[*From the Boston Telegraphe.*]

AN ESSAY
ON NAVAL ESTABLISHMENTS;
Particularly that of America;
In a letter to a friend, written during the administration of JOHN ADAMS.

THE United States of America have, without doubt, already acquired, by their population, a claim to a respectable grade among nations. Their situation, together with their admirable geographical divisions, insures to them innumerable advantages; advantages resulting not less from the diversity of climate, than from their extent of coast; and many of their rivers emptying themselves into cold and tempestuous seas, afford all the means of forming skilful sailors. These advantages, whilst they augment the real importance of the states, would seem to point out the facility of creating and supporting a naval force: But considering their vast distance from Europe and the infant state of their financial resources, I very much doubt whether such a force would be productive of any considerable advantages.

Naval forces have but too often contributed to the derangement of the finances of many states; not only by means of the enormous expences which are incurred for their support, but from the wars in which they involve their possessors: And ought not the United States to fear the same consequences? They frequently incite to the conquest of colonies; which, however, are never acquired, nor completely established without costing much to the mother country, either for protection, or in consequence of the quarrels to which they give rise.—Nor should we forget, that when these colonies gained sufficient strength to govern themselves, they have seldom failed in taking advantage of the first opportunity that offered, to effect a separation from the parent state; and this but too frequently, after having deprived her of a part of her force; which, whilst it paralizes her, takes from her the means of doing herself justice.

England would seem, when we view the condition of her financial resources to destroy the force of what I have advanced; but even she will, in the end, furnish proofs of its justice. From her deficiency in *original* objects of barter, it has been concluded, that because she had become a manufacturing nation, it was necessary also to become the possessor of colonies, and to have a naval force sufficient to protect her merchants, who, solicitous only for the disposal of their surplus of manufactured aricles, have contrived to impress their government with an opinion, that possessing a naval force, it was necessary to preserve and maintain it, regardless of the enormous expences incurred by it, or the evils which it might bring upon the nation.

The United States of America, abounding in real objects of barter, which neither England, nor indeed but few of the European nations can boast, it can scarcely be doubted that they greatly err in following European systems—in most of which a Navy is considered as an essential part.—The merchant declares that a Navy is the rampart of a state, and the nursery of its revenue; but the farmer and the man of true discernment, look upon it only as the precursor of those events which change both the nature and manner of levying imposts; and which finally becomes a principal agent in converting a free government into a despotism.

The United States ought not to cherish establishments which are so continually inciting to ambition. European nations, confined within their own boundaries, and in absolute want of many articles of the first necessity, have been obliged to resort to the ruinous measure of creating Naval Forces, in order to insure the safe arrival of those articles in their ports. But are the United States reduced to this necessity? I think not; for in every quarter we find their citizens offering an abundance of almost all the necessaries of life for sale. Indeed, it is presumed, on reasonable calculation, that their extensive territory, under a proper state of cultivation, would support an hundred millions of inhabitants—from which we may infer, that they have yet a long course to run before they will have to seek elsewhere for territory.—They possess, as I have before said, almost every article of the first necessity. As to sugars and other products of the West-Indies, which may indeed be called superfluities, the wants of those islands, together with their proximity to the United States, will insure a constant supply. Enjoying all these advantages, I conceive that it would be to the interest of the United States to seek a vent for their surplus produce, by inviting foreigners of every description into their ports; who will be careful to bring with them only those articles for which we are willing to exchange the commodities of our country. Those foreigners, actuated by a spirit of rivalship for our commerce, may it is true, be frequently engaged in war; a circumstance which will certainly dimininish our revenue. But then, let it be recollected, that our citizens will enjoy advantages that more than counterbalance a diminution of revenue. They will experience few of those evils which are entailed by the wars incident to a different system, and be exempted from those losses resulting from the transportation of their produce by sea.

It is well known that China and several nations of India, command extensive coasts, and have many navigable rivers. Why then, have not they been tempted to enter into the Naval system. Why have not they fought the shores of Europe, and contended for the sovereignty of those seas which lead to it? They have timber—they have metals—they have an immense population, and treasures in abundance.—But no—they have thought it more advantageous to entice to their ports the Europeans, whose thirst for gain has ever operated more powerfully; and to encourage the consumption of those articles only which are in affinity with their political systems, and for which their produce and manufactures will be received in exchange. Hence it has resulted, that the nations of the East having few incitements to conquest, and no motives for rivalship on the sea—their population has been completed; their maxims have been more closely observed, and their attachments to their governments strengthened.

If the United States persist in the opinion, that they stand in need of a Naval Force, they ought at the same time to direct their attention to the means of preserving an inviolate neutrality, until their population is at least tripled, and their finances augmented, so as to enable them to construct vessels with more facility, and to provide ports which can serve as an asylum, in case of an attack by a superior and enterprising enemy. It has always appeared incomprehensible to me, why Mr. Adams should ever have thought of creating a Naval Force, without having previously, or at least at the same time, provided a safe asylum for it. For if the United States, in so indefensible a condition as at present, should be forced into a war with a Naval power, that very marine which has cost them such vast sums would become the prey of their enemies, and the immense imposts levied on their citizens totally lost.

