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NATIONAL INTELLIGENCER.

LITERARY.

Further extracts from Gibbons life—written by himself.

—His great work brought to a close—

"I have presumed to mark the moment of conception; I shall now commemorate the hour of my final deliverance. It was on the day, or rather night, of the 27th of June, 1787, between the hours of 11 and 12, that I wrote the last lines of the last page, in a summer house in my garden. After laying down my pen, I took several turns in a berceau, or covered walk of acacias, which commands a prospect of the country, the lake and the mountains. The air was temperate, the sky was serene, the silver orb of the moon was reflected from the waters, and all nature was silent. I will not dissemble the first emotions of joy on the recovery of my freedom, and, perhaps, the establishment of my power. But my pride was soon humbled, and a sober melancholy was spread over my mind, by the idea that I had taken an everlasting leave of an old and agreeable companion, and that whatever might be the future date of my history, the life of the historian must be short and precarious. I will add two facts, which have seldom occurred in the composition of six, or at least of five quartos. 1. My first rough manuscript, without any intermediate copy, has been sent to the press. 2. Not a sheet has been seen by any human eyes, excepting those of the author and the printer: the faults and the merits are exclusively my own."

Interesting retrospect of his Life.

"When I contemplate the common lot of mortality, I must acknowledge that I have drawn a high prize in the lottery of life. The far greater part of the globe is overspread with barbarism or slavery: in the civilised world, the most numerous class is condemned to ignorance or poverty; and the double fortune of my birth in a free and enlightened country, in an honorable and wealthy family, is the lucky chance of an unit against millions. The general probability is about three to one, that a new born infant will not live to complete his fiftieth year. I have now passed that age, and may fairly estimate the present value of my existence in the threefold division of mind, body and estate.

"1. The first and indispensable requisite of happiness is a clear conscience, unsullied by the reproach or remembrance of an unworthy action.

——" *Hic murus aheneus esto,*

" *Nil conscire sibi, nulla pallescere culpa.*

"I am endowed with a cheerful temper, a moderate sensibility, a natural disposition to repose rather than to activity: some mischievous appetites and habits have perhaps been corrected by philosophy or time. The love of study, a passion which derives fresh vigor from enjoyment, supplies each day, each hour, with a perpetual source of independent and rational pleasure; and I am not sensible of any decay of the mental faculties. The original soil has been highly improved by cultivation; but it may be questioned, whether some flowers of fancy, some grateful errors, have not been eradicated with the weeds of prejudice. 2. Since I have escaped from the long perils of my childhood, the serious advice of a physician has seldom been requisite. "The madness of superfluous wealth" I have never known; but my tender constitution has been fortified by time, and the inestimable gift of the sound and peaceful slumbers of infancy may be imputed both to the mind and body. 3. I have already described the merits of my society and situation; but these enjoyments would be tasteless or bitter, if their possession were not assured by an annual and adequate supply. According to the scale of Switzerland, I am a rich man; and I am indeed rich, since my income is superior to my expence, and my expence is equal to my riches. My friend lord Sheffield has kindly relieved me from the cares to which my taste and temper are most adverse: shall I add, that since the failure of my first wishes, I have never entertained any serious thoughts of a matrimonial connexion?

"I am disgusted with the affectation of men of letters, who complain that they have renounced a substance for a shadow; and that their fame (which sometimes is no insupportable weight) affords a poor compensation for envy, censure and persecution. My own experience, at least, has taught me a very different lesson: twenty happy years have been animated by the labors of my History; and its success has given me a name, a rank, a character, in the world, to which I should not otherwise have been entitled. The freedom of my writings has indeed provoked an implacable tribe; but, as I was safe from the stings, I was soon accustomed to the buzzing of the hornets: my nerves are not tremblingly alive, and my literary temper is so happily fenced that I am less sensible of pain than of pleasure. The rational pride of an author may be offended, rather than flattered, by vague indiscriminate praise; but he cannot, he should not, be indifferent to the fair testimonies of private and public esteem. Even his moral sympathy may be gratified by the idea, that now, in the present hour, he is imparting some degree of amusement or knowledge to his friends in a distant land; that one day his mind will be familiar to the grandchildren of those who are yet unborn. I cannot boast of the friendship or favor of princes; the patronage of English literature has been long since devolved on our booksellers, and the measure of their liberality is the least ambiguous test of our common success. Perhaps the golden mediocrity of my fortune has contributed to fortify my application.

