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THE BRITISH-AMERICAN REGISTER.

QUEBEC, SATURDAY, 14th MAY, 1803.

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HOUSE OF COMMONS.

Friday March 11.

Mr. GARTHSHORE moved, "That it is the opinion of this Committee, that 10,000 Seamen be employed in His Majesty's service, for eleven lunar months, to commence from the 26th of February 1803, including 3400 Marines.

M. FRANCIS said he thought there was much serious consideration due to this subject, and he could not help saying, he thought the general state of the country ought to be considered and that included a consideration of the conduct of those Ministers, which had brought us to the state in which we are. Whatever he said in that House, he said deliberately, and on much reflection—First of all, he would observe, that he could have wished that the resolution for the Address to His Majesty had passed by acclamation without a word, for Speeches, even in favour of it, and followed by an unanimous vote, were liable to misinterpretation, and more especially in France, the cause of it, the want of information to the House. For many of his Majesty's Ministers he had great personal respect, and up to the present time, they had his constant support; whether that support ought to be continued, depended on points to be discussed. When the Preliminaries were signed, he partook of the general joy which was felt in this country; and afterwards he felt himself deeply indebted to Ministers for procuring us Peace merely as such, and as to the terms, though they were liable to

some objections, and many persons of great abilities did object to them, yet it did not appear to him that we paid a greater price than the thing was worth, namely, a deliverance from the War. While he said, price for the thing, still he gave credit to Ministers, and he should not quarrel with them, although he disapproved of some of their measures. In his mind, neither the Parliament nor the Public had constitutionally a right to interfere with the Executive Power in making Peace or War, that was the practical effect of our Constitution; perhaps he did not entirely approve of the sentiment of it, but such it was. Parliament might inquire, however, into the conduct of those who advised His Majesty either to make Peace or War, and that either for the purpose of punishment in the case of treachery, or of removal in case of incapacity; but we were bound by their acts, as the acts of our agents. Now he asked when we had made the sacrifice, when we had paid the full price of our object had our object been obtained. If it had not, all was thrown away; we had in this case got nothing but an insecure Peace while it lasted, and immediately afterwards a certainty of War; why then, he would ask, could we continue our confidence in those Gentlemen; who made a Peace without any security for its continuance, but who had brought the country into another War? These were points on which the Country had a right to be satisfied. As to the people, they were British men, and that was enough. There was neither a heart or a hand in this country, that would not oppose any aggression on the part of Fran-

for we all knew, that every thing that was dear to us was at stake. Why should we do so? Because we were Englishmen—because we were Scotchmen, and because we were Irishmen. He therefore, upon that principle, concurred in the present Vote—and would have concurred in a larger one, if proposed. But then he would ask, if Parliament was not to look to the conduct which had brought us into that situation—and unless the Ministers could make it appear, that they could not have acted more wisely, by reasons which at present, he was unacquainted with, he thought that confidence ought no longer to be continued in them, for there was much *prima facie* evidence against them.—He therefore did hope that the proceedings of this day would produce some explanation.—He concluded with observing, that some discussion should take place before we voted any thing that had the appearance of continuing confidence in Ministers. These were his opinions, and he had not taken them up hastily, nor was he in the least degree hostile to administration; all he wanted was an Inquiry by which information might be laid before the House, for he apprehended we might soon be in a state in which we must fight for our existence.

The CHANCELLOR of the EXCHEQUER said, he should follow the course adopted by the Hon. Gentleman who spoke last, or which he had at least expressed a wish to adopt, that of abstaining from the use of (what indeed he did not feel) any thing like personal hostility on the present occasion; but the House would consider whether that H. Gentleman had conducted himself consistently with the principle he had laid down for the discussion of the subject, and the wishes he had expressed concerning it. He had alluded to what passed in the House on a former night: he had expressed a wish that the address in answer

to his Majesty's Message, had passed without any comment at all, and had been given by acclamation; whether the observations of the Hon. Gentleman to-night accorded with that wish was for him and the House to consider. He had, however, expressed another wish, in which every subject of this country he hoped would concur with him, that nothing should be said, and he was happy that nothing was said, to affect the unanimity of the House in its act upon that occasion, or to qualify that unanimity which appeared in it; most certainly that unanimity was desirable and it was not interrupted; but he would ask the Hon. Gentleman, and submit to the House, whether the same prudent restraint on the language of others on that occasion, and which operated so effectually, might not consistently with the same principle, have been suffered to operate this night? The Hon. Gentleman had said, that we were in a deplorable situation, that Government was so inefficient, that the whole ability of the Country was excluded out of it. He could assure that Hon. Gentleman, and he could assure the House there was no one individual existing who felt the disproportion of his means to the ardour of his wishes, and the calls made upon him to discharge his duty at a great and momentous crisis, more truly than he did; but on what principle it was the Hon. Gentleman could state to the House, that the Government from which all the ability of this country was excluded, possessed his confidence so long, as the Honourable Gentleman said it had, he should leave to the Honourable Gentleman to explain. Knowing, as now he seemed to assure the House he did, that the whole ability of the country was excluded from the Government it seemed hardly consistent with his duty to have reposed in that Government the confidence he declared he did. The Hon. Gentleman, had

however, stated the case as to the power of making Peace or War, very correctly. He had said, that such power (wisely, Mr. Addington thought though the Hon. Gentleman doubted it) was given to the Chief Magistrate of this country. If Peace was made on terms inconsistent with the honour of this country, his Majesty's advisers in such case would be deeply responsible to that House; that was a principle broadly stated by the Honourable Gentleman, and to that principle, Mr Addington said he was ready to accede, but the Hon. Gentleman had said, that Ministers were deeply responsible, if it should appear that it was by their conduct this country was placed in its present situation. To that he acceded also, for ministers were deeply responsible, if it should appear that the country was brought to suffer from any fault of theirs; he should therefore say, that Ministers would be responsible indeed if it should appear that they had deserted the principles on which they had proceeded in the first instance, and changed the motives which actuated them in recommending to his Majesty to conclude that Treaty of Peace, which had been applauded, though in qualified terms by the Hon. Gentleman; if they had deserted these principles, and changed these motives they would deserve and meet with the reprobation of the House and of the Public; but he could assure the House there had been no such change of motive or desertion of principle. There had been no discussion between his Majesty's Government and France, that had not originated in the spirit of Peace; all that had been done on our part, had been done with a purpose of improving Peace, and that was the spirit with which they advised his Majesty to adopt the conduct which he is now pursuing in the negotiation with France, and here he might be permitted to observe, that he would have expected

the talents of the Hon. Gentleman at definition, would not have deserted him on this important occasion, but would have suggested to him that the duty of a Member of Parliament did not compel him to call much for information in the House of Commons pending a Negotiation. This was a subject which had been discussed over and over again in that House, and without one exception the House had upon found constitutional principles, disclaimed the right to interfere, or to break in upon Negotiation by the Executive Government, the contrary to which would be highly dangerous. He appealed to the House whether the prudent consideration of restraint, pending a Negotiation, was not a matter perfectly understood to be constitutional and wise? With respect to the motion now before the House, the Hon. Gentleman had expressed nothing but an unqualified approbation; he had indeed said, that if a motion were made for a larger number of Seamen, he should support it and therefore he should have no observation to make on that part of the Speech of the Hon. Gentleman: he would only add, that he begged the House to remember that he did hold Government to be deeply responsible for all they had done; he trusted it would be found that they had never deserted their principles, but that they had pursued a course at once firm and moderate—moderate, not to puffillanimity, but to prudence, not to compromise our own interests, but to attain security, and preserve our honour.

