The character of

EDMUND BURKE.

By Doctor Parr.

There is, I am aware, a certain wordy speaker, who, for his readiness and fluency, and showy exercitations, has obtained among the multitude the character of the consummate orator.* Let the admirers of this man gnash their teeth with vexation while I speak what my soul dictates, of the eloquence of Burke—of Burke by whose sweetness Athens herself would have been soothed, with whose amplitude and exuberance she would have been enraptured, and on whose lips that prolific mother of genius and science would have adored, confessed the Goddess of Persuasion.

There were some among the Romans who esteemed a certain terseness and exility of style and sentiment, provided it were laboured, and polished, and elegant, as truly Attic; and held the more full, and grand, and commanding, and magnificent species of oratory in the highest contempt. Vain of their taste and their sagacity, and insensible of the gradations, the transitions, and the variety of the Athenian style, such men had the audacity to condemn the harangues of Cicero himself as tumid, oriental and redundant. Men have not been wanting with us, who have croaked the same dull note, and repeated the same lifeless criticism of the eloquence of Burke. But let these vain pretenders to Attic taste, without the robustness of mind to tolerate its beauties, learn to think more highly of our illustrious orator; let them know, that to imitate Burke is to speak Athenian like and well; and that even to have attained a relish for the charms is greatly to have advanced in literature.

Let me add, and it is much to the purpose, that Burke, on whatever topic he touches, in the excursive range of his allusions, appears a master of the subject; and to have acquired a deep and thorough insight into whatever is excellent in elegant art or solid science. Critics there are who wish to separate eloquence from literature, and to ascribe the powers of the orator to a certain natural talent improved by habit. While we congratulate these original and unlettered speakers, let us admire in Burke a mind by nature formed for eloquence, and impregnated with every familiarity, by sedulous and unwearied application. He applied himself to classic literature, because he knew that from that literature the orator was furnished with its choicest ornaments, and because he felt that it silently infused the habit of speaking even English well.

Demosthenes is said to have been a reader, and even an auditor, of Plato; and Cicero is confirmed in this opinion by the choice and grandeur of his style. How deeply read is Burke, what memory from the orators and poets, so forcibly felt by every man of letters in that strong tincture of literature which pervades, with essential fragance, all his compositions. His superior genius, like that of Phidias, was no sooner exhibited than felt; but observing how much the brightest talents have been obscured by negligence, he never relaxed his ardent assiduity a moment, nor suffered the extent of his attainments to damp his appetite for more.

Few have the opportunity or the power of forming a competent opinion of a speech delivered; but of Burke's eloquence there are specimens, of which every one may judge. Look at what he has published, the charm equally of the world at large, and of the ablest critis. Who is there among men of eloquence or learning more profoundly versed in every branch of science? Who is there that has cultivated philosophy, the parent of all that is illustrious in literature or exploit, with more felicitous success? Who is there that can transfer so happily the result of laborious & intricate research, to the most familiar and popular topics? Who is there that possesses so extensive, yet so accurate an acquaintance with every transaction recent or remote? Who is there that can deviate from his subject, for the purposes of delight, with such engaging ease, and insensibly conduct his readers from the severity of reasoning to the festivity of wit? Who is there that can melt them, if the occasion require, with such resistless power, to grief and pity? Who is there that combines the charm of inimitable grace and urbanity with such magnificent and boundless expansion? He that can do this, I affirm it again and again, has attic powers and speaks a language which, while it soothes the multitude by its sweetness, by the correctness and pregnancy, will captivate the judgement of the severest critic.

