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GENERAL WASHINGTON'S LETTERS, TO ARTHUR YOUNG, ESQ.

(Continued.)

"*Mount Vernon, Dec. 4, 1788.*

SIR,

"I have been favoured with the receipt of your letter dated the first day of July; and have to express my thanks for the three additional volumes of the Annals, which have also come safely to hand.

"The more I am acquainted with agricultural affairs, the better I am pleased with them; inasmuch, that I can no where find so great satisfaction as in those innocent and useful pursuits. In indulging those feelings, I am led to reflect how much more delightful to an undebauched mind, is the task of making improvements on the earth, than all the vain glory which can be acquired from ravaging it, by the most unintermitted career of conquests.* The design of this observation, is only to shew how much, as a member of human society, I feel myself obliged, by your labours to render respectable and advantageous, an employment which is more congenial to the natural dispositions of mankind than any other.

"I am also much indebted to you, for the inquiries you were so kind as to make respecting the threshing machine. Notwithstanding I am pretty well convinced from your account, that the new invented Scotch machine is of superior merit to WISLAW's; yet I think to wait a little longer before I procure one. In the intermediate time, I am not insensible to your obliging offers of executing this, or any other commission for me; and shall take the liberty to avail myself of them as occasions may require.

"I would willingly have sent you a lock of the wool of my sheep, agreeably to your desire, but it is all wrought into cloth, and I must therefore defer it until after the next shearing. You may expect it by some future conveyance. My husbandman Leech, who was lately here, judges it to be of about the same quality with the English wool in general—though there is always a great difference in the fineness of different parts of the same fleece. I cannot but be thinking that increasing and improving our breed of sheep, would be one of the most profitable speculations we could undertake; especially in this part of the continent, where we have so little winter, that we require either no dry fodder, or next to none; and where we are sufficiently distant from the frontiers, not to be troubled with wolves or other wild vermin, which prevent the inhabitants there from keeping flocks. Though we do not feed our sheep upon leaves, as you mention they do in some parts of France, yet we cannot want for pallures enough suitable for them. I am at a loss, therefore, to account for the disproportion between their value and that of black cattle; as well as for our not augmenting the number. So perfuaded am I of the practicability and advantage of it, that I have raised near 200 lambs upon my farm this year. I am glad to find that you are likely to succeed in propagating the Spanish breed of sheep in England, and that the wool does not degenerate: for the multiplication of useful animals is a common blessing to mankind. I have a prospect of introducing into this country a very excellent race of animals also, by means of the liberality of the KING of SPAIN. One of the jacks which he was pleased to present to me (the other perished at sea) is about 15 hands high in body and limbs very large in proportion to his height; and the mules which I have had from him, appear to be extremely well formed for service. I have likewise a jack and two jennets from Malta, of a very good size, which the Marquis de la FAYETTE sent to me. The Spanish jack seems calculated to breed for heavy slow draught; and the others for the saddle, or lighter carriages. From these, altogether, I hope to receive a vice of extraordinary goodness, which will stock the country. Their longevity and cheap keeping will be circumstances much in their favour. I am convinced, from the little experiment I have made with the ordinary mules (which perform as much labour, with vastly less feeding, than horses), that these of a superior quality will be the best cattle we can employ for the harness; and indeed in a few years, I intend to drive no other in my carriage, having appropriated for the sole purpose of breeding them, upwards of twenty of my best mares.

"Since I wrote to you formerly, respecting the objection made by my laborers to the weight of the plough, I have had sufficient experience to overcome the ill-founded prejudice, and find them answer the purpose exceedingly well. I have been laying out my farm into fields of nearly the same dimensions, and assigning crops to each until the year 1795. The building of a brick barn has occupied much of my attention this summer. It is constructed according to the plan you had the goodness to send me; but with some additions. It is now, I believe, the largest and most convenient one in this country. Our seasons in this country (or at least in this part of it) have been so much in the two opposite extremes of dry and wet, for the two summers past, that many of my experiments have failed to give a satisfactory result, or I would have done myself the pleasure of transmitting it to you. In the first part of the fall summer, the rains prevailed beyond what has been known in the memory of man; yet the crops in most parts of the United States are good. They were much injured, however, in those places on my farm, where the soil is mixed with clay, and so stiff as to be liable to retain the moisture. I planted a large quantity of potatoes, of which only those that were put in as late as the end of June, have produced tolerably well. I am, notwithstanding, more and more convinced of the prodigious usefulness of this root, and that it is very little, if any thing, of an exhauster. I have a high opinion also of carrots. The same universalness of the season, has rendered it unimportant to give a detail of my experiments this year in hay, though I had sowed 23 bushels of the seeds. In some spots it has yielded well; in others very indifferently, much injured by weeds and lodgin.