Mr. DENT thought the number now proposed too small. He lamented the effect which the present course of public affairs had on public credit. He thought the present vote inadequate to that end, and therefore he should move, that instead of 10,000 there should be 25,000 men voted for this service.

Mr. Fox said, he wished to trouble the House with a few words, and they should be but a few. He conceived it to be a question of a constitutional nature, as to the manner in which this vote was discussed. He could not however, feel a little surprised, that a Friend near him had lamented there had been any discussion on the Address, on a former occasion. He himself began the discussion. He could not blame himself for having done so, nor was there any thing said upon that occasion, that was in the least degree to be lamented. Upon the question now before the Committee, he confessed he had some doubts. His mind was ready to vote the present, as well as any other number of seamen. He was as ready to vote one number as another, and that was the very thing that made him doubt, because he thought the House was called upon the vote in the dark: that they had no better reasons for voting 10,000, than for voting 20,000 or 100,000. His objection, however, was of a constitutional nature, for he thought that by this course they were called upon to renounce the whole of their duty to their constituents, and to give unlimited confidence to the King's Ministers. It was the undoubted prerogative of his Majesty to make Peace or War—he agreed with his Hon. Friend, Mr. Francis, upon the subject of interference of Parliament in these subjects, for that we were bound by the acts of Government, as a party is bound by the act of his agent, and that the only security the public had was in the responsibility of Ministers. If therefore, there was this power given to any Sovereign who may be ill advised, and surely the history of this Country that such a "may be," was not a bare possibility, to involve a whole people in a war, the necessity of which they had no means of considering, and by which great part, perhaps the whole of their property was lost, and their

lives depending only on their own courage, there should be some check somewhere in the hands of the people; and so there was in England, but that was a check which was felt in practice, although it had in theory no existence, for his Majesty had the unbounded right of either making war, by which his people might be destroyed, or peace by which they might be enslaved, but in England there was a check on the Prince who might be thus ill-advised. What was this check? It was the power of withholding the means of carrying on destructive projects; that was the Privilege of Parliament; and that was effectually done by withholding the purse—and that made the Houses of Parliament so important to this country, for although they have neither prerogative of Peace or War, nor constitutionally, influence over peace or war, yet by the practical effect of the disposal of money by the prerogative of the purse, they had a very considerable check on the conduct of war or the maintenance of Peace: both Houses had this power, but now more emphatically the House of Commons. With respect to the present Administration, and the conditions of the peace of Amiens, he was one of those who do not admit that if this business should terminate in war therefore it is *prima facie* evidence that the peace of Amiens was not a good peace. He said that the Peace of Amiens was a good Peace, and that the terms of it were eligible to us, whatever may be the event of the present Negotiation or Discussion. By good terms, he did not mean in comparison with what some other persons might have suggested, but eligible in comparison with the alternative, which was that of continuing the War. As to the expression of his Hon. Friend, that ours was a Government from which all the ability of the Country was excluded, and as such was the case

we could not go to War, he should only observe, that in any War in which this country was engaged, it would depend a great deal on its naval force; and while Earl St. Vincent was at the head of the Admiralty, to say that all the ability of the country was excluded from Government, was to say that which would not easily be assented to in any part of this habitable globe. There was not any man who could consider the state of this Country, and the state of its Finances (which was in some respects, highly prosperous,) who must not feel that War carried on with uninterrupted prosperity, successful in every Expedition, fortunate in every plan, there was no man, he said but must feel that War, carried on even under such circumstances, must be grievous, calamitous, and perhaps in the event ruinous. He certainly should not oppose the Motion, but he only wished for further information upon the subject, for he did not recollect any instance in former Wars, when a measure of this kind was adopted without a greater degree of information than had been laid before the House of Commons upon the present occasion.

Mr. FRANCIS explained.

Mr. BURROUGHS said, that Ministers had been called on to enter at large into every particular connected with the present question. He thought that the business before the House did not demand more information with respect to the affairs between this country and France, than what had been already stated by the Right Hon. the Chancellor of Exchequer. At present, the measure to be adopted by the Vote of the House, was not expressive of an intention to enter into a War with France, it only went to prepare for the worst—to protect our Laws, and every thing that was dear to us, by the increase of our Sailors and Soldiers.

LORD HAWKESBURY said, his prin-

cipal object in rising was to advert to some points which had been touched upon by the Hon. Gentleman (Mr. Fox). He differed with that Honourable Gentleman in so much with respect to the principles advanced, as to the mode of their application. He perfectly agreed with that Hon. Gentleman as to the distinction between the prerogatives of making Peace and War. It was unquestionably the prerogative of his Majesty to make Peace, but Parliament might consider the terms of that Peace, and impeach the Ministers who made it, or address His Majesty for the removal of those Ministers, if they thought proper so to do. As to the question of War as it was different from that of Peace, so the power of the House was and ought to be differently exercised upon that subject: His Majesty was invested with the prerogative of making War; but it was truly stated, that it was the prerogative of that House to refuse the Supplies. The House, therefore, though they had no negative upon the making of War; yet they had a practical negative upon its continuance; this grew out of the Constitution itself, and was extremely essential to the interests of the Country. He would wish to apply these principles to other circumstances, namely to the question after the conclusion of a Negotiation, as to what information it would be necessary to produce respecting that Negotiation. Of this His Majesty's Ministers must judge, and if the House did not think the information produced sufficient, they could address His Majesty for further information. He should say, that in a case of War, there would be required all the *prima facie* information which could be necessary to justify that War; but in a case of Peace, which was satisfactory to the House, all the *prima facie* evidence relating to it need not be produced.

One case ought not to be compared with another. In a case of War, all the information respecting the causes which led to that War ought undoubtedly to be laid before the House, to enable them to form a judgment upon the subject; but in a case of Peace, where every point had been amicably adjusted, it would be improper to lay before the Public all the irritating circumstances which might have been attendant upon the course of the Negotiation. Did he therefore draw an unfair inference when he said, that in a case of Peace, it must lay with the Executive Government as to how far more or less inconvenience would be produced by the production of certain information: the House must judge whether the information produced was sufficient, and if they thought not, they could address His Majesty for more. Peace might be according to circumstances, a greater evil than war; but he must suppose in the abstract, the one to be a benefit, and the other an evil, and therefore, information might be necessary in one case, and not in the other. With respect to the Amendment of an Hon. Gentleman (Mr. Dent,) it was unnecessary to say much—it was the general practice to vote the number proposed by the Executive Government: the House might reduce the number, but to increase it was not a very usual mode of proceeding. The House had voted 50,000 Seamen, which with the 10,000 now proposed, would make 60,000 which was all that was at present required.