Many men, of more talent than erudition, have fancied that they could speak better than they could write; and flattered themselves with a reputation for eloquence which never stood the test of severe and critical examination. Many a speech has been received with infinite applause in the delivery, which, when handed about in the prints, has appeared poor, languid, and lifeless. Lord Chatham was a great man, a most animated and terrific orator, and eminently endued with the first qualifications of a great statesman; yet as a speaker, his fame, doubtless from the witchery of his manner, was greater than his power. Like Cromwell, he had that perspicacity of eye, which pried into the inmost recesses of the soul, and detected all the thoughts and impressions, and hopes and fears, of his auditors. He had that too which Cromwell had not; for Cromwell we are told was slow in the conception of his ideas while he spoke, and diffuse and perplexed in the delivery. But in Chatham, when he rose to speak, there was a fervour and vehemence of imagination, a head long torrent of words, and power of sound, which deafened and stunned, and confounded his opponents. In the man himself, I well remember, there was a native dignity of form, which commanded reverence and faith; and, by filling his hearers with a holy awe, predisposed them to his purpose. With powers little calculated to instruct or delight, there was a vehemence of contention, and awakening energy of manner, an impassioned ardor, a confident and boastful exultation, which victory only rendered more ferocious and ungovernable. He often rose to dignity in the donation of applause; still oftener blazed to fierceness in the fulmination of invectives; and sometimes, in the violence of altercation, flung with a poignancy of wit peculiarly his own. But take away these showy appendages of eloquence, which are included almost in the very name of Chatham; take away that which in the judgment of Demosthenes was the first, the second, the third qualification of an orator; and which, in Chatham, were displayed as they prevailed in so astonishinig a measure, and with such felicity of success; take away the imposing dignity of his presence, the strength and grandeur of his voice, the elaborate vehemence of his gesticulation, worked up, often to extravagance, and better adapted to the Drama than the Senate; take these away and in those very speeches which were extolled by his auditors as transcending far all praise, you will find nothing, scarcely, which so forcibly strikes or sweetly soothed the ear; nothing which by its strength or clearness captivates the judgment; nothing which the intelligent reader in a cool and deliberate hour will approve; or having once read, will eagerly demand again.

Such I confess, was the giant scale of Chatham's mind, that he might well claim, and would assuredly fill with honor, the highest station to which a subject can aspire. To his other original and illustrous qualities was added that felicity of fortune which fills up the measure of all *pre-eminent* greatness. In his character as Minister, such was the greatness and elevation of his spirit, like Scipio, he could revive expiring ardour, and fill men with a confidence of expectation which no mortal course of nature, ever did, or under any other auspices, ever ought to inspire.—Those, however, who consider Chatham not as a first rate orator, but as another Demosthenes, are greatly deceived. In Demosthenes, with a dignity which has scarcely been equalled, was combined a sagacity and coolness which can never be surpassed. He who aspires only to be rapid, vehement, and sonorous, without descending to plain narrative, cool statement, close argument, sacrifices reason to passion, and touches on the precincts of a frantic eloquence. It was the lot of Chatham to owe whatever he possessed to a genius exercised by practice alone. The consequence was natural. With infinite fluency and animation he insured the fate of Galba, and while breathing consuming fire as a speaker, all the force and all the blaze of his eloquence was extinguished upon paper.

Far different is Burke. To wing his flight to the sublime of eloqence he has called in the labours of the closet. Burke would not that the fame of his powers should be circumscribed within the same poor limits that bound life; nor has he feared, most certainly he has not shunned, that solemn sentence which posterity, who 'extenuate nothing, nor set down aught in malice,' will hereafter pronounce upon his genius.

There are many, I know, who, tho' well convinced that the pen is the instructor of the tongue, and perfectly able to treat any subject upon paper with infinite correctness and art, yet, when drawn from the shade of studious retirement into action, are not only incapable of delivering with clearness what they have very justly conceived, but exhibit the spectacle of absolute helplessness and fatuity. But Burke, though fully satisfied that nothing contributes more to good speaking than good writing, is equally prepared for both. The same powerful mind, the same divine and inextinguishable ardour, which fires him in the Senate, animates him in the solitude of composition; nor need he blush to say of his speeches what Thucydides had affirmed of his elaborate history, 'I give it to the public as an everlasting possession, and not as a contentious instrument of temporary applause.'

There is an unwillingness in the world to shew that the same man has excelled in various pursuits; but Burke's compositions, diversified as they are in their nature, yet each excelling in its kind, who does not read with instruction and delight? I have hitherto surveyed the merits of the orator; let us now view him as a critic and philosopher.

Criticism, which others would have been content to study as they found it, Burke has enlarged by his discoveries, illustrated by his multifarious learning, and treated with all the graces of a style most elegant and refined, yet not polished into insipidity by too curious a care.—Often has it been lamented that the language of philosophers is usually so crabbed and uncouth as to deter readers of taste from perusal of their labours. It fell to Burke, by his purity and grace to purge off this inveterate rust, and to adapt to the knottiest and the subtlest disquisitions such a flowing ease, fertility and lustre of style, as the world had never witnessed. With such illustrious proofs of his own powers, he has at once, by his precepts and example, instructed others to excel; for whether he luxuriates in speeches replete with the choicest phraseology and happiest periods, or bends his keen and subtle intelligence on critical disquisition, such is the felicity of his labours, that he at once quickens the sagacity of his readers, while he stores their memory and fertilizes their fancy with invigorating and varied information.