"As to what you suggest at the close of your letter, respecting the publication of extracts from my correspondence, in your Annals, I hardly know what to say. I certainly highly approve the judicious execution of your well-conceived project of throwing light on a subject, which may be more conducive than almost any other to the happiness of mankind. On the one hand, it seems scarcely generous or proper, that any farmer, who receives benefit from the facts contained in such publications, should withhold his mite of information from the general stock. On the other hand, I am afraid it might be imputed to me as a piece of ostentation; if my name should appear in the work. And surely it would not be thicrest for me to run the hazard of incurring this imputation, unless some good might probably result to society, as some kind of compensation for it. Of this I am not a judge—I can only say for myself, that I have endeavoured, in a state of tranquil retirement, to keep myself as much from the eye of the world as I possibly could. I have studiously avoided, as much as was in my power, to give any cause for ill-natured or impertinent comments on my conduct; and I should be very unhappy to have any thing done on my behalf (however distant in itself from impropriety), which should give occasion for one officious tongue to utter my name with indelicacy. For I wish well devoutly to glide silently and unnoticed through the remainder of life. This is my heart-felt wish; and these are my undisguised feelings. After having submitted them confidentially to you, I have such a reliance upon your goodness, as to leave it with you to do what you think, upon a full consideration of the matter, shall be wisest and best.* I am, with very great regard and esteem, Sir,

Your most obedient and obliged humble servant,

"G. WASHINGTON.

"*Arthur Young, Esq.*"

"*Philadelphia, August 15, 1791.*

SIR,

"That I may not be thought inattentive to your favor of the 25 th of January, which came to my hands about ten days ago only, I avail myself of the first packet since the receipt of it, to inform you that the Annals, and Oberlin's treatises, have got safe to my hands. A list of the former I have presented, in your name, agreeably to your request, to the Agricultural Society in this city. For the other set; for the seeds;—and for the manufactured wool from the fleece I sent you, I pray you to accept my best thanks.

"With astonishment hardly to be conceived, I read in No. 86 of your Annals, the account of the taxes with which you are burthened. Had the account come from dubitable authority, the reality of such a tax would not only have been questioned, but *absolutely* disbelieved; for I can assure you, Sir, that there is nothing in this country that has the semblance of it. I do not, however, mean to dwell on this, or any other part of your letter at this time: the purpose of my writing to you now, is to acknowledge the receipt of the things you had the goodness to send me; and to assure you, that with great pleasure I will forward, in a short time, such information with respect to the prices of lands, stock, grain, amount of taxes, &c. &c. as will enable you to form a pretty accurate idea of the present state, and future prospects, of this country.

"In the mean while, I believe I may confidently add, that although our agriculture, manufactures, and commerce, are progressing;—although our taxes are light;—although our laws are in a fair way of being administered well, and our liberties and properties secured on a firm basis, by the general government having acquired more and more consistency, strength, and respectability as it moves on; yet that no material change in the prices of the above articles has taken place, except in a few instances of land under peculiar advantages; nor is it probable there will be in the latter, whilst there is such an immense territory back of us, for the people to resort to. In a word, Sir, when you come to receive full answers you will not be unfavorably impressed, or think an establishment in the United States, ineligible to those whose views are extended beyond the limits of their own country."

(To be continued.)

Foreign Intelligence.

LONDON, July 22.

