

LITERARY.

In presenting our readers with the following critique on the travels and writings of Dr. Clarke, it is presumed much light will be thrown upon that interesting country, its manners, customs, and state of improvement. The celebrity of Dr. Clarke's work appears to evince the proportion of odium, disgrace and contumely which has been undeservedly heaped upon one of the most powerful nations on earth; whose strides to perfection are commensurate with the most civilized powers of Europe. From the time of Cesar Pater, to the present moment, her Sovereigns seem to have kept a watchful eye over the state of their arts and sciences. Influenced by the most glorious emulation, she has emerged from barbarism to a state of civilization. Her arms are respected by all the powers of Europe, and her statesmen are not destitute of influence in foreign cabinets.

Editor.

From the American Review.

Observations on the 1st. volume of Dr. Clarke's travels in Russia, Tartary and Turkey.

BY A RUSSIAN.

The Travels of Dr. Clarke in Russia, have lately been republished in this country, and are said to be bought up with an avidity proportioned to the singularity of the work. The rapidity of their sale, is probably in no small degree occasioned by the exaggerations, in which the learned Doctor has indulged himself;—for, the curiosity of the public is always particularly excited by the effusions of malignity. The great majority of those, who read, adopt opinions of others on subjects of literature, without giving themselves the trouble of examining whether these be just or otherwise. It is much more convenient to take them up ready made, especially when they are sanctioned by authority so respectable, as that of the Edinburgh Reviewers.

In all probability Dr. Clarke's book will obtain an extensive circulation in the United States, and with it will be disseminated the calumnies, of which its author is so prodigal. The unfavorable impressions, produced by the latter, will perhaps outlive the cause which gave them birth. Few persons will be disposed, after reading the work, to enquire if this writer (who is represented as a man of letters, and who calls himself a Christian), either did or could speak the truth;—for we may doubt that it is possible for any individual, to acquire an exact knowledge of a country entirely new to him, the language of which too he was ignorant of, by traversing it in post-chaise, in the short space of less than three months. The circumstances under which he found himself in Russia, were not favorable for observation.—He experienced, according to his own account, molestations which precipitated his progress, and deprived him of that tranquility of mind indispensable for the formation of accurate remarks. Indeed the travels of Dr. Clarke resemble the flight of a malefactor, and we are tempted to compare him to one of those Partisans we read of in history, who while urging their rapid retreat, discharged shafts dipt in poison at their pursuers.

Dr. Clarke, may, for aught we know, be a learned antiquarian, but it is more easy to decypher inscriptions on mouldering monuments, than to trace with equity, the character of a nation, against which he imagines that he has well founded causes of complaint. Not content with telling what he has seen, he chooses to entertain us, with the exhibition of phantoms, raised by his own ill humour. In consequence, the picture he has drawn of the moral taste of Russia, is only a disgusting aggregate of unfounded and often contradictory assertions, and of scandalous anecdotes which prove nothing, but which ought to have been suppressed, from motives of regard for the persons, who confined them to his discretion. The "Travels of Dr. Clarke in Russia," is a libel which deserves to be ranked in the same class with the Memoirs of Gorani, those of Mason, the travels of Acerbi, and the letters of Fievez on England. They constitute a production unworthy of a man of letters.—Yet more unworthy of the learned critics who have undertaken its defence, is the applause they have lavished upon it.

Dr. Clarke, in thus impudently calumniating the Russian nation, is guilty of falsehood the more reprehensible, as it is the effect of deliberation. He is not ignorant that he may, with impunity assert that of a whole people, which it would be dangerous to say of an individual. In all countries the law is open against those who defame private characters—but to what tribunal can the Russian nation appeal against the contumelies of Dr. Clarke? Under actual circumstances, it is not in Great-Britain itself, that they can look for impartial judges. In that island, is indeed to be found, a literary areopagus justly famed for the talents which its members have hitherto displayed, in the discharge of the important duties they

have assumed, of detecting impostures, and enlightening public opinion.—It was to be expected that far from sanctioning the exaggerations of Dr. Clarke, offensive as they equally are to truth and to decency, these judges would have loaded him with their indignant censure;—but no! they have already pronounced sentence in favour of the calumniator, and in so doing, have violated and discredited the very principles which they had promulgated (in the review of Acerbi's Sweden,) as a moral code for all travellers. It will be seen in the course of these observations, that the Edinburgh Reviewers have been wanting in caution (to use no harsher term), when they assure their readers, that Dr. Clarke has generally avoided the vice of most travellers—that of publishing what may injure individuals.

To account for such partiality in-censors generally so severe and scrupulous, it might perhaps be necessary to ascertain, which political sect in England claims the charitable Dr. as a partisan;—for this would not be the first occasion, on which these gentlemen have been suspected, of making their literary principles subservient to their political opinions. How eagerly do they avail themselves of the testimony of Dr. Clarke to confirm their belief "of the barbarism of Russia, and its unfitness to support a great and useful part in European affairs." How triumphantly do they exclaim, "Such are the deeds of the people from whose interference in the concerns of civilized nations, so mighty a check has been more than once looked for, to the progress of French injustice and oppression!" Would it not seem, on reading these passages, that Dr. Clarke had advanced nothing without proof?

