

# United States and G. Britain.

On the unfriendly dispositions existing between Great Britain and America.

No one who considers the relative situation of Great Britain and America, can for a moment doubt the great importance of their remaining on a friendly footing with each other; by which we do not mean merely their desisting from war, for want, not of hostile dispositions, but of sufficient means to prosecute the strife, but that they should cultivate peace, as Burke expresses it, in the spirit of peace. It is possible for two nations to cease from active hostility, while the animosity of war still rages; but when this happens, when they leave off the struggle in all the rage of unsatisfied revenge, more because they are worn out, and can no longer persevere in harassing each other; still continuing, however, under a show of peace, to vent their malignity in acts of petty insolence and mischief, we cannot dignify such a state of things with the appellation of peace. It is a hollow truce—a short breathing interval of repose, mutually agreed on, that the attack may recommence with fresh fury—and it is precarious, liable at every moment to be interrupted by an ebullition of undisguised violence. The human passions, when they are thus pent up, are like the winds as they are described by the Roman poet, howling within the cave into which they are imprisoned by the deity who rules over them, but ready at every moment to burst forth and to sweep the earth with wide destruction. Such a state of things is, therefore, far from desirable. It is only preferable to open war, because there is a chance, that being debarred from the exercise of open hostility, our dispositions may be gradually ameliorated. The bad passions require to be inflamed and kept alive by continual and reciprocal acts of mischief, and when they are not nourished by this their proper food, they are apt to fade out of the mind. Hence it is, that we consider a state of smothered hostility, however undesirable, preferable to actual war.

These remarks have been suggested to our minds by the symptoms of mutual aversion which we so often observe breaking forth among a large class, both in this country and America. They seem to breathe against each other jealousy and dislike, and absolutely to regret that the war is at an end, which would have given them an opportunity of gratifying their vindictive feelings. After the conclusion of the late continental war, the wish was frequently expressed in this country, that we should now turn our victorious arms against America, and avenge ourselves on this insolent and upstart nation. If this wish had been acted upon, into what an abyss of misery and blood should we have plunged, and into what a labyrinth also of never-ending strife? The British government, however, acted more wisely, and all causes of difference being removed, they concluded a peace. But this peace has not been followed by a suitable spirit by the individuals we have been describing, and in numerous and well circulated periodical publications in this country, we find a spirit of rancor continually breaking forth against America. Her institutions, her manners, her literature, her public men are not criticised in a strain of free and liberal speculation; but they are reviled and held up to odium. All her imperfections are invidiously displayed, while all that is favorable in her manners, institutions and policy, is studiously and unceasingly kept back. This shows the disposition, the *malus animus*, the rancor and rivalry which those secretly cherish, who express such feelings. In so great a community as that of America, there must be a great mixture both of good and evil; but when we consider the nature of her institutions—the perfect freedom which reigns throughout the wide precincts of her authority—the absence of all restrictions on human industry—of all religious tests, and all corporation laws—the ample scope thus given to all the moral energies of society—every one will admit that the good must predominate. Now when we find all this thrown into the shade, and nothing brought forward except what tends to reproach and to degrade, we cannot help considering this as a proof of prejudice, and we regret that it should prevail, because it seems to be of pernicious consequences to the future good agreement of the two countries. We are continually told of the coarseness of her manners—her filthy habits, &c.—We have little doubt that these statements have some foundation in truth. America is peopled by a race

of farmers, none of whom see above the common level of equality which every where prevails. They are most fully engaged in the task of increasing their stores; and have little time, and less inclination, for more refinements. In America no class of rich landholders have yet arisen to arrogate to themselves the distinction of superior polish and gentility; there is no aristocracy to give the tone to their inferiors, nor are there in literature any shining examples of superior merit to kindle the emulation of the other classes, and to diffuse a benign influence over the national manners. Do we complain that all this should be stated? Far from it. —What we complain of is, that it is stated not calmly and philosophically, as a fact necessarily originating out of the general state of society, but that it is dwelt upon with exultation. And it is only facts degrading to America, that are thought of, others of a different nature being either neglected or discredited. Now we leave it to our readers to determine to what passion of our nature it is that such facts minister pleasure. The dispositions to which we allude, seem to have been of late considerably aggravated by the rage for emigration prevalent in this country; those who are animated with the truly British feeling of overvaluing themselves, and despising every other nation, cannot bear the preference which they suppose emigration from this country to another to imply; and this gives a peculiar cast of asperity to their remarks on America. The fact is undeniable, however, that in this new and unsettled country, the demand for laborers is greater than the crowded communities of Europe, and this fact may be admitted without blinding us to any positive conclusions in favor of the political institutions of America, seeing that this favorable state of society has its origin in the quantity of vacant territory which America possesses. In like manner, the low wages in this country afford direct ground for impeaching her political institutions. The same demand for laborers exists in Canada, which is under the government of Great Britain.