The accounts from France have not of late been very interesting, but they have presented to the observing mind subjects of serious reflection. The character of the government, and of the system under which the country exists, becomes daily more and more military. The Chief Consul, the man who possesses more power, and who exerts more influence than any other in Europe, never is seen in public but in military parade. In church he is surrounded by soldiers, and hews that he depends more on them for salvation than on the Priests. At the Theatre, at his Levees, in every movement, he is oneafy, unless troops prefent themselves to his eyes. If his predilection for them arose simply from the necessity he is under of entrusting his life to their protection, his conduct would not now come under discussion; but we see it is a passion, not a measure of necessity. He glitters in military pomp, wherever he is seen; and seems unable, to intimidate his enemies, by the formidable appearance of his guards.—Though the war is at an end, and the services of the soldiers should have been long ago rewarded; he continues distributing brevets, &c. of honor in regularity as if battles were still fighting, and new heroes still starting up. The Legislative Councils, constituting the National Representation (if such it can be called) are flighted, while an assembly of military dignitaries is collected in Paris, a proceeding never before known in any good government; and a military nobility is created, under the title of the Legion of Honor. The great, the leading objects of all the actions of the Consul, tend to establish a martial spirit, to arrange and consolidate under his controul a military system, the most powerful ever known in the world. While he is engaged in this pursuit, we see by what is passing in his mind, that he thinks of nothing so much as to bring this system into action. The language he uses on public occasions is more suited to a state of war than a state of peace. He betrays that his feelings are full hostile; when presenting the colours to the Light Infantry, at the parade of the 14th instant, he said, "these standards will strike with terror the enemies of the government, whoever they may be." When, at the same time, a horse was presented to him, he said he should attend often, particularly if some occasion should offer for fighting for the French people."

This, though a trifling circumstance, apparently, is nevertheless of real importance. A horse does not bring to mind ideas of war; those ideas must therefore have been in existence when the horse was presented, and Bonaparte viewed it as he views every thing else, with reference to its utility in war. He has just carried into his new Republic, the Italian Republic, the plan of conscription exiling in France; and every youth from eighteen to thirty, is liable to be called upon to serve. This extension of the military system affords no affurance of the permanence of tranquillity. The cultivation of commerce and manufactures, to rival the wealth and prosperity of this country, is a flow operation, ill suited to the impetuous temper of Bonaparte, who, it is feared, will attempt to cut the Gordian Knot, rather than have the patience to untie it.—These reflections are made by intelligent men in the city. They look to the Continent with doubt and suspicion. Hence the flat state of funds, which it is forseen the slightest agitation of affairs would lower considerably. In no other way can we account for the fall of yesterday.

What fate the *enemies of slavery* reserve for the fallen Toussaint is uncertain. Gen. Le Clerc, as appears by the second dispatch inserted in the Moniteur of the 17th, pursues him with fresh charges.—Of the truth or falsehood of them we shall never, perhaps, be able to obtain any accurate information.—The impartial pen of history, however, will render Toussaint that justice which it were vain, perhaps, for him to expect at present. It will record that one man, of a race too long insulted, rose superior to the obstacles with which a cold and cruel policy has fettered one quarter of the world; that he shrunk not from a contest with the conquerors of the Continent of Europe, and that he dealt one blow for Africa.

Dispatches received from Guadaloupe by General Johnson, at Dominica, state, that the Blacks who repelled the troops from France, are nearly destroyed; their Chief, on being hard pressed by the forces, shot himself, and about five hundred of his followers were put to death; the rest have dispersed, but are closely pursued. The island of Guadaloupe is nearly destroyed, the greater part of the estates being burnt down, and a number of properties in Grandterre are also burnt.

July 23.

Yesterday arrived a Dutch and Hamburgh Mail, together with Paris Journals to the 20th. They bring information that the troops of Pashwan Oglou have actually entered Transylvania, the Austrian territory. We learn, by letters from Hermanstadt, that a division of them has made an unexpected irruption from Wallachia into Transylvania, and occasioned great devastation on the frontiers. The principal object of this body was to make themselves masters of the public treasures, which they partly accomplished, behaving at the same time in the most licentious manner. The Austrian regiment of Spleny, having receives intelligence of this event, immediately marched to the spot which had need of their assistance, but not being sufficiently strong to make head against the enemy, they were repulsed with considerable loss. Four regiments of cavalry, & some regiments of infantry, have therefore received orders to defend Transylvania from the free-booters, and even to advance into Wallachia, should circumstances require it. The Austrians and Russians, it is again reported, will jointly march into Wallachia, to restore order, and will be preceded by a declaration, stating the necessity of their proceedings, and the prudence of keeping Wallachia in their possession, to preserve tranquillity. An article from Transylvania, dated June 24, contains this remarkable passage:—"Tranquility will be best restored in Wallachia, it is here believed, by that principality coming under the Austrian protection, which will be a real benefit to the inhabitants." According to other letters, from the frontiers of Turkey, several of the Pachas whom the Porte had sent against Pashwan Oglou have joined that rebel, so that the greater part of Turkey in Europe is now in the power of the Pacha of Widdin and his partisans. As their troops have no other means of subsistence but plunder, the wretched inhabitants are flying on all sides.