"The present is a fleeting moment, the past is no more, and our prospect of futurity is dark and doubtful. This day may *possibly* be my last: but the laws of probability, so true in general, so fallacious in particular, still allow about fifteen years. I shall soon enter into the period which, as the most agreeable of his long life, was selected by the judgment and experience of the sage Fontinelle. His choice is approved by the eloquent historian of nature, who fixes our moral happiness to the natural season in which our passions are supposed to be calmed, our duties fulfilled, our ambition satisfied, our fame and fortune established on a solid basis. In private conversation, that great and amiable man added the weight of his own experience; and this autumnal felicity might be exemplified in the lives of Voltaire, Hume, and many other men of letters. I am far more inclined to embrace than to dispute this comfortable doctrine. I will not suppose any premature decay of the mind or the body; but I must reluctantly observe that two causes, the abbreviation of time, and the failure of hope, will always tinge with a brown shade the evening of life."

PERSIA.

Curious anecdotes from the late travels of M. Gardane in Persia.

The politeness of the Persians is of a species perfectly Oriental. A nobleman, of high rank, went one day to the French ambassador's "to beg his pardon because the weather was so bad in Persia."

The diplomatic conferences at Teheran, are held in the same manner as in our dramatic exhibitions, with the doors open, and in the presence of a multitude of auditors. The Orientals cannot conceive the necessity of secrecy in conventions between states.

The women are kept as much enslaved in Persia, as in the rest of the east. A Frenchman belonging to the suite of the ambassador, one day excited a great uproar at Teheren, for having ventured to cast some inquisitive looks at the garden of a seraglio. At the sight of a man, the women uttered screams of affright; some of them even snatched up arms, and prepared to repel ogles with musket balls.

M. Gardane one day asked a Persian nobleman how many children he had? "I don't know," replied he, "enquire of my secretary." The secretary turned to his list, and answered that his master had seventeen children.

MR. JEFFERSON'S ANSWER

To the friends of the Administration of the United States, in Bristol county, Rhode Island.

The receipt of your friendly address in the last moments of the session of Congress, will, I trust, offer a just apology for the late acknowledgment.

We have certainly cause to rejoice that since the waves of affliction and peril, raised from the storm of war by the rival belligents of Europe have undulated on our shores, the councils of the nation have been able to preserve it from the numerous evils, which have awfully menaced & otherwise, might have fallen upon us.—How we may yet retain this desirable position, is difficult to be foreseen.—But confident I am, that as long as it can be done consistently with the honor and interests of our country, it will be maintained by him to whom you have confided the helm of government. A surer pledge for this cannot be found than in the public and private virtues of the successor to the chair of government, which you so justly recognise. Your reflections are certainly correct on the importance of a good administration in a republican government towards securing to us our dearest rights, and the practical enjoyment of all our liberties; and such an one can never fail to give consolation to the friends of a free government, and mortification to its enemies. In retiring from the duties of my late station, I have the consolation of knowing, that such is the character of those into whose hand they are transferred, and of a conviction that all will be done for us which wisdom and virtue can do.

I thank you, fellow-citizens, for the kind sentiments of your address, and am particularly gratified by your approbation of the course I have pursued; & I pray Heaven to keep you under its holy favor.

TH: JEFFERSON.

Monticello, March 29, 1809.

FOREIGN NEWS.

THIRTY THIRD BULLETIN OF THE ARMY OF SPAIN.

[*Translated for the Chronicle from the Paris Moniteur of March 2, 1809—received by the French Letter of Marque L'Esperance, arrived at Boston.*]

The Duke of Dalmatia arrived at Tuy on the 10th of Feb. The whole province is quiet. He was gathering all the means necessary to cross the Minho, on the next day. The river is very wide there. He was to be at Oporto from the 15th to the 20th, and at Lisbon from the 20th to the 28th.