Mr. ELLIOTT did not so much complain of want of information in this particular instance, as of that systematic darkness which invariably distinguished the operations of Ministers. It was notorious, that no information had been offered sufficient to ascertain whether the various

points of the Definitive Treaty had been carried into effect. He concluded by agreeing to the motion.

Mr. CANNING, SIR W. PULTENEY, and Mr. TRENCH, severally supported the motion, which was then put and carried.

603,500*l.* was then voted for wages for the 10,000 Seamen for 12 lunar months; 290,000*l.* for victuals; 330,000*l.* for wear and tear of the ships; and 27,000*l.* for ordnance.

The report was ordered to be received on Monday.

PUBLIC PAPERS.

His Majesty's Message to Parliament of the 10th March, 1803.

“ GEORGE R.

“ In consequence of the formidable military preparations carrying on in the Ports of France and Holland pending the discussion of an important Negotiation between *his Majesty's* Government and that of France, the result of which cannot yet be known, *his Majesty* acquaints the House, that actuated by the concerns he always feels for the security and welfare of his subjects he has thought it necessary to exercise the powers vested in him by Act of Parliament, for calling out, and embodying forthwith, the Militia of these Kingdoms or such part thereof as *his Majesty* shall think proper for the defence and safety of his Kingdoms, not doubting that *his Parliament* will approve the same.”

[*Translation.*]

GEORGE R.

“ En conséquence des préparations de guerre formidables qui se font dans les ports, de

France et de la Hollande, durant la discussion d'une négociation importante entre le Gouvernement de Sa Majesté et celui de France, dont le résultat ne peut encore être connu, Sa Majesté informe la Chambre, qu'excitée par l'intérêt qu'elle a toujours pris à la liberté et au bonheur de ses sujets, elle a cru nécessaire d'user des pouvoirs qui lui sont donnés par un Acte du Parlement, pour appeler et incorporer immédiatement la Milice de ces Royaumes ou telle partie d'icelle, que Sa Majesté jugera à propos pour la défense et la sûreté de ses Royaumes, ne doutant point de recevoir l'approbation de son Parlement.

Copy of a Letter from the Marquis of Casa Yrujo, Spanish Minister at Washington, to James Madison, Esqr. Secretary of State of the United States of America.

SIR,

I have the pleasure to impart to you, without a moment's delay, that by dispatches which I have just received from my government, brought by a brig of war of the King my master, dispatched for this purpose alone, I see confirmed all the assurances which I gave you on various preceding occasions, when I received information of the difficulties, which the citizens of the United States experienced in consequence of being deprived of the place of deposit on the Spanish Banks of the Mississippi, by decree of the Intendant of New-Orleans. His Catholic Majesty, as just in his resolutions as desirous of living in the greatest harmony with the United States, has provided that the deposit should continue at New-Orleans until the two governments shall come to an agreement about another equivalent place; and to the end that this royal provision may be promptly and punctually carried into effect, the necessary orders are communicated to the Intendant and to the Captain General of Louisiana, of which I transmit you the originals in order that you may be pleased to forward them to New-Orleans.

I hasten to acquaint you of it with much satisfaction, in order that you may communicate it to the President of the United States, as soon as possible; and I pray God to preserve your life many years.

Washington, April 29, 1803.

I kiss your hand,
Your most obedient and faithful servant,

The MARQUIS OF CASA YRUJO.

JAMES MADISON, Esq.

NOUVELLES ETRANGERES.

Londres, Samedi, 12 Mars.

Les débats d'hier au soir dans la Chambre des Communes furent importants, non parce qu'ils ont mis au jour des faits nouveaux, mais par l'expression d'une résolution unanime d'adopter des mesures les plus vigoureuses. Le discours de Mr. Fox fut vraiment digne d'un Breton. Il posa un principe qui sera reçu, nous en sommes assurés, par tout homme du pays. " Si, dit-il, nos droits nationaux sont concernés, si on a fait des tentatives, pour nous dégrader de ce rang que nous avons été accoutumés de tenir parmi les Etats de l'Europe, alors je n'ai point de difficulté de dire qu'une guerre entreprise sous de telles circonstances seroit juste. De la nécessité et de la politique d'une telle guerre, c'est ce dont personne ne peut douter un moment.

Londres 14 Mars—Il est arrivé ce matin une malle Hollandoise, par laquelle nous apprenons, que la tranquillité de l'Egypte étant entièrement effectuée par la médiation de l'Angleterre, la garnison d'Alexandrie étoit sur le point de partir immédiatement pour Malthe, où, cependant, elle restera jusqu'à ce que la paix entre ce pays et la France soit fermement établie.

Nous voyons que la nouvelle Confirmation de la Suisse n'a aucunement eu l'effet de satisfaire le peuple de ce pays.

Hier après midi Mr. Morrison arriva à l'Office du Lord Hawkebury de Malthe, qu'il laissa il y a environ trois semaines, Mr. Morrison est venu en Angleterre par la voie de Paris, et a apporté avec lui des dépêches du Lord Whitworth.

Il ne s'étoit rien passé d'importance à Malthe lorsque Mr. Morrison laissa cette place.

Mars 17—Le Moniteur du 14 de ce mois contient le message de sa Majesté au Parlement touchant les armemens dans les ports de France mais sans la moindre observation.

Plusieurs autres journaux donnent aussi le Message du Roi, mais ils gardent le silence à ce sujet aussi bien que les papiers officiels.

L'expédition pour l'Inde fit voile de Brest, le 4 du mois, d'un vent favorable.

Le Dey d'Alger a donné deux mois à l'agent François pour quitter ses Etats.

Quels sont les objets de discussions en notre Gouvernement et celui de la France, c'est ce

que nous n'osions pas dire positivement : mais nous avons tout lieu de croire que les principaux sont l'évacuation de l'Égypte et de Malthe.

En conséquence du message de Sa Majesté, la Chambre des Communes vota un subside additionnel de 10,000 matelots, faisant en tout 60,000; Il fut aussi introduit un Bill dans la Chambre pour augmenter la Milice d'Irlande; et le Lord Pelham a envoyé une lettre circulaire aux Lords Lieutenants des Comtés Maritimes, ordonnant la stricte exécution des 9c. et 30c. clauses de l'Acte des Étrangers, qui enjoint aux étrangers de faire leur déclaration en arrivant dans le Royaume.

[Voici ce que rapportent des Lettres de Paris, reçu à Londres le 17c. Mars, comme la substance d'une conversation entre Bonaparte et le Lord Witworth, au lever de Madame Bonaparte, le 14c. de Mars, jour que le Message du Roi a été publié dans le Moniteur.]

Dimanche dernier, dans la chambre de compagnie de Madame, qui étoit foulé d'étrangers, le Consul mit si peu de restrainte dans sa conduite, que quelque chose approchant de la conversation suivante fut entendue de la plus grande partie du mélange qui composoit l'assemblée :

Bonaparte entra avec une vivacité dans ses manières peu ordinaire, et après avoir salué la compagnie, il s'adressa lui-même au Lord Withworth, d'un ton suffisamment élevé pour être entendu de tous les présens—"Vous savez Milord, qu'il s'est élevé un terrible orage entre l'Angleterre et la France."