On the morals of a man most conspicuously endued with the more amiable and the severe virtues, I hold it needless to descant. The unspotted innocence, the firm integrity of Burke, want no emblazoning; and if he is accustomed to exact a rigorous account of the moral conduct of others, it is justified in one who shuns not the most inquisitorial scrutiny into his own.

I know what unsafe and treacherous ground I tread. Objectors, I am aware, are not wanting, who will exclaim, that I have lavished praise with too prodigal a hand—that I have been hurried away by my love and admiration of the man. I care not. The tribute I have paid him is little, to his deserts—and would to God, that this little had come from any one who could more suitably have expanded and adorned it! This, however, I deliberately and steadily affirm—that of all the men who are, or who ever have been, eminent for energy and splendor of eloquence, or for skill and grace in composition, there is not one who, in genius and erudition, in philanthropy or piety, or in any of the qualities of a wise and good man, surpasses Burke.

FIRST LEGION.

ATTENTION!

AT a Legionary Court of Enquiry, held on the 15th day of March last, in obedience to a law passed at the last session of Congress, intituled, "An act more effectually to provide for the organization of the Militia of the District of Columbia," ordered that the following be the Uniform to be worn by all non-commissioned officers and privates belonging to the battalion companies of the first Legion while on duty, viz. A DARK BLUE COAT of ordinary length, WHITE VEST, WHITE BREECHES, and WHITE STOCKINGS, or WHITE PANTALOONS and WHITE STOCKINGS or WHITE OVERALLS, with SHOES and ROUND BLACK HAT: which Uniform having been approved by the Brigadier General, is now published by order of the said court.

WM. D. BEALL, Clerk of L. C. E.

Sec. 27. And be it further enacted, That all non commissioned officers and privates, belonging to battalion companies, shall appear while on duty, uniformly clothed, the color and fashion of which uniforms to be determined on for the respective legions, by the first legionary courts of enquiry which shall be held, and to be approved of by the Brigadier General; provided the expense of the same, additional to that of usual, ordinary, and cheap clothing, does not exceed five dollars for each person, and every such non commissioned officer, or drummer, or fifer, or private, appearing at any muster held after three months from the time that such uniform shall have been determined on, and the order relative thereto shall have been published, in some newspaper within the legionary district, and not wearing the same, shall be fined five dollars for each offence, unless he can make it appear to the satisfaction of the court of enquiry of the battalion to which he may belong, that he was unable to equip himself.

The subscriber has for sale,

A QUANTITY OF

Claret in bottles,	Jamaica Spirits,
Anchovies in boxes,	Whisky in barrels,
Capers in ditto,	New-England cheese,
Olives in ditto,	Imperial Tea in chests,
Olive Oil in ditto,	Butter in Firkins,
Sugar in hhds. & bls	&c. &c.

WILLIAM BRENT.

Washington, May 11. tf

THOMAS CARPENTER, Taylor.

HAS Just received by recent arrivals at Philadelphia, from England, and the East Indies, a handsome assortment of SPRING and SUMMER GOODS, of the best quality, also Patent water proof Cloth's and Cassimere's, superior NAVY BLUE and other colours; handsome NAVY & FASHIONABLE BUTTONS, &c.

Gentlemen of ARMY, NAVY and FASHION served with expedition and taste.

New Jersey Avenue, seventh house from Capitol Square and Pennsylvania Avenue near the President's square.

April 13 1803. tf

For the National Intelligencer.

The *self-styled Federalists* have for a long time been endeavouring to impress an idea on the *public mind*, that Mr. Jefferson was an enemy to the late Gen. Washington. This charge like many others which have been exhibited against the President (with a view to destroy his popularity) has never been supported by the least proof; but *calumny has* ever been the *dernier resort of a fallen faction.*

It is well known that Mr. Jefferson filled (with reputation to himself and honour to his country) the important and confidential *office of* Secretary of State during a great part of Washington's Administration. This circumstance alone is sufficient to convince every unprejudiced person of the falsity of the assertion "that Mr. Jefferson was inimical to Gen. Washington"; but if any doubts should remain, the following *extracts* from the writings of Mr. Jefferson must effectually remove them.

