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Observer,	

When the edition of the British Essayists was first undertaken by the London booksellers, the office of Editor was intended to be confined chiefly to the collation of the several papers with the folio originals, or with the best editions in other forms. The best editions, however, were, on examination found to be so incorrect, that Mr. Chalmers was led to suggest, what the proprietors readily acceded to, that this edition should be distinguished by some account of the history of each work, and the lives of such of the writers as were less generally known, in the form of Preface. For the plan, therefore, as well as the execution of this, he is solely accountable. Mr. Chalmers acknowleges with respect and gratitude many valuable communications from various literary friends, particularly from Mr. Nichols, Dr. Burney, Rev. G. Cambridge, Rev. John Warton, Samuel Rose, esq. of Chancery lane, Dr. Charles Coote, Mr. Dopps, and Isaac Reed, esq. of Staple Inn, a gentleman who in questions of literary history was never consulted in vain. By such assistance it is hoped something has been done to revive the attention of the public to a species of writing peculiarly and highly honorable to the genius of the British nation, and which has so eminently contributed to its advancement in refined taste and decorous manners.

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BEGS Leave to inform the public, that he has taken the second House on Pennsylvania avenue, west of the President's and formerly occupied by Mr. Wean, where he intends carrying on his business in all its various branches, and that he has a considerable stock of FURNITURE, &c. on hand. Orders will be executed with punctuality and dispach, and every exertion will be made to please those who may honor him with their custom.

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September 8—3t&law2w

NEW ORLEANS

Being at present the head quarters of the army of the army of the United States and of considerable note in our political relations—the following particular description of that city and the adjacent country, communicated in a letter from Capt. J. T. Bentley, to the Editor of the Morristown Palladium of Liberty, may not be uninteresting to many of our readers :—

Having nothing of a more interesting nature to write, I will endeavor to give you some little account of this place and the adjoining country, as far as my opportunities of information will permit.

The Balize, are a number of low marshy islands at the mouth of the Mississippi; they are inundated at every freshet. These islands are formed by the various channels through which the river communicates with the gulph of Mexico. There are no trees on any of them; they are covered with a kind of cane grass. On one of them is the Balise fort; there are no troops stationed there, and I think there are but two houses at the fort—one of them is occupied by the pilots—the other is the residence of the revenue officer. There are no inhabitants from this to Fort Plaquemines; this fort is on the right bank of the river, as you go up, and about 30 miles from the Balize. It was first built by the Spaniards, and is now rebuilding by our government—it will mount 30 or 40 guns, and is garrisoned by about half a company of the old artillery corps, commanded by lieut. Welsh. There is another fort building at the English Turn, on the left hand side of the river: this fort is about 20 miles below New Orleans, as the river runs, but not half that distance in a direct line. The river from the Balize to New Orleans, is from half to three quarters of a mile wide. In the channel it is from 50 to 100 fathoms deep, and its current from 4 to 5 miles an hour; it is very crooked. The shore is so bold most of the way from this place to the mouth of the river, that a ship of 300 tons burthen can lay along side of it as close as to a wharf. The land descends gradually from the river on each side, until it is lost in the salt water lakes that communicate with the gulph of Mexico, which generally is not more than from 6 to 10 miles wide. These lakes afford oysters in great abundance. The surface of the river is considerably higher at present than the land, on either side, and is prevented from overflowing by *levees* of earth, raised on its margin.

There is a law of the territory to oblige the owners of land on the river to keep up their levees. I am informed that three hundred miles above this, there are salt lakes that afford excellent oysters within six miles of the Mississippi. The narrow tract of land contained between the river and the lakes, on each side of the Mississippi, is cut into islands by the innumerable *Bayous*, or narrow streams breaking through the banks of the river, and msking their way into the gulph of Mexico. There are no lands worth settling at present between the Balize and Fort Plaquemines. In the neighborhood of the Fort are several rice plantations. The land from the Fort to New Orleans, grows better progressively, but none of it is worth settling more than from half to three quarters of a mile back of the river on either side. There are valuable rice and sugar plantations on the river, between New Orleans and Plaquemines. Oranges grow in abundance at almost every plantation. Alligators, at this season of the year, are to be seen in the river in great plenty.

New Orleans is situated on the right bank of the river Mississippi, as you ascend it, in lat. 29 deg. 58 min. west, from New York. The city is in regular squares. The streets are about 30 feet wide including the side walks, which are of brick: the middle of the streets are not paved.

You may form a pretty tolerable idea of the situation and extent of the city by the following list of streets.—Levee street runs parallel with and adjacent to the river: the other streets on the same parallel are Conde, or Chartre street, Royal Bourbon, Dauphin, Burgundy, and Rampart streets, seven in number. The transverse streets, beginning at the lower end of the city, are Garrison, Hospital, Ursuline, St Peter, Toulouse, St. Louis, Conti, Bienville and Custom House streets, thirteen in number. Between Custom House street and the upper Fauxbourg, is a valuable rope-walk. The public buildings of the most note are, the Barracks, Convent and Chapel, which, with their yards, out houses and gardens, occupy the four squares made by the intersection of Hospital and Chartre streets. Three of these squares belong to the convent and the other to the public barracks.

