

Poetry.

FROM THE PORT FOLIO.

TO A LADY ON HER BIRTH DAY.

Say, shall I wish, with social cheer,
While all around is fair and gay,
To add to thee another year,
On this thy happy natal day?
Could I, when doubts and fears prevail,
Unconscious of thy future state,
Lift up the dark mysterious veil
That hides the records of thy fate—
Could I behold thy future days,
When seen by inspirations powers,
Rise all enraptured on my gaze,
And crowned with wreaths of smiling flow-
ers:
Could I behold a train of joys,
Attendant, waiting on thy beck;
Should fortune spread her glittering toys,
Thy sunshine be without a speck:
Could smiles and graces, without end,
To thee their annual homage pay—
To heaven in supplication would I bend
For many, many a natal day.
But dare I breathe to heaven this prayer,
A confidence how false and vain,
When sickness, sorrow, and despair
May each in dread succession reign.
Though joy thy slumbering couch adorns,
And smooths the pillow for thy head,
Grief still may sow thy sleep with thorns,
And waking anguish haunt thy bed.
The fever with malignant breath,
Unseen, may watch thy midnight groan,
Breathe thro' thy veins the fires of death,
And banish reason from her throne.
The hectic fiend may watch his prey,
And on thy ruddy cheek descend,
And flatter still and still betray;
Like many a treacherous worldly friend.
Poor sorrowing mortals, frail and weak,
Unknowing what is good or ill,
Should thus in humbler accents speak—
Lord teach us to obey thy will.

HUMILITY.

Humility erects her cell,
Near the course where pleasure flows;
She eyes the clear crystalline well,
And tastes it as it goes.

POLITICAL.

NATURALIZATION.

The London papers, speaking of the preparations going on for the "doubling," as the yankee phrase is of *Charlotte Augusta Guelpb* with *George Leopold Coburg*, exultingly tells us, that *the bill for the naturalization of the latter passed through parliament in the space of six minutes.*

There is, then a "clear and undeniable right" in the British Parliament to naturalize foreigners. There could be no question about the matter, seeing the whole business was done in six minutes. There is nothing in the law of God or of nations, by which the right can be affected by a quality in the persons claiming its exercise. Coburg and Cockburn are the same as to the justice or propriety of the thing done. Does this act of the parliament release *George Leopold Coburg* of the allegiance he owed to a petty German prince, being his "natural born subject?" Some of the would-be-thought great men, even in the United States, have declared the doctrine of "perpetual allegiance" to be unquestionably correct. Let these say whether said Coburg is now a British subject or not. If he is a British subject, by this act of parliament, might we not as easily and as rightfully have made him a citizen of the United States by act of congress? I think so—for I have a notion that if it were lawful for England, it would also be lawful for us, to do it. But if by this act *George Leopold* be not, to all intents and purposes, a "natural born subject" of the British empire, then has parliament violated a first great principle of the law of nations. This procedure will put the "legitimates" in an unpleasant predicament, be the fact argued and twisted as they please, for it shews, in a way that cannot be mistaken their base and detestible hypocrisy, and holds up their impudence and falsehood to the scoff of the world. Who will

contend hereafter that we may not as legally naturalize *Mr. Teague O'Ragan*, if we like, as the parliament invest this Dutchman with the rights of a British subject? I think that none will be hardy enough to prate about it in future—the question is at rest; and what was "so clear and undeniable," is found to be exceedingly obscure or absolutely false.

The truth is, the British have always supposed they had a right to naturalize foreigners; they have several statutes on the subject; and we must certainly admire that modesty in their friends which would refuse an exercise of it to other sovereign and independent nations; but we should especially esteem that *manly sense of honor* in these our own citizens who grant it, by the laws of nations, to England, and refuse it by the same laws to the United States.

No man unless he put his fellow creatures on a level with the brute creation, can advocate their *perpetual allegiance*, and then the privilege of locating themselves, as they feel most needful to their happiness and comfort. It is the most abominable doctrine that ever was held forth; but that affected opponents of the trade in black slaves and of negro slavery should hold it, is really too impudent to be born with patience. *Niles's Register.*

(From the Philadelphia Gazette.)

MONTICELLO, Oct. 15, 1816.

DEAR SIR,

I thank you for the extract in your's of August 16, respecting the Emperor Alexander. It arrived here a day or two after I left this place, from which I have been absent about 7 or 8 weeks. I had, from other information, formed the most favorable opinion of the virtues of Alexander, and considered his partiality to this country as a prominent proof of them. The magnanimity of his conduct on the first capture of Paris, still magnified every thing we had believed of him; but how he will come out of his present trial remains to be seen. That the sufferings which France had inflicted on other countries, justified severe reprisals, cannot be questioned—but I have not yet learned what crimes of Poland, Saxony, Belgium, Venice, Lombardy and Genoa, had merit for them, not merely a temporary punishment, but that of permanent subjugation, and a destitution of independence and self-government. The fable of *Esop* of the Lion dividing the spoils, is, I fear, becoming true history—and the moral Code of Napoleon and the English Government, a substitute for that of *Grotious*, of *Puffendorf*, and even of the pure doctrines of the great Author of our Religion.—We were safe ourselves from Bonaparte, because he had not the British fleet at his command—we were safe from the British fleet because they had Bonaparte at their back—but the British fleets and the conquerors of Bonaparte, being now combined, and the Hartford nation

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and respect.