It is very possible that, as the Edinburgh Reviewers assert, the power of Russia and the importance of her alliance have been exaggerated in England;—but will they deny that the alliance was natural; and that Great-Britain derived from it great advantages in her political combinations? When they say that too much importance, was attached to that alliance, in Lord Lauderdale's negotiations at Paris, we regret that they have not thought fit to explain, what concessions France would have made to Britain, on condition that the latter power should abandon the interests of Russia.—It is not given to us to comprehend how a solid and honorable peace, could have been the consequence of such an abandonment. Admitting, however, that Britain did make some sacrifice in favor of Russia on that occasion, yet assuredly, it will not be a tested, that in all the alliances contracted between the two nations since the year 1799, (when Russia first took an active part in the general affairs of Europe,) she manifested all possible good faith, in the execution of the important measures, which she had concerted with Great-Britain. If events did not correspond with expectation, to whom is the fault ascribable? Will the world attribute to Russia the loss of the battle of Marengo in 1800?—the capitulation of Ulm in 1805?—the disaster of Jena in 1806?—With every alliance torrents of Russian blood were shed in Italy, in Switzerland, in Holland, and in Germany. Until the treaty of Tilsit terminated our connexion with England, who is so ignorant as not to know, that nearly 100,000 Russians were lost to their country, whilst their English allies were employed in conquering Egypt and Buenos Ayres?

We indulge the hope that posterity will judge with less partiality, of the causes, which have placed Europe in her actual situation. When the calumnies of Dr. Clarke shall be buried in oblivion, after having passed through merited contempt, more equity will be manifested, in appreciating the political conduct of Russia, from the accession of its present sovereign to the date of the peace of Tilsit. During this interval at least, of which alone, it is here material to speak, we insist that the proceedings of our government were constantly no less dignified, liberal and disinterested than those of Great-Britain. We have allowed ourselves this digression, because it appears to have been one of the principal objects of the Edinburgh Reviewers, in their notice of Dr. Clarke's Travels, to justify their political opinions at the expense of Russia.

(To be continued.)

Mr. Moore, the American midshipman killed at Port Mahon, was a son of the late colonel Moore of Maryland, a distinguished officer of the revolutionary army. The young man was under command of Commodore Barney, at Bladensburg, and among those who fought. His brother officers contemplate erecting a marble Monument to his memory at Mahon, in the British burial place—where his remains were entombed.

Boston Palladium.

We are informed, that letters from Philadelphia to a gentleman here, mention the arrival of M. Lavalette in that city, some time during the past week. Col.

FOREIGN ARTICLES.

PARIS, May 4.

Gen. Cambronne was acquitted, and set at liberty.—It is said, Savary and Lallemand, have received permission to embark from Malta, for the United States. An expedition is fitted out from Brest, &c. to resume possession of the islands of St. Pierre and Miquelon. Several individuals, accused of using seditious expressions, in the villages adjacent to Paris, are to be tried before the Correctional Tribunal. The report of the Russian corps evacuating Maubeuge, &c. is without foundation. The English prints ridicule the reports as to great changes having taken place in the policy of the Allied Powers; and says, that they are all desirous of maintaining the peace, which was established by the most solemn conventions. Prince Talleyrand is expected to return immediately to Paris, from whence he has been absent eight days. Count Jules de Polignac, has gone to England, to marry one of the richest heiresses of Scotland. The Minister of War, has given orders, that all the Ministers, residing in the department of Cote d'Or, be carried into immediate service; this is a proof, that Government are actually making military preparations. The Duke de Berri enquired of the Minister of War, if he could raise 150,000 men, which he declared impracticable; he was then asked, if 100,000 could be raised; which the Minister declared to be doubtful—the Prince then said, "if France will not fight for us, she must submit to her doom; a prey to the Allies, she must share the fate of Poland." All public accounts, afford sufficient evidence, that extraordinary levies, of men and money, are making by the French court, for which no purpose is assigned.

Extract of Letters, from

PARIS, May 10—11.

War soon between England [God knows who are her allies] on one side, and Russia, Prussia and the Netherland, on the other.—The allies have taken from Wellington the command of their joint armies in France.

The English will be driven from the continent. Prussia will take Hanover and the whole of the territory and navigation of the Ems, of which England swindled her in the time of her distress.

To support their pretensions in Germany, the English cannot but evacuate France, and they must make haste: one event—and they will be but a breakfast for Frenchmen.

The Orange party in France and Germany is no longer a mystery. It is supposed England will send the Duke of Orleans to France, who was very popular last year. If he came from any where else he might neutralize the Orange party, if you can call that a party which is composed of all the republicans, of all the constitutionalists, and all the Bonapartists—in a word, of all France (excepting the old nobles, valets and priests.) France perceives that the house of Orange, at this day, offers her the only means of ridding herself of its present tyrants, and restoring any thing like vigour or health.

If this great and glorious change takes place, it will immortalize the emperor of Russia. His sister, the present princess royal of the Netherlands, is both able and amiable. She has inherited the mind of a Catherine, and is a great man in the frame of a woman. Her husband, a brave and skilful general fought against the French, for a while, with Wellington: he, however, appreciates the two nations, and may be the means of restoring France to honor and liberty.