Mr. Jefferson in his "Notes on Virginia," observes that—"we have produced a Washington whose memory will be adored, while liberty shall have votaries; whose name will triumph over time, and will in future ages, assume its just station among the most celebrated worthies of the world, when that wretched philosophy shall be forgotten, which arranges him among the degeneracies of nature."—The President in his *inaugural speech*, expresses his veneration and esteem for the *character* of *Washington* in these words—"without pretensions to that high confidence you repose in *our first and greatest revolutionary character*, whose *pre-eminent services* had entitled him to the first place in his country's love, and destined for him the fairest page in the volume of faithful history, &c."

The "*opposition party*" (not content with having basely denounced Mr. Jefferson as the enemy of Gen. Washington) have had the *arrogance* and *presumption* to declare that they were the *exclusive friends* of that great man. But I trust there are *few*, indeed who can be *deceived* by such *false pretensions*, particularly when we recollect that this *faction* (with some exceptions) is composed of apostate whigs, old tories, *partizans of Monarchs, partizans of England, and of her constitution*, and consequently *enemies to the principles*, for which *Washington* and the *Republicans* of this country so nobly contended. Had Gen. Washington been supported during the revolution only by those men, who with so much *modesty* call themselves his "*exclusive friends*," we should in all probability at this time live under the *mild government* of *England*, and be *honoured* with the appellation of *subjects* to his Britanic Majesty.

Mr. Jefferson by his *uniform attachment to Republicanism*, has ever been *particularly obnoxious* to the enemies of liberty. They well know that he enjoys the *confidence of a large majority of the sovereign people* of America. The most *despicable means* are therefore resorted to by this *faction* to destroy his popularity. If they can but effect this, they flatter themselves that they will be able to succeed in their *dangerous machinations* against the *constitution and liberties of their country*. But we trust the *Republicans* will by their *vigilance be* able to *counteract those intrigues*, and thereby prevent the "*reign of terror*" *from being again introduced* into *our country.*

BRUTUS.

DISTRICT of COLUMBIA, to wit:

BE it remembered, that on the ninth day of November, eighteen hundred and two, in the twenty-seventh year of the Independence of the United States of America, SAMUEL HARRISON SMITH of the said district, hath deposited in this office, the Title of a Book, the right whereof he claims as Proprietor, in the words following, to wit:

"HISTORY *of the* LAST SESSION *of* CONGRESS, *which commenced on the seventh of December*, 1801—*taken from the National Intelligencer*,"—in conformity to the act of the Congress of the United States, intituled "An act for the encouragement of learning by securing the copies of Maps, Charts, and Books to the Authors and Proprietors of such copies during the times therein mentioned."

In Testimony Whereof, I have hereunto subscribed my name, and affixed the Seal of my office the thirteenth day of November, Anno Domini one thousand eight hundred and two

URIAH FORREST, Clerk

Of the Circuit Court of the District of Columbia, for the County of Washington.

Boarding & Day Schools.

PRESIDENT'S SQUARE.

J. GARDINER instructs Youth in Arithmetic, Book-Keeping, Writing, and English Grammar.

MRS. GARDINER teaches Needle Work, Tambouring, &c. Young Ladies who desire so to do, can divide their time betwixt the two Schools.

Boys from the country accommodated with Board and Lodging on reasonable terms.

June 1. 2aw

By his Excellency John Francis Mercer,

Governor of the State Maryland.

A PROCLAMATION.

WHEREAS it appeareth unto me by an Inquisition taken before Robert Moore, Esquire, one of the Coroners of Baltimore county, that a most cruel and atrocious Murder and Robbery were committed on the person of ADAM WARLE, paper maker, a respectable and aged citizen of Anne Arundel county, by some unknown hand, on or about the thirtieth day of *March* last, which Inquisition hath been returned to me, accompanied by a memorial of sundry respectable inhabitants of the counties of Baltimore and Anne Arundel, and the city of Baltimore, praying the interposition of government: And Whereas the quiet and security of the good people of this Commonwealth depend on the vigilance of the constituted authorities in causing the laws against such enormities to be duly executed—I have therefore thought proper to issue this my proclamation; and I do, by and with the advice and consent of Council, hereby offer a reward of FOUR HUNDRED DOLLARS to whoever will discover the author or perpetrators of the aforesaid murder and robbery; provided he she or they, or any of them, be convicted thereof; and moreover, I do, by virtue of the authority and powers in me vested, hereby promise a full and free pardon to any person being an accomplice, who shall discover the perpetrator or perpetrators of the said murder and robbery on the aforesaid condition.