TH: JEFFERSON.

Dr. Logan.

ENVY.

Envy, that views with pain, another's pel', With her own hand assassinates herself.

MISCELLANEOUS.

A case has lately occurred under the act laying a tax on licenses to distillers, the publication of the decision on which may save some trouble to those who have hoped, under a similar construction, to escape payment of a large portion of the tax.

Several of the distillers of Lancaster county Pennsylvania, conceiving that they were not, by law, obliged to return any thing but the *alcohol* or *real spirits*, made their returns accordingly; and consequently suits were brought upon the bonds given by them to the U. States for their compliance with the said act of Congress. The amount of bonds sued was 70,500 dollars. The trial took place before judge Peters on the 20th ult.—and on an intimation of the judge's opinion before the trial had advanced, that their ground of defence was not tenable, they submitted their case without waiting a verdict, agreeing to pay the duties, present and to come, and the costs of suit, provided the collector would withdraw the suit; to which proposition he generously consented.—Had the amount sued for been recovered, one half of the amount 35,250 dollars would have gone to his use. The terms of the agreement between the collector and distillers, in consequence of which the jury was dismissed, were as follows:

1. That each defendant should make up the returns of the spirits distilled, in the manner hitherto required by the Collector, and according to the opinion expressed by his honor the Judge.
2. That the defendants should pay the ten per centum required by Law, for the delay in not paying the duties when due.
3. That the defendants should pay the costs of suit, and a specified sum (sufficient) to cover expenses incurred in the suits.
4. That the suits were not to be discontinued, until there should be a compliance by the defendants in the foregoing terms; and that, in case any defendant should neglect or refuse to comply within a certain (specified) time, judgment should be entered, to secure and enforce the performance of the agreement, which was to be filed with the Clerk of the Court.

A few days since the right bank of the Hudson, at Tapan, was visited by James Smith, Esq. General Delavan, Mr. Yale, Dr. Howell, Professor Mitchell, and several other gentlemen, for the purpose of settling a question of some importance in Geology. It had been asserted that the strata of sand stones forming the quarries of Nyack, in Rockland county, covered a layer of loose earth which abounded in bones of animals. On digging to the bottom, in the presence of the proprietor, Mr. William Palmer, the party convinced of the correctness of the story. Fragments of bones, some of which are conjectured to belong to the human skeleton, were disinterred from the situation in which they have rested ever since the flood; and the gentlemen carried away parcels of these curious and ancient relics.

For twenty years past, the labourers in this quarry, which is situated near the methodist meeting house at Nyack, have occasionally found bones and their fragments beneath the solid rock. It was the opinion of the former owner that the creatures to whose bodies they belonged, had been buried there by some overwhelming earthquake;

but the late visitors are inclined to ascribe them to the operation of the Deluge, of which the most cogent evidence exists in the county of New-York, in King's and Queen's counties on Long Island, and the counties of Monmouth and Burlington, in New-Jersey.

The environs of New-York are as remarkable for these antediluvian monuments, as those of Paris or London. *N. Y. Gazette.*

LITERARY INTELLIGENCE.

We have it from unquestionable authority that a History of the late war between America and Great-Britain, the manuscript of which is now in forwardness, will be ready for the press in a few months. It is from the pen of a highly eminent writer in New-Jersey, and will no doubt be the most correct account of that War that has yet been, or probably will be given to the public. It is expected it will make a pretty large octavo volume.—*N. B. Times.*

SILENCE.

The deficiencies of Addison in conversation are, says an elegant essayist, well known. He preserved rigid silence among strangers; but if he was silent, it was the silence of meditation. He probably at that moment labored more in his reflections than had he been in his study. It was this silence that enlightened a whole nation diurnally.

TEARS OF AFFECTION.

A young swindler hiring a lodging, said to the landlady, "I assure you I am so much liked that I never left a lodging but my landlady shed tears."—Perhaps, said she, you always run off in her debt.

Bad examples, say Montesquieu, produce more consequences than crimes, and more states have been ruined by infringement of morals, than by a violation of the laws.

"Loud scolding is the reverse of weighty reasoning. It is the dying groans of good government."—*Common Sense in Dis-habille.*

I never knew a scolding person that was able to govern a family. *What makes people scold?* Because they cannot govern themselves. How can they govern others? Mark well, as you may—those who govern well are generally calm. They are prompt and resolute, but steady and mild.

ADAGE.

One science only, can one genius fit,
So vast is art, so narrow human wit.

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Camden, April 30, 1816.