

It has been remarked by a learned and distinguished gentleman, and we believe the observation to be true; that the Birth Day of Washington is the only one (besides that of our Saviour) retained long after death, as an anniversary of festivity for national commemoration. All the Citizens of the United States, be their political denomination what it may, unite in regarding the event it produced as the foundation of their own happiness; and as the source of universal good. Had Washington been wanting, our Revolutionary efforts would, probably, have been fruitless; resembling the desultory and unconnected exertions of our Southern neighbors, without concert in operation, or permanency in result. His character had that in it, which forbade rivalry or envy. No one ventured to start as competitor, but all, feeling the superiority of his views, delighted to honor the one and give facility to the other. He was a star that beamed upon the turbulent passions of men only to tranquilize and regulate them. Such a chief is essential to the success of a Revolution; and the American Patriot cannot too warmly thank the Providence by which he was granted.

Washington's character stands as a model for his countrymen. On his birth-day, its beautiful features, strong lights, and fair proportions should be adequately depicted. The moral influence of such contemplations, annually and regularly, could not but, in time become obvious and important. Virtue well described never fails to captivate, and many will strive to imitate that, which all unite in admiring.—Instead of the idle, and sometimes infuriated declamation which has been uttered as eulogy by party zealots on this memorable day: the only, the single object should be, not the praise, not the panegyric, but the faithful and temperate delineation of him, who was "first in war, first in peace, and first in the hearts of his countrymen."

We do not wish, however, to proceed in a task, which though certainly delightful, requires more leisure than we can bestow. The following letter extracted from the "Private correspondence of Dr. Franklin," (a volume as yet but little known) contains a beautiful compliment from one great man to another and we give it, as our mate, in honor of the twenty second.

TO GENERAL WASHINGTON.

"PASSY, March 3, 1778."

"Sir.—I received but lately the letter your excellency did me the honor of writing to me in recommendation of the Marquis de la Fayette. His modesty detained it long in his own hands. We became acquainted, however, from the time of his arrival at Paris; his zeal for the honor of our country, his activity in our affairs here, and his firm attachment to our cause, and to you, impressed me with the same regard and esteem for him that your excellency's letter would have done, had it been immediately delivered to me.

Should peace, arrive after another campaign or two, and afford us a little leisure, I should be happy to see your excellency in Europe; and to accompany you, if my age and strength would permit in visiting some of its ancient and most famous kingdoms. You would on this side the sea, enjoy the great reputation you have acquired, pure and free from those little shades that the jealousy and envy of a man's countrymen and contemporaries are ever endeavoring to cast over living merit. Here you would know, and enjoy, what posterity will say of Washington. For a thousand leagues have nearly the same effect with a thousand years.

The feeble voice of grovelling passions cannot extend so far either in time or distance. At present I enjoy that pleasure for you as I frequently hear the old generals of this martial country (who study the maps of America, and mark upon them all your operations) speak with reverence

approbation and great applause of your conduct and join in giving you the character of one of the greatest captains of the age.

I must soon quit this scene but you may live to see our country flourish, as it will amazingly and rapidly after the war is over. Like a field of young Indian corn which long fair weather and sunshine has enfeebled and discolored and which in that weak state by a thunder gust of violent wind, hail and rain, seemed to be threatened with absolute destruction; yet the storm being past it recovers fresh verdure shoots up with double vigor, and delights the eye not of its own only, but of every observing traveller.

The best wishes that can be formed for your health, honor and happiness ever attend you, from yours,  
B. FRANKLIN.

**THE FLORIDAS.**

[FROM THE SAVANNAH REPUBLICAN.]

