NATIONAL INTELLIGENCER,
AND
WASHINGTON ADVERTISER.

Vol. VI. WASHINGTON CITY, PRINTED BY SAMUEL HARRISON SMITH, PENNSYLVANIA AVENUE. No. DCCC.

FIVE DOLLARS PER ANNUM. MONDAY, NOVEMBER 23, 1803. PAID IN ADVANCE.

THE VANITY OF HUMAN WISHES:
AN ELEGY.
Occasioned by the death of Robert Ferguson, by Mr. John Tait.

DARK was the night—and silence reigned alone
No mirthful sounds grat on the listening hour;
The slumber of chaste stalk'd gently thro' the hall,
And e'ry breast confess'd chill horror's pow'r.

Slumb'ring I lay: I musd on human hopes
Vain, vain, I cry'd are all the hopes we form;
When winter comes, the sweetest flow'ret drops,
And oaks themselves must bend before the storm.

While thus I spake, a voice assail'd my ear,
'Twas sad—twas slow—it ill'd my mind with dread!
Pathetic, it cry'd—thy moral lays forbear,
Or change the strain—for Ferguson is dead!

Have we not seen him sporting on these plains?
Have we not heard him strike the muse's lyre?
Have we not felt the magic of his strains,
Which often glow'd with fancy's warmest fire?

Have we not hop'd these strains would long be heard?
Have we not told how oft they touch'd the soul?
And has not Scotia wail, her youthful Bard
Migh spread her fame even to the distant pole?

But vain, alas! are all the hopes we form;
Vain, vain, ye strains the slow—they sink
—their reign is over;
And these sweet songs, which we sig oft have prais'd—
The mirthful strains shall now be heard no more.

This, this proclaims how vain are all the joys
Which, we so ardently wish to attain;
Since restless fate so off, to soon destroys
The high born hopes e'n of the most sanguine.

I heard no more—the cock, with clarion shrill,
Loudly proclaim'd the approach of morning near—
The voice was gone—but yet I heard it still
For every note was echo'd back by fear.

Perhaps, I cried, ere yonder rising sun,
Shall sink his glories in the western wave;
Perhaps ere then my race too may be run
And I myself laid in the silent grave.

Oh then, O mortals! oh this dreadful truth
Should be proclaim'd—for fate is in the sound,
That genius, learning, health and vigorous youth,
May, in one day, in death's cold chains be bound."

NATIONAL INTELLIGENCER.

Observations relative to a commercial treaty with Great Britain, by James M'Henry, esq.

(CONCLUDED.)

HAV I imagine the change in our situation will increase our ability beyond past years. 1st. Because we shall get more for the same total, of exports, than we used to do formerly, when the British nation completed nearly the whole. 2dly. We shall have more navigators, ships, having a greater commerce and greater country. 3dly. We shall be richer by our establishment of manufactures, it becomings a rich, not an endless source of wealth. And 4ly. We shall have less demand for great other importation when we re-colligated to take from Great Britain. What America must save under these four heads will be very considerable; although it would not be easy to calculate. Take for the sake of an example, a single article of import; see how many pounds of tea are annually consumed, then estimate the difference between its price in England and Holland or China, or those places we have mentioned in our statement where it can be had cheaper, and you will be astonished at the greatness of the sum this country will save upon this single article.

To conclude, Let us reasoning persuade you that you ought to leave the accomplishment of a commercial treaty entirely to your commissioners. They are anxious that you should assist their labors, by giving a proof to Europe, that you are united and can act as a nation. You are advised by some not to give this proof, and the remains of dissatisfaction that displayed it, are made the object of conjecture. Do not suffer yourselves to sink into a state of opinion on a point so interesting, you believe those preachers who argue in favor of doing nothing. I would not have you show resentment, perhaps; this will make you admired, another conduct despised. Be assured that Great Britain is particular in wise attempts to sell her manufactures, but we are to buy them; and that it is more her interest to gain your trade than you to give it. An intermixing and prepossessing people without manufactures are her what South America is to Spain. How greatly is her prosperity connected with our consumption! Let us, then, by our conduct, give her reason to resolve to do without her manufactures, what must be the event? Britain would be ruined in this great business with confusion; she has laid some foundation, upon goods imported in British bottoms, but I presume she expects the other states will follow her example; as remaining singular, would not answer the intention of these duties. She has also, in the same act laying the duties, prepared a new code for her confederation; but this cannot be operative till every state agrees to one substantial code of navigation. The power of states is pointed at no kingdom; and in its fullest sense, no increase can be litigation; and we may reasonably expect that some two years, or three years would devise a navigation act with the consent of the states of this country. If my memory serves me right, when Great Britain passed her navigation act, the states, in their sovereign right thousands of shippings, she has now about trifle of this collected, said to be substantial.

March 14, 1804.

