, in spite of all we have hitherto done, the means of forming a navy in a very short space of time."

He next pronounces all the subsidies to the different powers of the continent (which they have for years been lavishing) "waste of their means to keep Bonaparte from the shores of England." "That this is a waste of our means, that it has no other effect than that of augmenting at once our debts and our taxes, and of hastening the day when the cries of the widow and the orphan shall proclaim whether or not "a national debt be a national blessing." And he concludes by saying, "that by all the means we can contrive, by all the wars we can excite, and by all the treasure we can squander, he can not, for any long time be thus employed; and consequently, when he can no longer be so employed, we, upon the very principle on which this aid is given to his enemies, must be in imminent danger. Therefore, by our present line of politics, by our present system of defence, by our present explicit avowal, if Napoleon succeeded in subduing all his enemies upon the Continent, "we have very little hope of being able to resist him."

"When one looks at the navy of England; at the quarter of a million of people whom in various ways it employs; at the fifteen or seventeen millions of money (a fifth part, I believe, of the rental of the whole kingdom) that it annually costs; when one looks at this wonderful power, this mass of means, this focus of the fertility of our soil, and of the industry, ingenuity, valor, and patriotism of the nation; when one contemplates all this, and reads the history of the war for several years past, one cannot help being struck with the disparity between the means and the effects. For what purpose are all these preparations and all the sacrifices which it occasions? What does this immense navy accomplish?—if, for many years past, all its prizes and all the mischief it has done the enemy, were estimated, they would not amount to enough to pay the expense of finding the navy in water. The navy is our defence, it may be said; but that cannot be said without acknowledging that we are deficient either in strength, or the courage, or the will to defend our country by land; and I beseech your majesty to consider, what prospects there is, or can be, of an end to our difficulties and danger, while Napoleon possesses, undisturbed the means of building and manning ships of war, though England, at the same time, maintains a navy at the expense of seventeen millions a year; what prospect can there be of peace and safety to England, while France, insensible of the calamities and almost of the existence of war, is able to impose upon your majesty's subjects burthens such as were never before thought of, and which, with the duration of war, must necessarily increase. To me, therefore, it appears evident, that unless our mode of warfare be changed, unless our immense means be made use of to

annoy and distress the enemy, and particularly to cut off his naval resources, we shall fall in the contest. If he once obtains possession of the whole of the coast of Portugal and Spain, what, if we persevere in our present mode of warfare, is to prevent him from sitting quietly down, and seeing us exhaust ourselves, wear ourselves out, torment ourselves with continual alarm, and, while his dominions have only to support a flotilla at Boulogne, and an army of England, at an expense, perhaps, not greater than that which we are put to for the maintenance of our local militia? where, then, should we look for an end of our danger? There never more, while that state of things lasted, could be peace united with safety for England. But if Austria should fall—and if, which would be the almost certain consequence, the Southern Peninsula should follow, where then, if the means of suddenly forming a navy be still suffered to exist in France, will be our ground of hope? The gloom of despair will pervade and must pervade the political horizon;—no submission alone can we look for an alleviation of our burthens, and though the thought will at first be accompanied with horror, to that submission we shall in time fashion our minds."

But as this idea is very far from being either honorable or consoling, he proposes to point out in a future letter, a new mode of warfare, by which the naval resources of France are to be destroyed, and England saved from impending ruin.

Beauties of the British Government.
We extract the following from the proceedings of a very numerous meeting of the freeholders of the County of Middlesex, convened for the purpose of taking into consideration the necessity of a Parliamentary reform, August 9, 1809.

Mr. HARE TOWNSEND.—When I came here I did not think that I should be called upon to second the resolutions so ably introduced by my friend, Major Cartwright, and which you have heard read. Convinced, however, as I am, and as I trust you all are, of the necessity of those Resolutions, I second the motion with sincere pleasure—and the more so, because in undertaking so to do, I stand in a situation perhaps more peculiar than that of any other gentleman in the room. I am a farmer, and hold a farm, (belonging to myself) for which, were I (at this moment to let it, I could not obtain more than 100*l.* per annum. Gentlemen, what will you say, and what will you think of the situation of England, when I tell you that the taxes, and rates, and tythes of this farm amount to more than the rent? [hear! shameful, abominable!]—Such, gentlemen, is the fact, which I attribute, in a great degree, to the immoderate and unnecessary profusion with which the public money is lavished. This land is *tytheable*, and being lately called upon for an increase of the annual payment in respect of my great tythes, I wrote a letter to the inhabitants of Godalmin, near to which my farm lies, which is so exactly illustrative of the present situation of the country, that, with your permission, I will take the liberty of reading it. Whatever coincidence there may appear between this letter and the object of this meeting, I can assure you that even the requisition was at that time not known by me to be in contemplation. You will observe, that in the account of the expenditure of the farm, the tax on cart horses is accidentally omitted—and the truth, on that subject, is, that the calls of the tax-gatherer are so numerous, so incessant, and so interminable, that I really forgot to insert it, so that the statement is really below the real amount of the expenditure in rates, taxes and tythes. My house too, being on a scale somewhat more extensive than that which would be deemed requisite for the occupation of a farm of this extent, I did not think it fair to include the house and window tax. A farmer to be sure must have a house—that is, if he can get one in the present alarming and deplorable state of the country. [Read, read!] Mr. Townsend then read the following letter.

A letter addressed to the inhabitants of Godalmin on the recent rise of the Great Tythes.
Busbridge, July 28, 1809.

Gentlemen,
As an increased demand for tythes will oblige me to cease from being a grower of corn, a circumstance which concerns the public as nearly as it does myself, I beg to present the inhabitants of Godalmin Parish with a statement of facts, which perhaps may stimulate them to come forward with the friends of British Freedom