The foreign Journalists are on the tiptoe of expectation respecting the Plan of Indemnities, which every day, it is expected, will be made public. A letter from Frankfort, of the 11th instant, states, that a treaty of Alliance had been signed at Paris between France and Prussia, by M. Talleyrand and the Marquis of Luccchini. If this intelligence be founded, France and Prussia have probably made some new compact in consequence of the adjustment of the indemnities. Letters from Holland, repeat the news of the Black Sea being opened to France, by a treaty with the Turks. Such a measure would denote a great change in the politics of the Porte, not very favourable to this country. It would be ungrateful as well as imprudent in the Turks to promote the views of those who prized Egypt, in preference to the interests of England, which recovered it for them. A Hindoo paper contains some curious speculations on the proposed changes in the French constitution, deserving the more notice, as they have been copied into a Paris Journal;—a proof that their circulation is not very disagreeable to the government, which wishes, no doubt, to feel the public pulse on the subject.

The foreign journals contain a copy of the Convention between the deputies of the Valais, and the minister of the French Republic, which is one of the most curious State Papers ever published. It begins by stating, that the Valais shall form a *free* and *independent* Republic, separate from the Helvetic Republic, and the adjacent States, under the protection of the three Republics of France, Helvetia, and Italy. It then proceeds to enact, by a variety of articles, that the Valais shall maintain and keep in repair the great roads leading through it from France to Italy, and that the French troops shall at all times have a free passage". The concluding article sets forth, that "as the Valais shall have neither ambassadors, ministers, nor political or commercial agents with foreign powers, and that it shall only receive those of France, Italy, and Helvetia, the agents of the French Republic shall protect in the countries where they reside, the citizens of the Valais, who may require their good offices."

Among the stipulations of the treaty of Amiens, those concerning Malta, by letters from Milan, appear to be on the point of being carried into execution. They write from Naples, that the 2000 British troops, to whose protection the residence of the order of St. John of Jerusalem is to be provisionally confided for one year, are ready to embark for that island.

July 24.

We have not heard of late what progress the commercial negociation is going on between this country and France is making; but we conceive that some of the French Journalists write strongly against a commercial treaty with England. One of them, in the Journal du Commerce, says, the introduction of commodities into France, cannot be of so much importance to the English, in any other way, than as it would tend to diminish our resources, prevent our importing a great quantity of raw materials, and threw idle many thousands of people, whom it is the interest of France to keep employed, unless she be prepared to take the expence of their maintenance upon herself, in consequence of the total ruin of the manufacturers.

July 27.

We have this day extracted from the additional lists of French papers received yesterday, an article dated Genoa, which should not be passed over without notice. It appears in the Moniteur, the Official Journal, and it seems to be a formal statement of the grounds on which an attack will be made on Algiers by France. The destruction of such a government, which has long been a reproach to civilized Europe, would be a happy event; but the interests of other states will make them view with jealousy the acquisitions of France in that part of the world. The letter from Genoa is of a character (appearing in the Official Journal,) and speaks in such a tone, as give full reason to suppose Bonaparte wishes to try his arms again on the shores of Africa, now that he seems to have a plausible pretence for such an enterprise.—An establishment at Algiers would be an acquisition of the highest importance to France, either with a reference to the influence it would give her in the Levant, and the assistance it would thus afford to her views on Egypt; or, with a reference to a maritime war with Britain. This may be idle speculation; but being persuaded Bonaparte's military genius will never sleep, and that he will be constantly engaged in some enterprise, we look out for circumstances indicative of his design, that we may calculate his movements. Since he ceased to be at war with Britain, he has been engaged in a war in the West-Indies. That is nearly terminated, and he must now find some other employment for his arms. The shores of Barbary, the seat of the ancient Corsairs, may tempt his ambition. Should it reach us, Egypt, and a war for the overthrow of the Barbary States, he knows, will be popular in every country of Europe, particularly with a commercial people, whose ships are daily plundered, and whose seamen are sent for slaves. The concluding paragraph in the

* A noble sentiment, which does honour to the heart of this truly great man.—A. Y.

* Wherever doubts might have been entertained of the extent of this permission at that time, and of the propriety of printing any part of General WASHINGTON's letters thus at present, I conceive the above passage is a very fair justification of my performing the public with these valuable letters.—A. Y.