On the other hand, if there prevails among a certain class in Britain an illiberal animosity against America, this feeling is returned with interest from the other side of the Atlantic. In the American character, we may see reflected all the defects of our own, and like all imitators, the Americans have improved upon the original. The main peculiarity of both nations, out of which all others spring, seems to be, that in proportion as they despise others, and to such a length does this proceed, that, like authors who expect criticism to be all praise, they dislike the most modest and impartial exposition of their imperfections. They are impatient under the free language of truth—they cannot bear to look on their own portrait, and are ready to take fire at the least insinuation of any defect in their institutions or manners. This disposition is well described by a writer in the National Intelligencer, an American paper. "Most of our critics, and indeed writers of all characters, have but one degree of comparison; every thing is in the superlative; our brave men are all heroes, our men of sense are all sages; our good men are all patriots. We never qualify, because we never discriminate." This picture, we apprehend, would answer equally well, both for America and Britain. There is, however, this difference, that there is more plausibility in our national boasting, than in that of America. In science and literature, we have many great names, renowned throughout the world. In war, our military exploits have shaken kingdoms, and our fleets have chased every enemy from the ocean. These are plain and undeniable facts, which may have made us too proud, and of which we may boast in an offensive strain; but still our boasting is not so ridiculous, as if it were founded on no real ground. Now, although Ameri-

ca has some good grounds for boasting of what she has achieved in war, her stock of naval and military achievements is but small, and they fall short both in number and value of those of Britain. They are, nevertheless, paraded with equal ostentation, and America decked out in this tinsel, shines forth as the rival of the parent state. The Americans are impatient under the glory we have acquired at Waterloo—they are fretted by our continual boasts of memorable exploits, and by our claim, which, by the journals of the day, was wont to be constantly brought forward in the most offensive strain, of our being sovereigns of the ocean. They will have, therefore, their military and naval glories—and their heroes likewise, whom they celebrate as the saviors of the nation; and have no doubt that a large class would willingly see a war break out, in which they could vindicate their claims to these distinctions by actions, and not by words, and in which their growing jealousy and dislike of Britain might be gratified. We cannot forbear bringing to the remembrance of our readers the eagerness with which the officers of an American ship of war availed themselves when at Gibraltar, of an opportunity, or rather a pretext which offered, of engaging in a series of duels with our officers, in the course of which transactions they displayed a ferocious insolence, and a determined spirit of revenge, which strongly marked the spirit of rivalry and hatred with which they were actuated towards this country.

Such being the dispositions prevalent among a large class in both countries, it is evident that our dependence for the continuance of peace must be in the prudence and moderation of the respective governments; and we are willing to do justice to the caution and good policy which has all along distinguished the government of this country in its intercourse with America, and which has, indeed, been met by corresponding disposition on the part of the American rulers. But what we dread is, that if hostile dispositions continue to be fostered among the people by inflammatory publications, the government of both countries will be at length swayed by the impulse of popular opinion, and that in spite of all their precautions and all their prudence, they will be hurried into war by the violence of contending factions among their subjects.—Envy, jealousy, hatred, as the are the causes of discord among individuals, so are they of war between nations; and, on these materials, we may just as well imagine that gun-powder will not explode when the match is applied as that discord and war will not break out between nations in the course of their transactions with each other.—Other causes are, no doubt, alleged in vindication of all wars; and it is indeed the business of politicians to allege any cause rather than the true one; to invent specious glosses, in order to give the matter a fair appearance—and, when the nation is driving headlong under the impelling fury of its passions, to devise good and politic reasons to justify what is previously determined on other grounds. In this case, it behoves all men of reflection to unite in endeavoring to repress this rising feud between Great Britain and the United States; and public writers would do well to reflect, that their efforts to revile America necessarily tend to inflame animosities, which, ranking in the mind will at length produce war, the wide spread calamities of which it is useless to describe. If in America a foolish and ill-grounded antipathy prevails, he ours the glory of setting a well-timed example of moderation.

half century. We would advise the writer himself to deal a little more calmly and philosophically, and let us add honestly. We ask but exact justice. \* Impatient under the glory acquired at Waterloo.—The Americans care no more for Waterloo, and the glory acquired there, than they do for Sal Tooto Quamins, and the glory acquired by his sable majesty at Annamaboe in Africa. † After all that is said above, no one can suspect the author of misrepresentation. Of no all is candor and plain dealing. Yet, (from the different views we suppose that different men take of the same object,) we have it, on this side of the Atlantic, that just the reverse is the fact; that lieut. Downing was first invited on shore, where he went and acquitted himself full to the satisfaction of his antagonist, lieut. Smith;—that captain Thompson was afterwards waited on in his cabin, and also invited on shore, and was ordered out of port by his superior officer, to prevent the fight, when actually waiting to be informed that his man was ready for him.