Le Lord Whitworth—"Oui, Général Consul, mais il est à espérer que cet orage se dissipera sans aucune conséquence sérieuse."

Bonaparte. "Il fera dissiper lorsque l'Angleterre aura évacué Malthe, Sinon, le nuage éclatera, et le tonnerre tombera. Le Roi d'Angleterre a promis, par un traité, d'évacuer cette place, et qui doit violer la foi des traités."

Le Lord Whitworth (*surpris de se voir questionné de cette manière, et devant tant de personnes*)—"Mais vous connoissez, Général Consul, les circonstances qui jusqu'ici ont retardé l'évacuation de Malte. L'intention de mon Souverain est de remplir le traité d'Amiens; et vous savez aussi—"

Bonaparte—"Vous savez (*avec impétuosité*) que les François ont soutenu la guerre durant dix années, et vous ne pouvez pas douter qu'ils ne soient en état de la faire encore. Informez votre Cour, que si, à la recette de vos dépêches, des ordres ne sont pas immédiatement donnés pour la reddition de Malte, alors la guerre est déclarée. Je déclare que ma ferme résolution est de voir le 'Traité' d'Amiens mis à effet, et je laisse aux Ambassadeurs des différentes puissances, qui sont ici présens, à décider qui est dans le tort. Vous vous flattez que la France n'oseroit point montrer son ressentiment, tant que ses escadres seroient à St. Domingue. J'ai la satisfaction de vous démentir ainsi publiquement sur ce chapitre.

Le Lord Whitworth.—Mais, Général Consul, la négociation n'est pas encore rompue, et il y a tout lieu de croire—

Bonaparte—"De quelle négociation votre Seigneurie veut-elle parler? Est-il nécessaire de négocier pour ce qui est accordé par un traité—de négocier pour accomplir les engagements et les devoirs de la bonne foi. (Le Lord Whitworth alloit répondre, Bonaparte fit un signe de la main et continua d'un ton moins élevé.)—Milord votre Dame est indisposée. Il pourroit se faire qu'elle respirât son air natal plutôt que vous ou moi ne l'espérions. Je desirer ardemment la paix, mais si ma juste demande n'est pas immédiatement accordée, alors la guerre doit s'ensuivre, et Dieu de-

cidera. Si les traités ne sont pas suffisants pour obliger à la paix, on ne doit pas alors laisser les vaincus en état de porter injure.

Ici se termina cette conversation inattendue. D'autres lettres rapportent ce colloque extraordinaire, comme suit :

Le Premier Consul parut dans un état de colère évident. En s'approchant de l'Ambassadeur Anglois, il observa, avec chaleur, que la guerre avoit maintenant défolé l'Europe depuis quinze années et il lui demanda si elle alloit se renouveler, ajoutant que si c'étoit le cas elle pourroit encore durer aussi longtems ? A quoi le Lord Whitworth répondit d'un ton calme, que si elle se renouvelloit ce ne seroit point la faute de la Grande Bretagne. Bonaparte fut alors parmi les Dames, et bientôt après revint vers le Lord Whitworth, et déclara avec véhémence, que les armemens qui se prenoient dans les ports de France étoient seulement destinés contre les colonies, dans la préservation desquelles l'Angleterre étoit aussi intéressée qu'il pouvoit l'être. Il ne fut fait aucune réponse à ceci. Il laissa peu après l'appartement, appelant Dieu et les hommes à témoin, qu'il espéroit que la vengeance seroit exercée sur cette Puissance, qui, par une violation du traité, causeroit le renouvellement des hostilités. Tous les rapports s'accordent à dire que sa contenance étoit absolument défigurée par la passion : et son ton de voix étoit si haut et si véhément, qu'au moins moitié de la compagnie présente doit avoir entendu ce qui s'est passé dans cette occasion extraordinaire.

Nous ne voyons pas pourquoi on n'ajouteroit pas foi à tout ce qui est ci-dessus ; car nous nous ressouvons d'avoir entendu dire que le Consul en Chef, dans une discussion entre lui et l'Ambassadeur Portugais, lui

porta positivement le poing sous le nez et effraya le pauvre Ambassadeur à en perdre l'usage de ses sens.

[The miserable Political dissensions which disturb the United States of America, have for some time past, made Duels so frequent in that Country that Legislative interference has been found necessary. The Legislature of New-York has in consequence, passed a severe Law against Duelling: soon after the publication of the Law, the following very humorous letter appeared in the Morning Chronicle, published at New-York.]

TO THE EDITOR OF THE MORNING CHRONICLE.

SIR,

I was calmly enjoying my toast and coffee some mornings ago, with my sister Dorothy and Jack Stylish, when we were surprized by the abrupt entrance of my friend, Mr. Andrew Quoz. By the particular expression of his *knowing phiz*, as cousin Jack calls it, I immediately perceived he was labouring with some important intelligence.

In one hand he held the morning Chronicle, and with the fore-finger of the other pointed to a particular paragraph. I hastily put on my spectacles, and seized the paper with eager curiosity. Judge my surprize, Mr. Editor, on reading an act of our Legislature, pronouncing any citizen of this state who shall send, bear, or accept a challenge, either verbal or written, disqualified from holding any office of honor or confidence, or of voting at any election within this state, &c. &c.

The paper fell from my hand, I turned my eyes to friend Andrew in mute astonishment. Quoz put his finger to his nose, and winking significantly, cried, "What do you think of this, my friend Jonathan?"

"Here is a catastrophe," exclaimed I, in a melancholy tone. "Here is a damper for the mettlesome youths of the age. Spirit of chivalry, whether hast though flown! Shade of Don Quixotte, dost thou not look down with contempt on the degeneracy of the times!"

My sister Dorothy caught a sympathetic spark of enthusiasm—deep read in all the volumes of ancient romance, and delighted with their glowing descriptions of the heroic age, she had learned to admire the gallantry of former days, and mourned to see the last spark of chivalric fire thus rudely extinguished. Alas! my brother, said she, to what a deplorable state are our young men reduced! how pitteous must be their situation,—with sensibilities so easily injured, and bosoms so tremblingly alive to the calls of honor and etiquette!

Indeed, my dear Dorothy, said I, I feel

most deeply for their melancholy situation. Deprived in these dull, monotonous, peaceable times, of all opportunities of evincing, in the hardy combats of the tented field, that heroic flame that burns within their hearts, they were happy to vent the lofty fuming of their souls in the more domestic and less dangerous encounters of the duel, like the warrior in the East, who, deprived of the pleasure of slaughtering armies, contented himself with cutting down eabbages.

