

To the Editor of the British American Register.

SIR,

It is the Birthright of every British subject, whether immediately within the Verge of Political measures, in Great Britain, or enjoying the benefits of her glorious Constitution abroad, to investigate those various transactions which from time to time have tended gradually to draw Europe into its present Dilemma. This fact I presume cannot meet with contradiction; and tho' it may be cause of wonder that, in this Colony so far distant from the theatre of great events and really of no weight in the scale of Politics, an individual should dare give his opinion; his excuse, if one be necessary, is founded on his right to do it: a right as inseparable from the free exercise of the British Constitution, as any privilege or immunity enjoy'd under it. It is not my intention to enter into a detail of facts of which history bears ample record, but to state such only as may be relevant to contrast the Balance of Power as formerly established, with the actual Political state of Europe. The subject naturally will lead to hints upon Universal Dominion, branching out into a short view of the means possessed formerly by Spain and the measures adopted for its attainment; the subsequent attempts of Lewis the 14th, and of the present impatience of Revolutionary France, aided by more favorable circumstances than were ever before witnessed by the Political world, to obtain the same.

It may be necessary to request somewhat of indulgence from Critics who have more leisure to find fault, than inclination to approve. Let it then be remembered once for all, that a busy and active country life

gives but short intervals for the collecting of crude ideas upon a subject of such moment, more especially, when to acquire some little knowledge of the late events and transactions in Europe, it is of indispensable obligation to wade thro' an Ocean of reports.

If then, Mr. Editor the hasty productions of some moments stolen from active pursuits which may from time to time, and perhaps even at unequal intervals, be transmitted to you, meet with the good fortune of a small corner in your Register; it may give a first favorable impression of the leisures of

Silvestris.

THE BALANCE LOST, OR THE CONTRAST. N^o 1.

*Est modus in rebus, sunt certi denique fines
Quos ultra extrâque nequit; consiliere rectum.*

Subject at first, to the laws of nature only, Man was soon driven, by his wants, to enlarge his original Society* into a village or tribe. According as this village or tribe was placed in circumstances favorable to population and prosperity, it became proportionably extensive. Strangers to those considerations of utility by which, in a civilised state, men are induced to abstain from violating the possessions of each other, different tribes were disposed to rob and plunder one another, as often as they had an opportunity of doing it with success, in order to execute measures of common concern, some person was necessary to direct their proceedings. Thus a Chief was adopted in their Councils; a leader chosen to head them in the day of battle: his exploits were naturally view'd with admiration; they would contract a stronger attachment to his person, and discover more readiness to execute the measures he thought pro-

* Primitive state of his family.