## Latest from Europe.

New York, July 1.—In the politeness of capt. Wells, of the ship *Ann-Maria*, from Liverpool, who arrived last evening in the office, we are indebted for Lloyd's lists to the 16th, London papers to the 18th, and Liverpool to the 20th of May, inclusive. Several and splendid preparations were making for the coronation of the king, which, it was said, would take place on the 1st of August. The expense it is said will exceed one hundred thousand pounds sterling. The price of a coronation dress for a peer is estimated at one thousand pounds.

On the 15th of May, in the court of King's Bench, sentence was pronounced upon Hunt and the other defendants, convicted at the late assizes for York. A number of affidavits were offered by the parties, endeavoring to show their innocence, and if possible escape the lash of the law, but it all would not do. Mr. Justice Bayley, after hearing them read, proceeded to pronounce the judgment of the court on the several defendants. After commenting on the nature of the offense of which they had been convicted, the learned judge said, the judgment he was instructed to pronounce upon the several defendants was as follows:—The defendant, H. Hunt, was sentenced to be imprisoned two years and a half, in his majesty's jail, at Newgate, in the county of Somerset, and at the expiration of that term to find security for his good behavior for five years, himself in 1000 pounds, and two sureties in 500 pounds each. The other defendants, J. Johnson, J. Healy, and S. Bamford, were severally sentenced to be imprisoned one year, in London Castle, and at the expiration of that term to find security for their good behavior for five years, themselves in 200 pounds, and two sureties in 100 pounds each, and to be further imprisoned till such security should be entered into.

Sir C. Wolesey, and parson Harrison were then brought up to receive the judgment of the court, which was, that Sir C. Wolesey should be imprisoned for one year and a half, in his majesty's jail at Abingdon, and at the expiration of that term find security for five years, himself in 1000 pounds, and two sureties in 500 pounds, and that Harrison should be imprisoned at Chester for one year and a half, and at the expiration of that time to find securities for five years, himself in 200 pounds, and two sureties in 100 pounds each.

The Caledonian canal, now carrying on for avoiding the tedious and dangerous navigation round the northern and western coast of Scotland, is truly gigantic; when completed, frigates of 22 guns will be able to navigate it; the depth is to be 20 feet the width at the bottom 50, and at the surface of the water 110 feet, and the sluices from 162 to 172 feet in length.

From Birmingham it is stated that the poor-house is so crowded that the inmates can only sleep by turns.

It was reported that Sir F. Burdett had been committed to three years imprisonment and a fine of 5000 pounds.

In the discussion of a case in the court of chancery, to which the queen is a party, Mr. Brougham declared that her majesty will immediately return to England. This assurance given by her legal adviser, put an end to all speculation upon the subject.

The king of England held his second levee since his accession to the throne, on the 18th of May. It was numerous and splendidly attended. Among the gentlemen of distinction, who were present, we observed the American minister.

By an estimate made in parliament, for the year 1820, it appears that the total strength of the regular force of the British army, including 19,899 on service in India, is 112,475, for which an appropriation of 6,807,466 *Grds.* is asked to defray the expense, and for the navy, 2,216,740 *Grds.*

The queen of England, previous to her departure for the continent, was visited by George IV. The toast was received by the whole company with enthusiasm.

Mr. Sparrow, of London, has lately published a map, shewing the British finances in one view. Among other things which have led to the immense debt of England, he mentions that the Spanish war, began in 1739, and continued eight years, augmented the debt to 23 millions in money—the seven years war 48 millions—the American war of seven years 95 millions, and the French revolutionary war, which lasted 21 years, 580 millions.

Spain. A political constitution of the country, and all accusations against it—that the same should be done for the children of the primary nobles by their teachers, for the students of universities and ecclesiastical seminaries of the regular professors of law and of moral philosophy, for the inhabitants of convents, and university of all literary and moral establishments, by their principals. The document also directs that this constitution be approved at the royal Printing-Office, to make a copy of it available for every one, and that it be printed and distributed in all the transmarine dominions of Spain. Another decree established an anniversary commemoration, with the utmost military and ecclesiastical pomp, of the death of the Spaniards whom Murry butchered, in the city of Mexico, on the 21st of May, 1808; another provided for the organization of the national militia to guard the constitution; and it appears that numerous volunteer companies are forming themselves for the same object.