Here a solemn pause ensued. I called to mind all the tales I had heard or read of ancient knights; their amours, their quarrels, and their combats; how, on a fair summer's morning, the knight of the Golden Goshawk met the knight of the Fiery Fiddle; how the knight of the Fiery Fiddle exclaimed in lofty tones, "whoever denies that Donna Fiddlecote is the most peerless beauty in the universe, must brave the strength of this arm!" how they both engaged with dreadful fury; and, after fighting till sunset, the knight of the Fiery Fiddle fell a martyr to his constancy; murmuring in melodious accents, with his latest breath, the beloved name of Fiddlecote.

From these ancient engagements, I descended to others more modern in their dates, but equally important in their origin. I recalled the genuine politeness and polished ceremony with which duels were conducted in my youthful days, when that gentlemanly weapon, the *small sword*, was in highest vogue. A challenge was worded with the most particular comeliness; and one that I have still in my possession, ends with the words, "*your friend and affectionate servant, Nicholas Stubbs*." When the parties met on the field, the same decorum was observed; they pulled off their hats, wished one another a good day, and helped to draw off each other's coats and boots, with the most respectful civility. Their fighting too was so humbly conducted: no awkward movements; no eager and angry pushes; all cool, elegant and graceful. Every thrust had its *sa-ut*; and a *ba-bah* lunged you gently through the body. Then nothing could equal the tenderness and attention with which a wounded antagonist was treated: his adversary, after wiping his sword deliberately, kindly supported him in his arms, examined his pulse, and enquired, with the most affectionate solicitude, "how he felt himself now?" Thus every thing was conducted in a well-bred, gentlemanly manner.

Our present customs I can't say I much admire, a *twelve inch barrel pistol* and *ounce ball*, are blunt, unceremonious affairs, and prevent that display of grace and ele-

gance allowed by the small sword; besides, there is something so awkward in having the muzzle of a pistol staring one full in the face, that I should think it might be apt to make some of our youthful heroes feel rather disagreeable, unless, as I am told has been sometimes the case, the duel was fought by twilight.

The ceremony of loading, priming, cocking, &c. has not the most soothing effect on a person's feelings; and I am told that some of our warriors have been known to tremble and make wry faces during these preparations, though this has been attributed, and doubtless with much justice, to the violence of their wrath and fierceness of their courage.

I had thus been musing for some time, when I broke silence at last by hinting to friend Quoz some of my objections to the mode of fighting with pistols.

Truly, my friend Oldstyle, said Quoz, I am surprised at your ignorance of modern custom: trust me, I know of no amusement that is, generally speaking, more harmless. To be sure, there may now and then a couple of determined fellows take the field who resolve to do the thing in good earnest; but in general our fashionable duellists are content with only one discharge; and then, either they are poor shots, or their triggers pull hard, or they shut the wrong eye, or some other cause intervenes, so that it is ten, ay, twenty chances to one in their favour.

Here I begged leave to differ from friend Andrew; I am well convinced, said I, of the valour of our young men, and that they determine, when they march forth to the field, either to conquer or die; but it generally happens that their seconds are of a more peaceable mind, and interpose after the first shot; but I am informed that they come often very near being killed, having bullet holes through their hats and coats, which, like Falstaff's hack'd sword, are strong proofs of the serious nature of their encounters.

My sister Dorothy, who is of a humane and benevolent disposition, would no doubt detect the idea of duels, did she not regard them as the last gleams of these days of chivalry to which she looks back with a degree of romantic enthusiasm. She now considered them as having received their death-blow; for how can even the challenges be conveyed, said she, when the very messengers are considered as principals in the offence?

Nothing more easy, said friend Quoz: a man gives me the lie, very well; I tread on

his toes in token of challenge, he pulls my nose by way of acceptance: thus you see the challenge is safely conveyed without a third party. We then settle the mode in which satisfaction is to be given; as for instance, we draw lots which of us must be slain to satisfy the demands of honor. Mr. A. or Mr. B. my antagonist, is to fall: well, madam, he stands below in the street; I run up to the garret window, and drop a brick upon his head: If he survive well and good; if he fall, why nobody is to blame, it was purely accidental. Thus the affair is settled, according to the common saying, to our mutual satisfaction.

Jack Stylish observed, that as to Mr. Quoz's project of dropping bricks on people's heads, he considered it a vulgar substitute: for his part, he thought that it would be well for the legislature to amend their law respecting duels, and licence them under proper restrictions. That no persons should be allowed to fight without taking out a regular licence from what might be called the *Blond and Thunder Office*. That they should be obliged to give two or three weeks notice of the intended combat in the newspapers. That the contending parties should fight till one of them fell, and that the public should be admitted to the *show*.

This he observed, would in some degree, be reviving the *spectacles* of antiquity, when the populace were regaled with the combats of gladiators. We have at present no games resembling those of the ancients; except now and then, a bull or bear bait, and this would be a valuable addition to the list of our refined amusements.

I listened to their discourse in silence: yet I cannot but think, Mr. Editor, that this plan is entitled to some attention. Our young men fight ninety-nine times out of one hundred, through fear of being branded with the epithet of *coward*; and since they fight to please the world, the world being thus interested in their encounter, should be permitted to attend and judge in person of their conduct.

As I think the subject of importance, I take the liberty of requesting a corner in the Morning Chronicle, to submit it to the consideration of the public.

JONATHAN OLDSTYLE.

Condition et Caractère des Canadiens, extrait des Voyages du R. P. Charlevoix faits en 1721.

Il s'ensuit de-là, Madame, que

tout le Monde a ici le nécessaire pour vivre: on y paye peu au Roi; l'Habitant ne connoit point la Taille; il a du Pain à bon marche'; la Viande & le Poisson n'y font pas chers; mais le Vin, les Etoffes, & tout ce qu'il faut faire venir de France, y coûtent beaucoup. Les plus à plaindre sont les Gentilhommes, & les Officiers, qui n'ont que leurs Apptementens, & qui sont chargés de Familles. Les Femmes n'apportent ordinairement pour dot à leurs Maris que beaucoup d'esprit, d'amitié, d'agrémens, & une grande fécondité; mais Dieu répand sur les Mariages dans ce pays la bénédiction, qu'il répandoit sur ceux des Patriarches: il faudroit pour faire subsister de si nombreuses familles, qu'on y menât aussi la vie des Patriarches; mais le tems en est passé. Il y a dans la Nouvelle France plus de Noblesse, que dans toutes les autres Colonies ensemble. Le Roy y entretient encore vingt-huit compagnies des troupes de la marine, et trois États-Majors. Plusieurs Familles y ont e'te' annoblies, et il y est resté plusieurs officiers du Regiment de Carignan-Salieres, ce qui a peuplé le pays de gentilshommes, dont la plupart ne font pas à leur aise. Ils y seroient encore moins, si le Commerce ne leur étoit pas permis, et si la chasse et la pêche n'étoient pas ici de droit commun.