The British were embarking at Lisbon to abandon Portugal; the indignation of the Portuguese was at its height. There were daily some severe and bloody engagements between the British and Portuguese.

In Gallicia, the duke of Elchingen perfected the organization of the province. Admiral Massaredo had arrived at Ferrol, and activity was beginning to revive in that important arsenal. Tranquility is restored in all the provinnees under the orders of the duke of Istria, and situate between the Pyrenees, the sea, Portugal and the ridge of mountains that cover Madrid. Security succeeds disorders and alarms.

Numerous deputations daily arrive at Madrid to tender their homage to the king. The re-organization and public spirit make rapid progress under the new government.

The duke Belluna is marching towards Badajoz; he disarms and pacifies all Lower Estremadura.

Saragossa has capitulated. The calamities which have befallen this wretched city, are a terrible example for nations. Order is re-established in Saragossa, and extends to the whole province of Arragon. The two corps d'arms which invested that city are now dispensable. Saragossa was the real focus of the insurrection of Spain. It was in that city that the party who wished to call a Prince of the House of Austria to reign on the Tagus, had assembled. The men of that party had inherited this opinion from the ancestors who were of that sentiment at the time of the Succession-war, and which has just been crushed forever.

The battle of Tudela had been won on the 23d November, and on the seventeenth the French army was encamped within a short distrance from Saragossa. The populace of the city were armed. The inhabitants of the neighboring country had joined these, and Saragossa contained fifty thousand men formed into regiments of 1000, composed of 10 companies of 100 men. All the grades of generals, commissioned and non commissioned officers, were filled by monks.—A body of 10,000 men who had escaped from the battle of Tudela had retired to that city, the substance of which was secured by immense magazines, and defended by two hundred pieces of cannon. The image of our Lady of the Pillar was daily operating miracles according to the directions of the monks who animated the courage of the population, or supported their confidence. In the field these 50,000 men would not have stood against three regiments; but shut up in the city, and spurred on by all the leaders, how could they avoid the evils which ignorance and fanaticism attached to them? Every thing has been undertaken that was possible to do, to bring them back to reason.—Immediately after the battle of Tudela, it was tho't that the opinion entertained at Saragossa, that Madrid would make a bold stand and that the arms of Somosierra, Gudarama, Estremadura, Leon and Catalonia would eventually beat the French, would be used by the leaders of the insurgents to keep alive the fanaticism of the inhabitants. It was therefore resolved not to investthe city, & to leave open its communication with all Spain, in order that they might learn the discomfiture of the Spanish arms, and the accounts of the entry of the French army in Madrid. But this news reached only the ring-leaders who took care that the inhabitants should not know it.—Truth not only was concealed from them but they were encouraged by lies. To day the French had lost 40,000 men at Madrid; yesterday, Romana had entered France. In fine the British army were rapidly advancing, and the French eagles must fly before the terrible leopard! All this time sacrificed to political views and the hopes of being able to calm those heads, heated by fanaticism and error, was not lost for the French army.—The general of engineers, Lacoste, aid-de-camp to the Emperor, and an officer of the most distinguished abilities, gathered at Alayon all the tools, equipage of mines, and materials necessary for the subterraneous war which H. M. had ordered.

The gen. of divsion Dedon, commanding the artillery, assembled a great quantity of mortars, bombs, howitzers and heavy ordnance. All which were drawn from Pampelonia, seven days march from Saragossa. Meanwhile, it it was perceived that the enemy were availing themselves of this stagnation, to fortify the Monte Torrero and other important positions. On the 21st December, the division Suchet drove them from the heights of St. Lambert, and from two other works, out of the reach of the city. The division of gen. Gazen overthrew the enemy from the heights of San-Gregorie, and the 21st of light infantry and 100th regiment of the line, carried the redoubts in the suburbs, which defended the roads of Sueva and Barcelona. He also ordered the storming of a large building near Calhego, where five hundred Swiss had entrenched themselves. On the same day the Duke of Cornegliano also carried the works and the positions of Monte-Torrero, took all the cannon and a great number of prisoners, and did great execution among the enemy.