Common sense points out to us, that it is the policy of Europe, and particularly of England, to prevent the increase of our national importance. We ought, therefore, to be ever watchful, in order to counteract the means which they may employ to effect their object. If the United States persist in their present system, they should immediately construct arsenals in places naturally defensible, and susceptible of all the improvements that fortification can give, together with a good navigation; in a word, places which would afford protection to the vessels already constructed; for in those of easy access, they would infallibly be destroyed. At present the United States possess a number of fine frigates, and are preparing to construct several ships of the line—Suppose then, that any portion of these ships should be encountered on our coast by an enemy of superior force, and should be obliged to seek for safety in a port, pray where would those vessels find a port into which the enemy could not pursue and capture them? It certainly could not be on any of the waters of the Chesapeake; for on them, there is no refuge from a powerful and enterprising enemy.

If it should be observed, that the principal powers of Europe have not always opposed the establishment of Naval Forces by certain nations among themselves, which possess not those advantages of situation that the United States do; let it be recollected, that it is to preserve what they call the balance of power, that Maritime or other forces that are necessary to that equilibrium, are suffered at certain periods to arise—But in regard to North America, the nature of this system is changed—Europe is well acquainted with the situation of the United States, and the advantages resulting from it; she knows the vast resources which they will one day have at their disposal, and which are even now rapidly increasing; and therefore cannot be ignorant of dangers which she will have to encounter, if the prospects of the United States are permitted to be realized so soon as they would be, if they were suffered in tranquility to enjoy those rights to which they are entitled.

The islands of America, and the countries of the southern part of this continent, are so much exposed by their proximity to the United States, that those powers of Europe to whom they belong, will ever be suspicious of our having some design against them, in proportion to the increase of our maritime force. It would seem then that the dictates of reason forbid us to harbour the idea that Europe would remain tranquil, while we were assuming a posture which threatened her possessions with so much danger;—She would seek for pretexts, if legitimate causes failed her, for involving us in war; by which means she would endeavour to depress, if not put an intire stop to the growing consequences which (if the United States persisted in a Naval system, and succeeded in it) might prove fatal to her. I think, for reasons which I have already advanced, and which I am persuaded will operate for a considerable number of years, that the United States could not adopt a more destructive system, than that which we are treating. They ought to abandon the idea of constructing fleets which besides inspiring ambition, that universal foe to wisdom and justice, often become the means of sapping the foundation of the best of governments, or an hinderance to their duration.

I am fully persuaded, that if the United States wish to live in peace, they ought to confine themselves to those systems which perfectly accord with their particular situation.

If they had attended to the speculations of Jefferson, Franklin, Madison, and others, they would have employed many years that are passed, to a better purpose than meddling with the politics of France or England.

The true policy of the United States, for nearly a century to come, should be to direct their principal attention to one particular point.—In every measure which they adopt, they ought to keep in view a period at which their most advantageous commerce will be confined to America in general, whose population even now, amounts to near fifty millions; and let me add the consumption of the southern part of this continent has already become an object of importance. If the United States pursue such conduct, and above all, if the government will cherish the various sources of population, they will facilitate the means of exchanging the manufactured articles which it is presumed they will possess, for the produce & rich metals of the south. Is it not then essential to the United States to prepare for this great object?—And can a better plan be adopted, in order to obtain it, than that of augmenting their population? Thus they will the sooner arrive at the means of establishing manufactures, particularly those of luxuries; since it is true, that among the people of the south, neither economy, nor a taste for simplicity has ever prevailed. The proximity of the United States to all those nations, insures a superiority in the trade which may be carried on with them: and if the Europeans shall, at an after period, dispute that superiority by force, that will be the time when a Marine will become truly useful, and when we can more easily create and support one.

I flatter myself with the idea, that instead of shutting our doors against emigrants from Europe, a system which was carefully pursued under the administration of Mr. Adams, by the help of alien bills, &c. we shall soon adopt the opinions of Mr. Jefferson, both in that respect, and in regard to the augmentation of our population by natural means. It would then be as difficult for Europe to prevent the United States from engrossing the greater part of the commerce of America, as for the inhabitants of Naples to extinguish the volcanoes of the neighbouring mountains.

The truths which I have here slightly touched upon, I propose at a future day to treat in detail. At present, the duties which I owe to my family restrain me.

With the sincerest attachment, believe me to be your obedient servant.

J. H**V****.

The schooners Dolphin & Kitty.

now lying at Mr. Young's Wharf will constantly take freights every three weeks from this to Annapolis or Baltimore. For terms apply to BROHAWN and BOYS.

Washington July 15, 1801. ‡

LOTS FOR SALE,
In the City of WASHINGTON.

