

lark how she mounts up to announce to the skies his return on earth ; listen to the solitary thrush in broken lays singing an hymn in his praise, whilst the monotonous voice of the cuckoo is heard at a distance. But—Philomel too proud of her superiority to mix in the motley concert of the day, fashionably waits the silent night to express in the sweetest and most enchanting melody, her delight at the return of the universal favourite.

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PATRIOTISM.

To the Editor,

Sir,

I was lately in company with one of those metaphysical, logical, controversial gentlemen; who delight in showing off their argumentative powers, by opposing every subject that is introduced, and, by the substitution of subtilties for reason, and sophistry for common sense, confuse the mind of plain unlogical folks, like your humble servant. The subject we were on was Patriotism; the existence of which he denied, and run glibly over all the *common* arguments *generally* urged against it, as well as some which appeared to me very *uncommon* indeed. When I escaped from his jargon, the conversation produced the following thoughts, which, if you think worthy of a place in the Enquirer you will oblige me by their insertion.

A Patriot, Sir, I would define as one whose chief principle of action is the liberties and welfare of his countrymen. To doubt of the existence of men who merit the appellation, or what amounts to the same, to doubt of the existence of the virtue itself, appears to me to be an instance of the wildest scepticism; and were such a doubt to have a general influence, it would prove one of the most baneful evils that could happen society, and by destroying every social and generous feeling; it would introduce the wretched and tyrannical reign of self.

Like every other popular excellence in character, Patriotism will have its imitators or hypocrites, and they will most likely be as six to one of those who are actuated by its genuine principles. But this instead of being made an argument against the existence of this excellence, is one of the strongest, that can be advanced in support of that existence, as it is a general argument, founded on the nature of things. It is an axiom, approaching to a truism that a thing must exist, before it can be imitated.

Patriotism is a virtue universally and justly celebrated. All nations from the first associations of mankind, to the present moment, and from the darkest savage to the most enlightened intelligence have sung its praises; and almost deified those men who have acted up to its sublime impulses, which virtue all men in all ages, and in all the varied circumstances in, which nature may