Après tout, c'est un peu leur faute, s'ils souffrent de la disette: la Terre est bonne presque par-tout, et l'agriculture ne fait point de roger. Combien de Gentilshommes dans toutes les Provinces enverroient le fort des simples habitans du Canada, s'ils le connoissoient? Et ceux qui languissent ici dans une honteuse indigence, sont-ils excussables de ne pas embrasser une profession, que la seule corruption des mœurs, et des plus saines maximes a dégradé de son ancienne noblesse! Nous ne connoissons point au

monde de climat plus sain, que celui-ci : il n'y regne aucune maladie particuliere, les Campagnes et les bois y sont remplis de simples merveilleux, et les arbres y distillent des baumes d'une grande vertu. Ces avantages devoient bien au moins y retenir ceux, que la Providence y a fait naître ; mais la légèreté, l'avarion d'un travail assidu et et réglé, et l'esprit d'indépendance en ont toujours fait sortir un grand nombre de jeunes Gens, et ont empêché la Colonie de se peupler.

Ce sont là, Madame, les défauts, qu'on reproche le plus, et avec plus de fondement aux habitans Canadiens. C'est aussi celui des Sauvages. On diroit, que l'air, qu'on respire dans ce vaste Continent, y contribue, mais l'exemple et la fréquentation de ses Habitans naturels, qui mettent tout leur bonheur dans la liberté et l'indépendance, sont plus que suffisans pour former ce caractère. On accuse encore nos Créoles d'une grande avidité pour amasser, et ils sont véritablement pour cela des choses, qu'on ne peut croire, si on ne les a point vûes. Les courses qu'ils entreprennent ; les fatigues, qu'ils essuyent ; les dangers, à quoi ils s'exposent ; les efforts, qu'ils font, passent tout ce qu'on peut imaginer. Il est cependant peu d'hommes moins intéressés, qui dissipent avec plus de facilité ce qui leur a coûté tant de peines à acquérir, & qui témoignent moins de regret de l'avoir perdu. Aussi n'y a-t-il aucun lieu de douter qu'ils n'entreprennent ordinairement par goût ces courses si pénibles & si dangereuses. Ils aiment à respirer le grand air, ils se sont accoutumés de bonne heure à mener une vie errante ; elle a pour eux des charmes, qui leur font oublier les périls & les fatigues passés, & ils mettent leur gloire à les affronter de nouveau. Ils ont beaucoup d'esprit, sur-tout les personnes du Sexe, qui l'ont fort brillant, aisé, ferme, se cond en ressources,

courageux, & capable de conduire les plus grandes affaires. Vous en avez connu, Madame, plus d'une de ce caractère, & vous m'en avez témoiné plus d'une fois votre étonnement. Je puis vous assurer qu'elles sont ici le plus grand nombre, & qu'on les trouve telles dans toutes les conditions.

Je ne sçai si je dois mettre parmi les défauts de nos Canadiens la bonne opinion, qu'ils ont d'eux-mêmes. Il est certain du moins qu'elle leur inspire une confiance, qui leur fait entreprendre & exécuter, ce qui ne paroîtroit pas possible à beaucoup d'autres. Il faut convenir d'ailleurs qu'ils ont d'excellentes qualités. Nous n'avons point dans le Royaume de Province, où le Sang soit communément si beau, la Taille plus avantageuse, & le Corps mieux proportionné. La force du Tempérament n'y répond pas toujours, & si les Canadiens vivent longtems, ils sont vieux & usés de bonne heure. Ce n'est pas même uniquement leur faute ; c'est aussi celles des Parens, qui pour la plupart, ne veillent pas assez sur leurs Enfans, pour les empêcher de ruiner leur santé dans un âge, où, quand elle se ruine, c'est sans ressource. Leur agilité & leur adresse sont sans égales : les Sauvages les plus habiles ne conduisent pas mieux leurs Canots dans les Rapides les plus dangereux, & ne tirent pas plus juste.

Bien des Gens sont persuadés qu'ils ne sont pas propres aux Sciences, qui demandent beaucoup d'application, & une étude suivie. Je ne sçau-rois vous dire si ce préjugé est bien ou mal fondé ; car nous n'avons pas encore eu de Canadien, qui ait entrepris de le combattre, il ne l'est peut-être que sur la dissipation, dans laquelle on les élève. Mais personne ne peut leur contester un génie rare

pour les Méchaniques ; ils n'ont presque pas besoin de Maîtres pour y exceller, & on en voit tous les jours, qui réussissent dans tous les Mé tiers, sans en avoir fait d'apprentissage.

Quelques-uns les taxent d'ingratitude, ils m'ont ne'anmoins paru avoir le cœur assez bon ; mais leur legereté naturelle les empêche souvent de faire attention aux devoirs, qu'exige la reconnaissance. On prétend qu'ils sont mauvais Valets ; c'est qu'ils ont le cœur trop haut, & qu'ils aiment trop leur liberté pour vouloir s'assujettir à servir. D'ailleurs ils sont fort bons Maîtres. C'est le contraire de ce qu'on dit de ceux, dont la plupart tirent leur origine. Ils seroient des hommes parfaits, si avec leurs vertus ils avoient conserve' celles de leurs Ancêtres. On s'est plaint quelquefois qu'ils ne sont pas Amis constans : il s'en faut bien que cela soit générale, & dans ceux, qui ont donné lieu à cette plainte, cela vient de ce qu'ils ne sont pas accoutumés à se gêner, même pour leurs propres affaires. S'ils ne sont pas aisés à discipliner, cela part du même principe, ou de ce qu'ils ont une discipline, qui leur est propre, & qu'ils croyent meilleure pour faire la Guerre aux Sauvages ; en quoi ils n'ont pas tout-à-fait tort. D'ailleurs ils semblent qu'ils ne sont pas les maîtres d'une certaine impétuosité, qui les rend plus propres à un coup de main, ou à une expédition brusque, qu'aux opérations régulières & suivies d'une Campagne. On a encore observé que parmi un très-grand nombre de Braves qui se sont distingués dans les dernières Guerres, il s'en est trouvé assez peu, qui eussent le talent de commander. C'est peut-être, parce qu'ils n'avoient pas assez appris à obéir. Il est vrai que, quand ils sont bien menés, il n'est rien, dont ils ne viennent à bout, soit sur Mer, soit sur Terre ; mais il faut

pour cela qu'ils ayent une grande idée de leur Commandant, Feu M. d'Iberville, qui avoit toutes les bonnes qualités de sa Nation, sans en avoir les défauts, les auroit menés au bout du Monde.

Il y a une chose, sur quoi il n'est pas facile de les excuser : c'est le peu de naturel de plusieurs pour leurs parens, qui de leur côté ont pour eux une tendresse assez mal entendue. Les Sauvages tombent dans le même défaut, & il produit parmi eux les mêmes effets. Mais ce qui doit sur toutes choses faire estimer nos Créoles, c'est qu'ils ont un grand fonds de piété et de religion, et que rien ne manque à leur éducation sur ce point. Il est vrai aussi que hors de chez eux ils ne conservent presque aucun de leurs défauts. Comme avec cela ils sont extrêmement braves et adroits, on en pourroit tirer de grands services pour la guerre, pour la marine et pour les arts, & je crois qu'il seroit du bien de l'Etat de les multiplier plus qu'on n'a fait jusqu'à présent. Les hommes sont la principale richesse du Souverain, & le Canada, quand il ne pourroit être d'aucune utilité à la France, que par ce seul endroit, seroit encore, s'il étoit bien peuplé, une des plus importantes de nos Colonies.