The Barcelona diary complains of the falseness of distorted news respecting Spanish affairs, given in the French gazettes. It traces them to malice chiefly, and in part to ignorance of the Spanish language. If contradicted, the rumors of revolutionary movements in Portugal, and the assertion of the British ministerial journals, (upon whose tone it is unadvised to sharply censure the South American provinces will not receive the constitution. It alleges that the best results are expected in South America, when the intelligence of the revolution is received there. It relates that Ferdinand expatriated with the French Ambassador at Madrid, in regard to the calumnies vented in the French ultra-royalist and ministerial journals against the Spanish revolution, and that he assured his excellency that he (Ferdinand) was the first and the heartiest constitutionalist of Spain. Much good pleasure and keen sarcasm are indulged in the Spanish papers, about the fears of the Prussian, French, and British governments, as to the influence of Spanish liberty, and the infection of Spanish liberty. The French journalists are fully matched in point of ability, and overmatched in the topics of recrimination, and in poignancy of satire. The whole number of French troops in the neighborhood of the Pyrenees is stated at 3700, and represented as "a cordon against freedom." Patriotic pieces are constantly performed on the Spanish theatre; a new one entitled "Liberty Restored" was announced for the second of May, at Barcelona.

Some of the particular traits mentioned in the Diary, are full of meaning, and well worthy of being repeated. When Gaiga Arguelles, the new minister of finance, who had come from the fortress of Ceuta, appeared for the first time before Ferdinand, the latter would not allow him to kneel, but embraced him; asked his pardon for the ill he had done him; professed the utmost sorrow for his suffering; exhorted him to maintain the constitution, and to rely on his support, and finally both burst into tears. After Arco Aguerro, one of the heroes of the army of the life of Leon, had been carried in triumph by the people of Madrid, he repaired to the Royal palace, and placed his crown of laurel at the feet of the constitutional king.

Don Augustin Arguelles, appointed minister of justice, being in very bad health on his return from imprisonment at Majorca, was obliged to stop at Almenara, a village distant seven leagues from Valencia. The principal members of the Catalonia regiment in that city, repaired, to the number of twenty-four, to Almenara, and brought the distinguished patriot on their shoulders in a litter to Valencia. How different this in spirit and effect from the hamesh of the populace in Manchester to drag the radical demagogue!

New York, June 24.—A gentleman, passing in the brig *Union*, from Gibraltar, has obligingly furnished us with the following news:

ed in an undisturbed and tranquil state, in which, it was supposed, would continue till the 1st of July, the beginning of July interest and was looked forward to with much new course of policy, as the commencement of the old system, and a thorough destruction from which a correct one. Nothing had transpired as to the probable course that could be drawn towards their transatlantic possessions; but however, generally believed, that it was, would make a merit of necessity, a correct most liberal policy would be adopted; course it was thought would meet with great position, as a distinction still existed between the two parties, who were exerting themselves for a change of government—that of Spain being called "La Santa Insuperacion de Espana," and that of the South America is termed, "La Criminal Insurreccion de America."

The king continues to pursue a course calculated to meet the wishes of the people under the new government. Quiroga and Riego are mentioned, among other conspicuous leaders of the revolution, with great distinctions; but as yet they decline his majesty's favors, which caused great jealousy and suspicion.

General Freyre was in prison at Cadix, and is to be tried by the cortes, charged with the horrible massacre at that place. The soldiers, it is said, were to suffer a quinta, that is, every fifth man to be shot.

## DUCKING, AND ORIGIN OF THE WORD.

Ducking was anciently a common legal mode of punishment for various offences, in this and other countries, and is customarily inflicted in certain cases at the present day.

At Marseilles and Bourbon, vagrants formerly were condemned to the cage, that is to be shut up in an iron cage, fastened to the yard of a chaloupe, and ducked in the river. At Thou louse, blasphemers were punished in the same manner. And in England, brewers and bakers convicted of transgressing the laws, were yore ducked in stercor, stinking water, as we also; it is said, common prostitutes. When it is practicable, it is also generally exercised on our populace on those offenders vulgarly still pick-pockets.

And sailors are not unfrequently punished being thrown from the top of the main-mast yard into the sea, having sometimes a cannon ball tied to them, to expedite their descent. This singular and summary mode of punishment, however, is not in any of the cases mentioned, now sanctioned by law, nor, is it presumed, can it be put in force legally in any case, except for the offence of being a common scold. For which, if convicted, the offender is to be placed in a certain engine of correction, called a *ducking stool*, in the Saxon language, said to signify a scolding-school, and when therein to be repeatedly plunged in the water.

The name of this engine, by an easy orthographic transmutation, has been corrupted into *ducking stool*; and, from its being so often used in ducking offenders, gave rise, it is supposed, to our word for the act of immersing which, I conceive, is more probable than that which should be derived (according to the generally yet ludicrously formed opinion) from observing the natural inclination of a duck, when in water, of frequently, but momentarily dipping her head.

## Notice.

ALL persons having any demands against the Subscriber, are requested to present them for payment before the 20th inst.

SPENCER J. MAN.