If there had been no other motive for the suppression of the Amelia expedition, a sufficient reason would be found, in putting a stop to the importation of Africans, and the measure would have done equal honor to the head and heart of our chief magistrate. Have the wise and virtuous of our own country enacted laws, only for the purpose of having them violated? Are abolition societies daily established in the different sections of our republic in mere mockery? Or are we in earnest, in desiring to put an end to this traffic, so odious in the sight of God and man? Are proofs wanting? We refer again to the records of Savannah. Will it be credited, that a regular chain of posts is established from the head of St. Mary's river, to the upper country, and through the Indian nation, by means of which, these emaciated wretches, are hurried and transferred to every part of the country. The woodsmen of the country, bordering on the river St. Mary's ride, like so many Arabs, loaded with slaves ready for market. Pursuit is useless, they push through uninhabited parts, known only to themselves; and with a spirit of enterprise fitted for better purposes elude all search. If ready for forming a caravan an Indian alarm is created, that the woods may be less frequented; if pursued in Georgia, they escape into Florida. What will the humane say, when told of the horrors of these miserable Africans? One small schooner of about 60 tons, contained 180 souls; they were almost packed into a small space, between a floor laid over the water casks and the deck—not near three feet—insufficient for them to sit upright—and so close that chafing against each other—their bones pierces the skin, and become galled and ulcerated by the motion of the vessel their food, a very stinted allowance, consisted of rotten rice, in a state of fermentation, and so warm as to comfort their frozen hands—numbers died of hunger, cold and misery—while others crawled about, a sort of living anatomies, dragged, naked and shivering; in this (to them) cold climate and season, from their "prison house" and hurried off, on long and painful journeys, to satisfy the capidity of unfeeling adventurers—putting aside the agonies of the body what tortures of mind have these afflicted sons of Africa not undergone. When these unhappy sufferers were re-captured by the Saranac, the commonest sailors on board, touched with the tenderest sympathy, divided amongst them, their clothes, and every aid, that circumstances made possible, was humanely afforded by the officers. What a sight has Ferdinandina exhibited! "This cradle of liberty," as some would persuade the public—when privateer sailors have led about, and sold their shares of the spoil to the highest bidder, what a specimen of government! What a proof of connection with Mexico and Venezuela—that forbid this traffic in the new government. But has the president been informed of all this? Can we suppose that the public officers, have on it great

spectators of all these horrors. The partial publication of these reports, answer such interrogation—this is but a faint picture of this monstrous trade. All that has been written and said on the subject of barbarity and cruelty, is yet extant, whenever it is tolerated, and man when he made a trade of his fellow, like the Hyana becomes the "fellest of the fell." This much for humanity's sake—but for the law, it was the duty of the president to prevent its violation, by driving from our frontier this horde of marauders, who disregarded and insulted it, and thanks to him—he has done so.

**EMIGRANT SOCIETIES.**

The genius of our institutions, and the prospects of wealth and employment held out by our country, continue so inviting to the enterprising and the industrious in Europe, that Emigrants issue from all points of the old world in a constantly increasing throng to the shores of Liberty. The stream, instead of losing strength or rapidity in its great Westerly course, appears, on the contrary, to gather greater volume and velocity. Whilst we endeavor to profit by the skill and ingenuity, which the oppressions of Europe have allowed us to convert to our use, we ought not to be unmindful of the personal happiness of those who are the instruments of this augmented power and wealth. We ought to conduct the Emigrant into that path, in which he will immediately become useful to himself and the commonwealth.—Emigrant Societies are, in this view, the most useful of institutions. They assist the Emigrant with counsel and resources in a land, where all is strange to him.—They guide his skill and industry into the most profitable channels. They endeavor to prevent his becoming a burden on the society, in our most considerable towns, where often mingling with their large population, if he does not become indolent and vicious, he is, at least, jostled by numbers of competitors in the same career of industry. We have remarked, however, that such institutions have taken their rise altogether among the sons of Erin, for the advantage solely of the Irish Emigrant. The Swiss, the Dutch, and the French Emigrants, who speak a totally different language to our own, and who has been accustomed to manners and customs dissimilar to those he here meets with, has to fight his way in the best manner he is able, through all the obstacles which cross his path. There appears to be, however, on reflection, some reason for this difference. The Swiss, the Dutch, and even the French, have in general considerably more providence and foresight in their emigrations, than any foreigners who visit our country for purposes of permanent settlement. They move in large bodies from their own shores, but with a pre-concerted plan as to the spot on which they mean to fix their residence; and they enrich and embellish the scenes of their industry, by that singleness of purpose and execution best promoted by colonization. Now the Irish Emigrants throw themselves in such numbers, into our sea port towns, without views or means in common, that a plan, in some sort, to rescue them from want and desolation was absolutely wanting. Still we are of opinion, that as stragglers from every clime will find their way to our shores in pursuit of comfort and subsistence, a Dutch Emigrant Society, and a French Emigrant Society, would be beneficial institutions in our principal cities; into which these foreigners are often thrown, ignorant of the language that is spoken, and the customs and usages of the people by whom they are surrounded.