Given in council at the city of Annapolis, under the seal of the state of Maryland, this fifteenth day of May, in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and three.

JOHN FR. MERCER.

By his excellency's command.

NINIAN PICKNEY,

Clerk of the Governor and Council.

In Council, Annapolis, May 16, 1803.

Ordered, that the foregoing proclamation be published three times in each week for the space of three weeks successively in the American, Telegraph, and Federal Gazette, at Baltimore; the National Intelligencer, the Maryland Gazette, at Annapolis; the Republican Advocate, Herald and Bartgis's paper, at Fredericktown; and Mr Smith's paper at Easton.

By order,

NINIAN PINKNEY, Clerk.

May 20.

NEW BOOKS.

Just imported in the ship Active, from London, via Philadelphia, and for sale by RAPINE, CONRAD & CO. New-Jersey Avenue, near the capitol, a choice collection of new and valuable books—amongst which are

Burk's works, 8 vols. 8vo.
Pratt's Gleanings, 5 vols. 8vo. elegant.
Pervouse's Voyage 2 vols. 8vo.
Mickle's Luciad, 2 vols. 8vo.
Link's Travels, 8vo.—Clavigero's Mexico, 2 vols 4to.
Sancho's Letters, 8vo.
Memoirs of Pius the 6th, 2 vols. 8vo.
Segur's Frederic William 2nd, 3 vols. 8vo.
Soulavie's Memoirs of Louis 16th, 6 vols. 8vo.
Spallanzane's Travels, 4 vols. 8vo.
Watson's Philip 2nd and 3rd 3 vols. 8vo.
Helen Maria Williams' Sketches, 2 vols. 8vo.
Gibbon's Roman Empire 12 vols. 8vo.
Grandpre's Voyage in the Indian Ocean, 2 vols.
Memoirs of Politianus, 8vo.
Reynier's state of Egypt 8vo.
Cavallo's Natural and Experimental Philosophy, a new and valuable work, 4 vols. 8vo.
Belsham's Moral Philosophy, 8vo.
Paley's (Dr.) Natural Theology, 8vo.
Adams on the Microscope, with plates.
Brown's Travels into Africa, 4to,
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Delphine 6 vols. 12mo.
War Office 3 vols. 12mo.
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The Benevolent Jew, 2 vols. by Geo. Walker.
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Romance of the Pyrennees, 4 vols. 12mo.
The savage of Aveyron, 12mo.
Tales of Superstition 12mo.
Bread Grins, by G. Coleman,
Boscawen's Poems, 12mo.
Atala—Glover's Athenaid, 3 vols &c.

In addition to the above they have always on hand a collection of well assorted books on education, science, and amusement, which they will sell at such prices as cannot fail of giving general satisfaction.

May 20, 1803.

Would wish to engage in some healthy Country situation.

A person who has practised teaching an English-School fifteen years, and can produce Certificates expressing the approbation of those parents who have favoured him with the tuition of their Children—He professes teaching Spelling, Reading and writing with propriety, Mercantile, Vulgar and Decimal Arithmetic, Book keeping, Mensuration Geography &c. In all which, he will engage to give satisfaction to whoever may employ him—some healthy part of Virginia will be preferred, and a line directed (post paid) to the Editor of this paper will be duly attended to.

JUST COME TO HAND,

AND FOR SALE AT

RAPINE, CONRAD & CO's.

BOOK-STORE,

New-Jersey Avenue, near the Capitol

A Prospect of exterminating the Small-Pox, being a narrative of facts concerning the progress of the new inoculation in America; together with practical observations on the local appearance, symptoms, and mode of treating the Kine Pox; including some letters to the author, from some distinguished characters—By Benjamin Waterhouse, M.D. professor of the theory and practice of medicine in the University of Cambridge—Price One Dollar.

R. C. & Co. have always on hand a good assortment of MEDICAL BOOKS, which they will sell at very moderate prices.

April 4. M&F6t