FROM THE [LONDON] SUN OF SEPT. 21.

Mr. Bisham's History of Great Britain from the Commencement of the Reign of Anne.

WITH the singular pleasure we congratulate the public on the completion of this celebrated Work, which, by the publication of the 14th and 15th volumes, is now brought down to the reign of William, a period beyond which, according to the intimation of the author, it is not his intention to extend his historical labors.

As a whole, in which this history is now presented to the world, it may be confidently recommended as a work of a nature very different in some points of view, may be studied with satisfaction, and with profit, or a continuation of the deservedly admired history of Mr. Hume.

In the earlier period of our national annals Hume has so fixed his reputation as to leave no room for defiance to accurate rival, and since his time it has been the constant subject of national concern, that almost equally hopeless was the prospect of such a continuation of his work since the period of the revolution as might claim with justice, and with universal approbation, the honor of ranking as its companion.

Prejudices and defects of Smollet, the only name which can stand in any competition, are so obvious, so long been universally felt and acknowledged; he possessed unquestionable talents, but his mind was entirely turned to the low and the ludicrous. Of the quality of a work of such comprehensive design and conception, and such less could be boast as the author of Peregrine Pickle and philosophic spirit. Other predecessors of the same name have had no such moral existence—have lived their little day, and have hurried into neglect and oblivion.

In this state of our historic attainments, Mr. Bisham ventures ago publish of the first volume of his history of G. Britain, and, by his unconsciously pronounced a phenomenon in that branch of literature, indeed was received with the general applause which usher of the author to proceed with increasing ardor, and with increasing hope, for the labor of 14 years, it now appears he has fully realized the expectation.

In examining critically the intrinsic merit of this performance, several striking claims to distinction are instantly obvious. One of the most prominent of them is, his unbiased mind, and with any thing like the transcription of the author's mind, he never, in any instance, leaves the impression of research and of enquiry, but, with the sagacity and penetration Mr. Bisham developes the causes and the motives of action; recurring to the proper sources and consequences which lie beyond the sphere of ordinary investigation.

In *our Domestic History* his arrangement is in high degree luminous and exact. The unfortunate contest with the colonies is reviewed and its progress traced with discernment and care; and in the narrative of the late war, by which the present reign will be rendered still more memorable, the author seems, in a most particular manner, to have exerted all his powers to the justice of the importance of the occasion.

The affairs of the continent, as subservient to his primary object, he has treated with extraordinary ability; and the wars of king William and queen Anne, as well as the revolution, sprung from the wonderful change which the spirit of enquiry and discussion made in the condition and politics of Europe are related with singular combination of political and historical talent. The transactions in India are described in a considerable length, and with great ability.

In estimating his general publication as an historian, it is impossible to avoid noticing his peculiar excellence in the delineation of character; with a keenness of penetration, a nicety of judgment, and a warmth and fidelity of colouring, unrivalled, he arrests the fleeting passions of the moment, and transmits to life reader their intellectual personification. In this part of his performance possesses an animation, a vigor, and a delicacy, which cannot be too extolled; and every part of his work, is perfected by the general *philosophy of history*, without which the most interesting materials, united to the greatest attractions, can never be said to be ranked in this highest department of literature.

It now remains only to speak of his political principles, and to point out the application of *party* is undoubtedly so far odious; yet in this nation, and in this country, it is, perhaps, and must long continue to exist, for its foundation is deeply laid in the nature of things. By the very essence of our constitution, it is conscqueuce a friend of prejudice, and these of *free opinion*, can never perfect existence, but in the mind of a philosopher. The revolution of 1688 a practical sanction which ensures to Britons the enjoyment of the constitution itself, and sets their activities for the adjustment of it attached to party denomination.

Mr. Bisham has in a perfect model of a whig of the old school. The cause of the revolution is the honour which he defends, and, to the end of its genius and authentic decisions he ranges every thing, and everything which incurs his observation. But we have, perhaps, a little anticipated our prescribed limits; and must therefore hastily add, that we recommend it to most strongly to our readers, and express our *confidence*, for we are perfectly sure of their approbation, that it will remain, as long as the language in which it is written, the standard work in the historian repository of our country, and a lasting monument of historic genius.

Translated for the Mercantile Advertiser.

AUSTRIAN MANIFESTO.

[The two following Notes have been transmitted to the minister of foreign affairs, by the minister of Austria at Paris, on the 12th September.]

THE undersigned has received an ordinate to comply with the demand made to it on the part of the emperor of the French, which contains a perfect model of a whig of the old school. The cause of the revolution is the honour which he defends, and, to the end of its genius and authentic decisions he ranges every thing, and everything which incurs his observation. But we have, perhaps, a little anticipated our prescribed limits; and must therefore hastily add, that we recommend it to most strongly to our readers, and express