CHANSON,

Pour le Club anniversaire du 6e. Mai, 1803.

[Insered by the desire of the Gentlemen of the Club.]

Sur l'Air : Un Chanoine de l'Auxerrois.

1.

Amis quand je chante la Paix,
On trouve mes sons imparfaits ;
Voix foible et discordante,
Je suis un mauvais voyageur,
Encore bien plus mauvais Rimeur :
Et la clique sçavante,
Du Register va me chasser :
Dois-je me pendre...! ou bien chanter ?
Bon, bon, bon que le vin est bon,
A ma soif j'en veux boire.

* Le on les auteurs de la Critique d'une chanson chantée au Club du 6e. Décembre dernier et réimprimée dans le Register No. 6.

2.
Le Soldat, d'un pédant jaloux,
Doit rire et narguer son courroux ;
Dans sa fade Critique,
Laissons croquer notre Cagou,
C'est un Malathrasme ou un fou,
Dont l'humeur est caustique :
Censures, tant qu'il te plaira,
Malgré toi le Club chantera
Bon, bon &c.

3.
Plus ami de Bonaparté,
Qu'il n'est de notre loyauté ;
D'un style Consulaire,
Qu'il adopte au ton des bigotes,
Il ne critique que les morts,
Et veut nous faire taire ;
Dupe seroit qui s'y fieroit
Et plus fou qui ne chanteroit
Bon, bon &c.

4.
Peu frappé du brillant éclat,
Et du faste du Consulat ;
J'accorderai ma Lyre,
Sur le ton lojal des Bretons,
Déplorant le sort des Bourbons :
Méprisant Robert-Spyre,
Amenant sur le même ton,
Le doux refrain de ma chanson ;
Bon, bon &c.

5.
Une coupable illusion,
Nourrit dans son ambition ;
Le Consul qu'on encense :
Chacun le fait dans sa façon,
Et chacun donne sa raison,
Ainsi, mon censeur pense ;
Mais un soldat tout franchement,
S'en moque et va toujours chantant,
Bon, bon &c.

6.
Rome et fantôme riment bien,
Qui le niera n'est pas chrétien ;
De même je vous jure,
Que nos Seigneurs ont un goujat,
Qui succède au Stathouderat ;
Et qui, je vous assure,
Avec l'argent de ses Bourgeois,
Fait chanter l'Empéreur Gaulois,
Bon, bon &c.

7.
Pour le bonheur du monde entier,
GEORGE seul peut le disputer,
Dans sa brave marine,
Dans son peuple et dans ses soldats,
Autant de cœurs, autant de bras,
Font mouvoir la machine ;
Qui donne un chaque au Dictateur
Et nous fait chanter d'un bon cœur
Bon, bon &c.

Puisse Dieu sur notre Censeur,
Jeter un regard de douceur !
Tranquilliser son âme ;
Y faire cette impression,
Qui d'une douce impulsion,
Dans le Club nous enflamme ;
Buvons à notre Roi chéri,
Et ne chantons pas à demi,
Bon, bon &c.

VIVE LE ROI.

ERRATA.

Dans les feuilles du *Register* qui ont été livrées en ville, dans l'Etat des Dépenses Civiles à l'article du Collecteur & Contrôleur après "en vertu d'Actes Provinciaux," lisez £365 3 6, et dépenses incidentes, après "Loyer de l'Officier Naval," lisez pour deux ans.

ORIGINAL POETRY.

MONSIEUR,

Comme vous avez eu la bonté d'insérer dans un de vos Numéros une Pièce sous la signature d'*Alceste*, j'aurois désiré de continuer à vous en faire parvenir sous la même signature, si quelqu'un ne se fût fait recrédu d'un nom dont j'aurois voulu être le seul possesseur. A l'avenir, pour prévenir aucune négligence de la sorte, je vous serai tenir mes Pièces sous une autre signature, et si les Vers suivants méritent une place dans votre prochain Numéro en les insérant vous obligerez, Votre très humble Serviteur,
ASMODEE.

Mademoiselle G.....

O Muse! prends ton luth amoureux et sonore!
D'Uranie et de Terpsichore,
Fais taire les bryans concertés,
Chante le nom de Celle qui s'adore,
Chante Polly à l'Univers!

Que les Cœurs éternels du Finde et d'Idalie,
Célébrent avec toi le nom de ma MARIE!

La nature embellie
A leurs accens s'animera.
Aux doux nom de ma tendre amie,
Le Printems se réveillera.
De boccage en boccage,
Sur son aile volage
Zéphir le portera:
L'Echo du Rocher solitaire
En soupirant me redira
Le nom chéri de ma bergère.

O nom charmant! mes vers te fixeront
Sur l'écorce des jeunes hêtres!
Des guirlandes champêtres
Les Chiffres l'entrelaceront,
L'onde qui baigne ces rivages
Sera fière de te toucher
Et sur son front l'audacieux rocher
Te cachera dans les nauages.

Coulez désormais, ô beaux jours,
 Coulez dans cette azile que j'habite !
 Que tout retrace à mon âme séduite,
 Un nom si cher à mes amours !
 Que je le baise encore, que je le life
 Au moment de fermer les yeux !
 Et pour dernier bienfait, pour ses derniers adieux,
 Sur mon bûcher que l'amour le redise !

SELECTED:

*Bonheur attaché à la culture d'un Jardin
 champêtre.*

Aux lieux où le Gâlèse en plaines fécondes
 Parmi les blonds épis roule ses noires ondes,
 J'ai vu, je m'en souviens, un vieillard fortuné,
 Possesseur d'un terrain long-temps abandonné.
 C'étoit un sol ingrat, rebelle à la culture,
 Qui n'offroit aux troupeaux qu'une aride verdure,
 Ennemi des raisins et funeste aux moissons ;
 Toutefois en ces lieux hérissés de buissons,
 Un parterre de fleurs, quelques plantes heureuses
 Qu'élevaient avec soin ses mains laborieuses,
 Un jardin, un verger dociles à ses loix,
 Lui donnoient le bonheur qui s'enfuit lo'n des rois.
 Le soir des simples mets que ce lieu voyoit naître
 Ses mains chargeoient sans frais une table champêtre :
 Il cueilloit le premier les roses du printemps,
 Le premier de l'automne amassoit les présens ;
 Et lorsqu'autour de lui, déchainé sur la terre,
 L'hiver impérieux brisoit encor la pierre,
 D'un frein de glace encore enchaînoit les ruisseaux,
 Lui déjà de l'acante émondait les rameaux ;
 Et du printemps tardif, accusant la paiselle,
 Prévenoit les zéphirs, et hâtoit sa richesse.
 Chez lui le vent tilleul tempéroit les chaleurs,
 Le sapin pour l'Abeille y distillait ses pleurs ;
 Aussi dès le printemps, toujours prompts à renaître,
 D'innombrables essaims enrichissoient leur maître ;
 Il pressoit le premier ses rayons toujours pleins,
 Et le miel le plus pur écumoit sous ses mains.
 Jamais Flore chez lui n'osa tromper Pomone ;
 Chaque fleur du printemps étoit un fruit d'automne ;
 Il savoit aligner, pour le plaisir des yeux
 Des poitiers déjà forts, des ormes déjà vieux,
 Et des pommiers greffés, et des platanes sombres,
 Qui déjà recevoient le buveur sous ses ombres ;
 Mais d'autres chanteront les trésors des jardins,
 Le temps suit : je revole aux travaux des essaims.