The Duke of Cornegliano being taken sick, the duke of Abrantes took, in the beginning of January, the command of the third corps. He signalized his arrival by the taking of the convent of San-Josef, and pursued his successes on the 16th of January by the carrying of the *tete depont* of Huerbaf, where his troops made good their stand. The chief of battalion Sthal, of the 14th of the line, distinguished himself at the attack on the convent of San Josef, and lieut. Victor de Baffon was one of the first to scale the works.

The investing of Saragossa was not yet complete. They persisted in leaving open the communications in order that the insurgents might be informed of the overthrow of the English, and their shameful flight out of Spain. It was on the 16th of January that the English were driven into the sea at Corunna, and it was on the twenty-sixth that the operations began to take a serious aspect before Saragossa.

The duke of Montebello had reached it on the 20th, to take the chief command of the seige. As soon as he was convinced that the news sent to the city, was productive of no good effect, and that the monks who directed the minds of the people had succeeded in preventing the news from reaching the people or in altering it so as to perpetuate the delirium of the besieged, he took the resolution no longer to spare them.

Fifteen thousand peasants had assembled at Perdiguera, on the left bank of Ebro. The duke of Treviso attacked them with three regiments and notwithstanding the fine position they occupied, the 64th regiment entirely overthrew and routed them.—The 10th hussars were in the plain to receive them, and a great number remained on the field of battle. Nine pieces of cannon and several stand of colors were the trophies of the rencounter.

The Duke of Montebello had sent the adjutant commandant Gasquet to Zuera, to disperse a party of rebels. With only three battalions, this officer attacked 4000 of them, overthrew them, and took four pieces of cannon, with their horses and appurtenances. Gen. Vattier had, at the same time, been ordered with 300 foot and 200 horse, to scour the road to Valencia. He met 5000 of the rebels at Alcaniz, forced them in the very city to throw down their arms in their flight, killed 600 men, and took magazines, provisions, ammunition and arms; among these latter were 1000 English muskets. The adjutant commandant, Carrion de Nizas, at the head of a column of infantry, colonel Burthe, of the 4th hussars, and the chief of battalion Camus, of the 28th light infantry have particularly distinguished themselves.

These operations took place between the 20th and 26th January. On the 26th, the city was severely attacked, and the batteries were unmasked.—On the 27th, at noon, the breach was practicable on several points. The troops lodged themselves in the convent of San-in Gracia. The division Grandjean occupied about 30 houses in the city. Colonel Chlopisek and the soldiers of the Vistula distinguished themselves. At the same time the general of division Morlot, in an attack on the left, possessed himself of the whole front of defiance of the enemy.

Captain Guetteman, at the head of the pioneers, and of 36 grenadiers, mounted the breach with a rare intrepidity. Mr. Bobieski, an officer in the Vistula Rangers, a young man of only 17 years of age, and having already received seven wounds, was the first who entered the breach. The chiefs of battalion Lejeure, aid-de-camp to the prince of Neufchatel, and Haxo, behaved well, and were both lightly wounded.

On the 30th, the convents of St. Monique, and the Great Augustines were carried, as were 60 houses taken by pioneers. The Sapeurs of the 14th regiment of the line, distinguished themselves.

On the 1st of Feb. gen. Lacoste was struck with a musket ball, and died on the field of battle. He was a brave and distinguished officer. His loss has been much felt by all the army, but more particularly by the emperor. Colonel Rognat succeeded him in the command of the engineers, and the direction of the siege.

The enemy defended every house; three attacks by mines were carried in front, and every day three or four mines blew up several houses, and opened the way to our troops.

In this way we reached the Corso, (the main street of Saragossa) lodged ourselves on the quays, and took possession of the university and colleges. The enemy attempted to oppose their miners to ours, but little acquainted with this kind of warfare, their miners were very quickly discovered and stifled.

This manner of conducting the siege rendered its progress slow, but sure, and less dangerous for the army. Whilst three companies of miners, & eight companies of pioneers alone, are occupied with this subterraneous war, whose results are so terrible, the city is continually kept on fire by the mortars throwing shells and fire balls.

The attack had been made but ten