The Irish Emigrant Societies seem desirous to colonize their countrymen; to draw them off from our large cities into our great interior; to keep together in a body, citizens of the same land, the same habits, manners, and usages; and we think very wisely. There can be little doubt, that it is for the happiness and inter-

est of the Emigrant, that he should be engaged from our sea port towns, where population becoming every moment more condensed, the reward of labour must continue to fall, and the means of living to rise. The better kinds of artisans and manufacturers will, no doubt, locate greater part of themselves in those seats of industry in which their skill and ingenuity are in demand, and will be best rewarded but surely the natural theatre of enterprise for the Agriculturist, is that rich and prosperous Western Country, where cheap and fertile lands entice the settler, by the prospect they open to him of personal independence and a rapid fortune. The field for enterprise in the Atlantic states will not bear a comparison.

Whether colonization be the best mode of settling foreigners on our vacant lands, in a national view, is a point which it would be useless to discuss, when we find Emigrants to the West, from the bosom of our own territory, daily exemplifying the force of the all-powerful attraction of similar manners and usages—an attraction which nothing can dissolve or weaken. A fuller incorporation of the various sorts who are spreading themselves so rapidly over this vast country, would, no doubt, wear off those national peculiarities, which it must be confessed, retard the formation of a national character. But we know not, in our circumstances and condition, that any artificial means can be devised to prevent it. Under this impression, we think the policy of the government should be to raise a strong barrier to our frontier settlements, by surrounding them with a race of hardy industrious cultivators.—men who will be strongly united in repelling invasions on our border, not only by a pressing interest in the soil, but by an identity of manners, customs and language.

**FOREIGN.**

LONDON, Dec. 11.

**Execution.**

The unhappy John Vartie, who was executed on Thursday morning for forgery was a young man of very superior talents, and up to the period at which he committed the crime for which he has paid the forfeit of his life, had borne the most upright and honorable character, & was universally beloved and respected.

He was born in Westmoreland, of respectable and now almost distracted parents. The abilities he early evinced procured for him a gratuitous education; and he successively obtained by his good conduct, his decent and gentle manners, the situation of Tutor in a noble family, Usher at a school, and Clerk in the Gravesend Bank. In all he was highly respected, and considered to possess very promising talents. Unhappily his mind became tainted with infidelity, and this paved the way for that temptation to which he sacrificed his hopes, his character, and his life.

He fled to France, and urged by his ardour for literary acquisition, entered the college of Abbeville. On the near approach of his awful dissolution, he was quite free from every kind of nervous agitation, and perfectly calm and collected in his deportment. He said, that his mind was at ease; that he depended upon his Saviour; that he was going from an earthly to a heavenly tribunal, and that there only he had hope. He left a sketch of his life, drawn up by himself, in the hands of the Rev. Mr. Cotton, which concludes with this Paragraph.

"In this innocent and amusing manner (alluding to his literary pursuits) nearly two years passed sweetly over, when a vacancy occurring in the Gravesend Bank, I was engaged as a clerk by the firm, who, considering my general good character as a sufficient security required no other. Now becoming more public, the sphere of my acquaintance was extended; and as a consequence, my former habits of retirement began gradually, to wear off. The pleasure that I had hitherto found in the closet, & a new sought in the gay