

der benevolence, nor would his paper gain an ampler approbation. To temporize, even with a Titus Pomponius Atticus, is weak; and to apostatize with many a modern patriot, is criminal. The Editor must have permission to decide for himself, what mode may be most expedient to inform or amuse the public. If he sometimes trespass upon the ground of any *sect*, or in the freehold of any peculiar opinion, he solemnly assures his readers, that he never means, wantonly, to afflict any worthy bosom, or unsettle any sober head. At a time, when liberty is a good deal taken off, perhaps he may be excused, if he catch something of the general indocility. It might not be surprizing if he *lengthened his chain a link or two*, and in an age of relaxed discipline*, gave trifling indulgence to his own notions.

In POLITICS, it is expected by all, who indulgently peruse this paper, and who know the character of its conductor, that he will be steadfast, frank, and decided†; contemptuously careless of vulgar popularity, but anxiously ambitious of a nobler approbation. With a just respect for public opinion, he claims and asserts a liberal independence of sentiment, and the right of public speech, with de-

* Burke.

† At an early age, the attention of the Editor fastened upon a liberal speech, pronounced by Earl Mansfield in the House of Lords, 1770, on the bill for the further preventing delays of justice, by reason of privilege of parliament. As the impression made on the Editor's mind, by that admirable oration was deep and durable; as its sentiments, not less generous than just, have influenced and overruled his conduct; as he prides himself in acting according to the very *spirit* of the ensuing doctrine, he will quote it at length; and only add that, in language incomparably finer, than any we could employ, Earl Mansfield has virtually made the apology, spoken the genuine thoughts, and described the inflexible humour of the Editor.

"I come now to speak upon what, indeed, I would have gladly avoided, had I not been particularly pointed at.

"It has been said that I too am running the race of popularity. If by popularity be meant, that applause bestowed by after ages on good actions, I have long been struggling in this race; to

cent freedom. In the palpable darkness of the most gloomy time, he will *struggle* to proceed *straight forward*, by the sober light of that fixed star, EXPERIENCE, and suffer not a *step* to be misled by the glaring flambeau of the *new* philosophy.

In LITERATURE, it is the constant aim of the Editor to nurture, with fervent kindness, every ORIGINAL production of merit in HIS OWN COUNTRY; to foster genius; to awaken art; to incite to the study of the ancients, and to emulate their model; to exhibit examples of pure and undissed English; to discourage the Gallic idiom; and to guard carefully against that disgusting innovation, which would degrade the language of literature to the carelessness of Provincial dialect, or colloquial barbarism.

It only remains to add, that all, who are inclined to support this paper, may rely upon its appearance, with periodical precision. It shall be punctually sent, on an early day, to distant subscribers; and by anticipating the publication of a moiety of the copies, our friends, in most of the great towns in the U. States may read it nearly as soon, as it is distributed in Philadelphia.

to what purpose, all trying time can alone determine. But if that mushroom popularity be meant, that is raised without merit, and lost without a crime, the assertion is erroneous. There is not a single action of my life, where the popularity of the times ever had the smallest influence on my determinations. I thank God, I have a more permanent and steady rule for my conduct, the dictates of my own breast. Those, who have forgone that pleasing adviser, and given up their mind to the slavery of every popular impulse I sincerely pity. I pity them still more, if their vanity leads them to mistake the shouts of a mob for the trumpet of Fame. Experience might inform them, that many, who have been saluted with the huzzas of a crowd, one day, have received their execrations, the next; and many, who by the popularity of their times, have been held up as spotless patriots, have, nevertheless, when Truth has triumphed over Delusion, appeared upon the historian's page, the assassins of liberty. I forewarn all ambition of present popularity, that echo of folly, and that shadow of renown."