THE SUBSCRIBER offers for Sale a number of valuable Lots beautifully situated between the Capitol and the Eastern Branch Also a few Lots to be let on lease for ninety nine years in the vicinity of the Navy yard.

WILLIAM PROUT.

City of Washington. December 12, 1800 tf

N. B. A few Tons of good Meadow Hay, one Kiln of Bricks, and some Cord wood.

W. P.

BOTTLED PORTER.

THE subscriber wishing to establish himself in the bottling of Porter informs the public in general that he at present has by him for sale at his bottling cellar, corner of Bridge-street, opposite the Post Office,

Fine Philadelphia Porter, in excellent order—Also,

TAUNTON ALE of the first quality, and CIDER in bottles.

The public may depend upon always finding a constant supply at the cellar as above—and he is thankful for favours received.

R. C. STANLEY.

George-Town, August 6. 1801. ¶1m

CIRCULATING LIBRARY.

HUGH SOMERVILLE,

Has lately received and is now ready to circulate, a large and valuable collection of NOVELS, History, Romances, Voyages, Travels, &c. which will be lent out to read, by the week, month, quarter, or year, at his store and residence in a frame building, south side of the Pennsylvania Avenue, near the Hotel bridge and three new brick buildings, and the building now erecting for the city of Washington market-house, where the terms may be known, and attendance given from nine in the morning till one in the afternoon, and from two till four.

August 18. 7t.

By virtue of a decree from the Chancery Court of Maryland, will be exposed to

PUBLIC SALE,

To the highest bidder, at Mr. William Rhodes's Tavern, on the eighth day of September next, at 11 o'clock in the forenoon (the same being part of the real estate of Abraham Young, deceased)

A LOT of ground situate in the District of Columbia, adjoining the City of Washington; whereon is erected a two story brick house 32 by 36 feet, unfinished; one small frame house in good repair about 12 by 16, one meat house 12 by 12, and one small log house; subject to the widow's right of dower A credit of 12 months will be given to the purchaser or purchasers, on giving bond with approved security, on interest.

On the ratification of the sale by the chancellor, and on payment of the purchase money, a deed will be made to the person or persons purchasing, conveying all the right, title, interest and estate, belonging to the heirs of Abraham Young deceased.

A Plat of the premises will be shewn on the day of sale.

HENRY WHETCROFT, Trustee.

Washington City, August 14, 1801 ¶7t

LAND FOR SALE.

A VALUABLE TRACT OF LAND,

LAYING on Mountain Run, in the county of Culpeper, whereon the subscriber now lives, containing 1130 acres and well improved, with buildings for a large and genteel family; orchards, barns, corn houses, &c. a large proportion of meadow land, which is now in grass sufficient to cut 50 or 60,000wt. of hay annually; 5 or 6 acres of highly improved red clover lots, the first cutting this spring and very luxuriant; the whole of the cleared land in good farming order and in a progressive state of improvement; the tract may with great convenience be divided into two good farms with equal advantages except that of buildings The buildings on one of them would be small, but might with no great expence be made comfortable for a small family with the necessary buildings now on it, with a very productive garden; convenient to church, court house and three valuable merchant mills two of them within one mile and an half and the other seven and an half miles, immediately on the road leading to Fredericksburg; distant 50 miles from Alexandria and the Federal City; 30 miles from Fredericksburg and Falmouth. As to its healthiness of situation and agreeableness of neighborhood, I am fully persuaded no one will be disappointed in them Wishing to sell the land to make a more equitable division among my children, and as some of them are young, the payments will be made easy on paying the interest annually; one third or one fourth of the purchase money will be expected on giving possession, which may take place on or about Christmas next, or perhaps sooner if required, with the liberty of seeding this fall. All kinds of stock, plantation utensils, corn, fodder, hay, household and kitchen furniture, except beds, may be had with the plantation: Also a parcel of likely NEGROES in families, who can be well recommended for their honesty, &c. Any person wishing to retire from trade, and set himself in the farming line, will seldom find an opportunity of doing it more to his mind than the present one.

One other tract of nearly 700 acres of Land, laying on the river, 4 or 5 miles above Fredericksburg, known by the name of Sutherland's Tract of land, the greatest part of which is now in wood, containing a quantity of valuable timber, and its vicinity to so thriving a town as Fredericksburg, will render it truly valuable; there is a small plantation on it now in cultivation and may be converted into a small grass farm to great advantage. It is needless to say much on its quality or other advantages, presuming any one wishing to purchase, will chuse to satisfy themselves by taking a view of them. The payments for the last tract of land will be one third on giving possession on or about Christmas next, the other two-thirds in two equal annual payments. The price of each tract may be known on application to the subscriber, either by letter or otherwise; the price of the latter tract may also be known of Mr. D. Grinnan, of Fredericksburg, or my son, living with Mr. Stone, of Fredericksburg.

R. SLAUGHTER, jun.

Culpeper, Virg. August 21. ¶p14t