Now, that Louis the great [a present que le gross cochon] and his amiable family, see they are to be abandoned by the English, they are quite active in making money. The tygress of Angouleme is mad!! She foams in rage! Quarantees Monts ses laches et feroces? Quelle terres assez desertes les sacheront? They are sending money to America by an agent, &c. &c.; for in England the indignation against them is as great as in France and the rest of Europe.

General Carnot, and the other distinguished men who had been in Russia, were expected at Brussels by the beginning of May—marshal Soult, general Vandamme, Merlin, &c. Monsieur Merlin, M. Seyes, and other eminent characters, are treated there with distinction; and as these things are now understood in France, the families of the refugees are crowded with visitors in spite of police officers or the struggles of an expiring government.

The head quarters of the Austrian army are in the neighborhood of Grenoble. In all that province, in Lyons, in Burgundy, the national flag is flying, and the Austrians permit.

The English were impolitic enough to put to death in a moral sense (NAPOLÉON BONAPARTE.) At present all Europe think only to disembarrass themselves of them. The power of France is in her soil and population—it is intrinsic. That of England is altogether artificial.

The Count D'Artois is accused by the Duke of Richelieu, to have wished to have dethroned his brother in order to take his place. All this family are at dagger's point. You recollect the picture of the damned reproaching each other with their crimes!!!

HAVRE, May 12.

I have this instant arrived from Paris. All is consternation among the royalists. The people breathe nothing but vengeance.

The tribunals of blood dare no longer to assemble. There has been within three days more than 500 prisoners arrested, but they are afraid to try them in their halls. We are on the eve of a great explosion—our separation will not be as long as we expected six months ago.

The Prince Royal of Wintemburg, has been married to her Imperial Highness the Grand Duchess Catharine of Russia. An Embassy from the Sophi of Persia, has arrived in France.

A Dutch paper says, Eugene Beauharnois is to have 22 million of francs—a compensation for the property given him by Bonaparte, but which has been reclaimed by the rightful owners.

Not less than 700 licenses issued from the ecclesiastical court for marriages to be celebrated in London, on the day of the Princess Charlotte.

NEW PHENOMENON.

VIENNA, April 5.

STRIA—In the Gratz Gazette there is the following account from Salmthal, in the circle of Marburg:—

"On the 4th of March this year, at nine in the evening, we had in this neighborhood an entirely new Phenomenon, on two estates of Count Knenburg. A violent storm, accompanied with snow and some rain, passed from the Westward towards the South-east, that is, from the Schwanburg Alps towards the Vineyards of Gerith, over the mountain cattle of Honlenceh, within which is the parish church; when suddenly the gilded cross on the steeple of this church seemed to be in flames, which lighted the country all around, and at the same time a sort of crackling or hissing noise was heard from the steeple, as when water is poured upon red-hot-iron. This lasted for a whole quarter of an hour, and left rather an unpleasant smell. The next day the cross was almost black, but it now begins to resume its former brightness.

"With a telescope one can perceive that something inflammable fixed itself on the iron. At the same a similar Phenomenon appeared at the top of the steeple of the church of Welsberg, only the fire was smaller and shorter duration. It is strange that these electrical flames appeared only on these two steeples, which are almost a German mile (five English miles) distant from each other, though there are other steeples in the line between them, some of them of the same height, on which nothing similar was perceived.

"It may easily be supposed that this Phenomenon, on account of its novelty, furnishes the peasants with matter for various conjectures. It had most resemblance with flame often seen on the masts of ships, called by the Italians *Zucco di St. Elmo*, which is also accompanied by a crackling noise, and is considered by mariners as a presage of favorable weather.

FROM SOUTH AMERICA.

Extract of a letter from WELLSWOOD HENNING, Esq. dated Kingston, Jamaica, May 16, to a gentleman in the city of Washington.

"You have heard, no doubt, of my arrest and imprisonment at Carthagea by Morillo; but you can have no idea of the treatment I received. I was unfortunate in being too late in getting on board at the evacuation, and on the seventh of December I was thrown into the inquisition, where I remained two months without communication at all, and two more in a miserable state of suspense. Poor Stewart was shot, with Anguiano, Toledo, Ribbon, M. Amador, Portocarrero, Castillo, and Dr. Granados, on the 24th of February; and but for the intercession of the Admiral, I was to have been the tenth victim on that day. So that instead of being tried by a mock court-martial, I was tried by a civil process and miraculously acquitted.

"I left Carthagea on the 27th of April, at which date Morillo had got no further than Ocana, though there was a general silence in town, it was whispered that his progress was not so rapid as he expected. The General Congress was at Tanja, and since the execution of Amador and Ribbon, who had surrendered under a promised pardon, the interior spirit had resolved to defend itself to the last. Morales, with two battalions of Caracas troops, had marched for Venezuela, where matters were changing much against Ferdinand; so that Morillo has no more than about 3000 men with him. Carthagea is garrisoned by the regiment of Leon, about 650 effective and non-effective (and I may add, disaffected