The Principal and Calleboos, or City Hall and Prison, is a large building, two story high of brick; it has been a showy building, is situate at the corner of St. Petre and Chartre streets. Next adjoining the Principal, on Chartre street, is Peter's Church, about the size of St. Paul's in New York; it is built after the ancient Gothic form, and has a venerable appearance. The public square is in front of these two buildings, and extends to the market, which is on the Levee.—The Custom House is a new brick building, and stands between Levee street and the river, a little above the intersection of Custom house and Levee streets.

The Exchange Coffee house is in Conti, between Chartre and Levee streets.—The Theatres and Museum are nearly opposite each other in St. Peter's street. The Charity Hospital is on the Commons, fronting the upper end of Toulouse street. The public market is between Levee street and the river, and extends from Main to St. Peter's street, across three squares.—The houses are mostly but one story high, and built more for convenience than for elegance. There are but few elegant houses in the city. There are some very elegant buildings in the Fauxbourgs, and some as beautiful seats as I ever saw, a few miles out of town. Fort St. Charles is between the city and the lower Fauxbourg, and about 200 yards from the barracks. Hospital street is continued from the city to the Bayou St. John, about two miles. It is settled all the way. There is a draw bridge over the Bayou at this place, and some very tasty seats near the bridge; 4 miles down the Bayou, from this bridge you come to Lake Ponchartain, where there is a fort nearly complete, which will mount about seven guns.

The stamp duty on newspapers alone, in England, produced last year two million of pounds sterling——A sum equal to 8,885,200 dollars. The report of our Secretary of Treasury, dated December 10, 1808, estimates the expences of the current year 1809, as follows :—

1. Civil List and miscellaneous expences,	$ 900,000
2. Foreign intercourse,	200,000
3. Grants by Congress and miscellaneous unforeseen demands,	150,000
4. Military and Indian departments,	2,736,000
5. Naval department,	1,014,000
	$ 5,000,000

From these facts it results that the mere stamps upon news-papers are in amount to tax upon the people of Great Britain, of *three millions eight hundred and eighty five thousand two hundred dollars* MORE than the whole amount of the whole annual expences of the government of the U. States.

Besides this Stamp Duty every advertisement which appears in an English newspapers pay a duty of *three shillings sterling*.

Enquirer.

FROM THE PATRIOT.

British Politics; or, the Echo to Col. Pickering's Letter.

"The American news-papers, of which I have some now before me, inform me, that if they attempt to hold out for the *whole year*, [i. e to keep the embargo on a year] *their federal government will be overturned* ——In the N. England states, the *newspapers* very coolly propose a *separation* of these states from the Southern states—and, UNLESS *Jefferson* and his PARTY be ousted at the the next election, the *seperation* which has been talked of for years, *will most assuredly take place*——

"How often have I said that the *Federal government could not exist a year* under the effect of prohibiting a trade to *England & her territories*?—The law (embargo) is nearly a dead letter—*it must be so, or the government will fall*. I told the *Americans* a thousand times, that if ever they should be FOOLS enough to try their strength against *England*, their *weakness* would be exposed to the world————The way the Americans will get out of their embarrassments, in respect to *us*, will be this—*Mr Thomas Jefferson and his party will be ousted* and then the *new president* will DISCLAIM their HOSTILE acts. Should this be the case, WE shall go on *harmoniously* for the future; *and I think that the Americans will not be long before they* JOIN US *against* FRANCE. That this may be the case, I heartily wish; but I am sure it never will be if *we* make the *first* movements towards it."

Cobbett's Weekly Reg. July 2, 1808

EXTRACTS

From a late perfomance entitled

CONSIDERATIONS

ON THE

EXECUTIVE GOVERNMENT

OF THE U. S. OF AMERICA.

By A. B. WOODWARD, Chief Justice of the Territory of Michigan.

(Continued.)

The second consideration which presents itself is the increase of talent.

The faculties of the human mind are limited by nature. In savage and barbarous tribes an individual may sometimes be marked with a superiority, unquestioned and unrivalled; but, in the diversified concerns of civilized and cultivated nations, no single character possesses a capacity so much superior to the rest of mankind as to be entitled to unqualified and instantaneous preference.

The various pursuits of men, in civilized life, give rise, also, to an equal variety of character and talent. To be eminent in a single department or profession, is the lot only of a few; and still more limited is the number of those calculated to shine in all.

The differences of residence, of society, and of education, in a great nation, still add to the differences of individual character and attainment. It is difficult, perhaps it is impossible, to eradicate local prejudices and attachments. The more extensive the country, the more is that difficulty enhanced; and it is impossible, whatever single character the choice of the nation may select, for the administration of its affairs, perfectly to divest his mind of local sensibilities and attachments. Did even the character exist, the evidences of its existence could never, perhaps, become satisfactory to the public mind.