L'ABBÉ DE LILLE, *T. des Geog.*

THE RHYMING APOTHECARY ;

A Tale by George Colman, Esq.

A MAN, in many a country town we know,
 Professing openly with death to wrestle ;
 Ent'ring the field against the grimly foe,
 Arm'd with a mortar and a pestle.

-Yet, some affirm, no enemies they are ;
 But meet, just like prize-fighters, in a fair :
 Who first shake hands before they box,
 Then give each other plaguy kno'cks,
 Wic'it the love and kindness of a brother ;
 So (many a suffering patient faith)
 Though the apothecary fights with death,
 Still they're *loven friends* to one another.

A member of this Esculapian line,
 Lived at Newcastle-upon-Tyne ;
 No man could be better giv'd a pill ;
 Or mix'd a Bill ;
 Or mix'd a draught, or bleed, or blister ;
 Or draw a tooth out of your head ;
 Or chatter tea-nut by your bed ;
 Or give a glister.

Of occupations these were *quantum suff* :
 Yet still he thought the bit not long enough ;
 And therefore midwifery he chose to pin to't.
 This balanc'd things :—for it he hurl'd
 A few fierce mortars from the world,
 He made amends by bringing others into't.

His fame full six miles round the country ran,
 In short, in reputation he was solus :
 All the old women call'd him "a fine man !"
 His name was Bolus.

Benjamin Bolus, though in trade,
 (Which oftentimes will genius fetter)
 Read works of fancy it is said ;
 And cultivated the *Belles Lettres*.

And why should this be thought so odd ?
 Can't men have taste who cure a phthisick ?
 Of poetry though patron God,
 Apollo patronizes physic.

Bolus loved verse ; and took so much delight in't,
 That his preferitions he resolv'd to write in't.
 No opportunity he e'er let pass
 Of writing the directions on his labels,
 In dapper couplet like Gay's fables ;
 Or, rather, like the lines in Hudibras.

Apothecaries rhyme ! and where's the treason ?
 'Tis simply honest dealing—not a fault.
 When patients swallow physic without reason,
 Is it not fair to give a little bait ?

He had a patient lying at death's door, [four ;
 Some three miles from the town—it might be
 To whom, one evening, Bolus sent an article,
 In Pharmacy, that's called cathartical.
 And, on the label of the stuff,

He wrote this verse ;
 Which one would think was clear enough,
 And terse :—
 " When taken,"
 " To be well shaken."

Next morning, early, Bolus rose ;
 And to the patient's house he goes ;—
 Upon his pad,
 Who a vile trick of stumbling had :
 It was indeed a very sorry hack ;—
 But that's of course :
 For what's expected from a horse,
 With an apothecary on his back ?

Bolus arrived; and gave a doubtful tap;—
Between a single and a double rap.—

Knocks of this kind
Are given by gentlemen who teach to dance;
By fiddlers, and by opera-fingers:
One loud, and then a little one behind;
As if the knocker fell, by chance,
Out of their fingers.

The servant lets him in, with dismal face,
Long as a courtier's out of place—
Protending some disaster;
John's countenance as rueful look'd, and grim,
As if th' apothecary had physic'd him,
And not his master.

"Well, how's the patient!" Bolus said.
John shook his head.
"Indeed!—hum!—ha! that's very odd!"
"He took the draught?"—John gave a nod.
"Well,—how,—what then?—speak out, you
dunce!"
"Why then?"—says John—"we *shoot* him
once."
"Shook him once!—how?"—Bolus flam-
mer'd out:—
"We jolted him about."

"Zounds! shake a patient, man!—a shake
won't do."
"No, Sir—and so we gave him two."
"Two shakes! odds curse!"
"T'would make the patient worse."
"It did so, sir!—and so a third we tried."
"Well, and what then?"—"then sir, my
master died."

TO A FRIEND, UPON HIS BIRTH DAY.

WHEN born, in tears we saw thee
drown'd,
While thine assembled friends around
With smiles their joy confess;
So live, that, at thy parting hour,
They may the flood of sorrow pour,
And thou in smiles be dress'd.

To the Printer of the British American Register.

SIR,

THE following *Placet* is extracted from a very old edi-
tion of Corneille's works. A *Placet* in itself, is no-

thing very curious nor uncommon, but a *Placet* in rhyme,
is something extraordinary, and this one of COR-
NEILLE'S, it will be admitted, is not a bad one.

PLACET.

Puisse au ROY, ne plus oublier,
Qu'il m'a depuis quatre ans promis un bénéfice,
Et qu'il avoit chargé le feu Pere Ferrier
De choisir un moment propice,
Qui peut me donner lieu de l'en remercier.
Le pere est mort: mais j'ose croire,
Que si toujours Sa Majesté
Avoit pour moi même bonté,
Le Pere de la Chaise auroit plus de mémoire,
Et le seroit mieux souvenir,
Qu'un grand ROY ne promet que ce qu'il veut tenir.

MARCHE'S.

A QUÉBEC, 14 Mai, 1803.

Farine p. q.	15s à 18s 4d.	Lard par lb.	7½d
Son "	do - - - 5s	Suife do	6½d à 9d
Pois parminot	5s à 8s 4d	Beurre en Tin.	1s
Patates p. do.	2/6	Dinde p. coup.	7s
Avoine p. do.	3s	Oies p. do	2s 6d à 4s
Bœuf par lb.	- 5d	Poulets p. do	2/6 à 3s
Do. p. quartier	(point)	Anguilles	5d à 9d
Veau par lb.	6d à 7½d	Morue	5d à 2s 6d
Do en quartiers	2s 6d	Foin par cent	35s à 50s
Mouton p. lb.	7½d	Paille par do	12s 6d à 20s
Do. p. quartier	(point)	Bois p. corde	12s 6d à 15s
Sain Doux do	9d à 1s 3d		

Beef p. Tierce 4 lb. 10s. Pork p. barl. 5 4l. 10s. 4l.

Pain Blanc 3 lb. 2 onces Bis 3 lb. 12 onces 6d.

METEOROLOGICAL TABLE, MAY 1803.

Days.	M's Age.	Weather.	Wds	Barometer.		Thermo.	
				Inches.		Degrees.	
				M.	A.	M.	A.
8		fine		29.7	29.7	34	46
9		fine		29.7	29.7	38	48
10		fine		29.9	29.8	40	60
11		fine		29.8	29.6	46	60
12		cloudy	E	29.8	29.8	47	50
13		showers		29.5	29.4	44	58
14	(fine		29.5	29.6	43	49

☉ N. Moon. ☽ 1st. Quar ☽ P. Moon. ☾ last ☽.