Independent therefore of the unavoidable sources of error, what is perhaps of much greater importance, there is a necessary diminution of confidence. In the single administrator of executive power, local partiality may often be manifested, where it cannot be corrected; and will, still more often, be suspected, where it does not exist.

From consultation and comparison, the wisdom of none can sustain a diminution. It is characteristic of the strong and superior mind to reject, with promptitude, inapposite counsel; while it avidly seizes that which is proper, correct and just. It is here that is exhibited a verification of the principle of the Hebrew sage, that without counsel nations fall, while in a plurality of councillors there is safety.

The increase, extent, and variety of talent, of which the diversities of individual education, of professional attainments, and of geographical information, are productive, in a body of men, even though small, are therefore an invaluable security to an extended empire. They are accompanied with a rational conviction that its affairs are administered with uniform wisdom, justice, and impartiality.

The additional security for virtue constitutes the third grand consideration in favor of a permanent political body.

In an assemblage of men, entrusted with public administration, one is a check upon the other. If corrupt inclinations, or the passions, that so often find entrance into the individual bosom, should at any time prevail; there is a prompt and efficacious remedy. The many avenues that lead to obliquity of conduct if not closed, are at least obstructed. The efforts of intrigue, as well as the suggestions of favoritism, if not destroyed, are at least paralised. A certain degree of publicity must attend the transactions of every political body. Should at any time the veil of secrecy enshroud them, they become at least subject to ascertainment, when that veil is removed. They are rendered capable of proof; and susceptible of identification. The motives on which they are founded, the arguments which have induced their adoption, or those which have opposed it, are not locked up in the inscrutable depository of a private bosom. They may gradually become the subject of national knowledge; and may at length meet the steady eye of history.

There is no stronger fortification to the frail virtue of man, than the certainty that his conduct is truly before the world. Were it possible to draw an impenetrable veil of secrecy, the virtue of the best would be precarious. On the other hand where publicity is certain, there must be a hardihood of vice, that is rare in the human character, to act wilfully wrong. Most of the errors of men are the result of pride, rather than of positive vice; and pride is merely the evidence of imbecility of intellect, and a deficiency of good sense.

The tranquility and felicity of millions, their properties, their lives, are pledges too precious to be entrusted to the solitary bosom of weak and imperfect man. Nature has destined us to society; and early taught us the salutary lesson of over-ruling our selfishness and controlling our passions. Let it not be imagined that in government only she has excluded this necessity.

It is no inconsiderable security to the happiness and safety of a nation, that, in a political body, it is often sufficient for one only to be virtuous. There is so commanding a dignity in virtue, that her presence alone strikes terror into the guilty heart. At her look vice stands appalled. Her simple and native beauty requires only to be seen, to excite irresistible admiration. No sooner is her victory acquired, than the bosom becomes inspired with a holy enthusiasm. There is contagion in the affection. It spreads with the rapidity of fire; and the grand actions which have changed the face of nations, have had their origin in the heart, suddenly inflamed with the love of private or public virtue.

The fourth consideration, operating strongly in favor of a political body, is the great increase of public confidence.

The causes that render it superior in talent, and in virtue, necessarily endow a permanent political body, constructed in the manner proposed, with a firmer title to uniform confidence and approbation. If the reasons, which have been urged in favor of its superiority in these respects, have weight; they apply with equal force to the superiority of confidence it must at all times command. One indeed is but the necessary consequence of the other.

In the system proposed there is however an advantage that is truly invaluable. There is a gradual growth and progression of confidence. It is not the creature of a day, to be bestowed or withdrawn, with the fluctuations of popular caprice. A succession of public services can alone create it; and, without some overt and manifest dereliction of principle, it cannot readily be subverted.

When a choice must necessarily be made, and is confined to a single individual, we are sometimes compelled to act in the dark. A call is made for sudden and unlimited confidence, before the grounds of that confidence can be well understood. The motives of selection cannot be fairly weighed; or the reasons of preference duly appreciated.

Where a confidence too is reposed, entirely in one individual, an artificial necessity is generated for its continuance. Its duration refuses the limitation of propriety and reason; the only limitations which should characterize republics. It subjects itself to the interests of party, or enlists under the banner of faction. We become ashamed to retract the approbation we have once bestowed. A confidence is imparted which cannot be withdrawn, without exciting the keenest sensibilities, and perhaps public commotion. An ostensible and satisfactory ground must be exhibited, where it is perhaps delicate, or impossible, for it to be shown; and ere we are aware, our minds succumb to fetters from which we cannot be released.

An executive body, graduated from its highest to its lowest member, distinguished alike in their offices as in their compensations, and expiring in annual rotation, exhibits features as specifically variant from the directorial construction of the Executive authority of France; as from the peculiar inves-